

**AMNESTY  
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UN Human Rights Council  
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**Item 10:** Technical assistance and capacity-building  
*Inter-active dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation  
of human rights in the Central African Republic*

Delivered by Peter Splinter - **Video link:** <http://goo.gl/S9fgZ6> (Statement number 37)

Mr. President, Madam Independent Expert,

Amnesty international is concerned about the involvement of some members of the African Union-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) in serious human rights violations that have taken place in the Central African Republic. In some instances MISCA forces have failed to protect civilians in the Central African Republic (CAR), while in others members of some of its contingents have allegedly committed serious human rights violations in CAR with impunity.

Amnesty International is concerned by the failure of members of MISCA to act promptly to prevent human war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious abuses from taking place in CAR. On 28 May 2014, 17 people including a priest were shot dead, several others wounded and at least 27 abducted at the Fatima Catholic church in Bangui. The church was hosting around 6,000 IDPs when the attack took place. Amnesty International received credible information from various sources that a Burundian MISCA contingent arrived a couple of hours later, despite being stationed less than two kilometres away from the church and being contacted a few minutes after the start of the attack.

Although the number of MISCA peacekeepers is small (5800 to date), it is important that during this period of severe instability key places such as hospitals and sites for displaced people be adequately protected by sufficient numbers of international troops. Despite being situated at a sensitive location surrounded by the Muslim communities and hosting IDPs, the Fatima church was without any protection at all.

On 7 June 2014 at Balembe market, between the towns of Bossemptélé and Baoro, a truck driver who had been involved in a road accident sought protection in a MISCA vehicle, but was handed over by the MISCA unit to the anti-balaka, who summarily executed him in front of the MISCA troops. It is

important to launch investigations to know what exactly happened and why MISCA did not protect the man who was already in their custody.

Amnesty International documented and denounced the involvement of members of the then Chadian component of MISCA that was involved in killing civilians and other human rights violations during several incidents. On 29 March 2014, Chadian troops opened fire at a crowd in a market at PK12 area of Bangui. According to the UN, at least 30 persons were killed in the incident, including children, pregnant women and disabled people, and about 300 others were injured. Chadian troops had been involved in other incidents including killings of civilians in Boali on 4 February 2014 and in the town of Damara and at PK 12 on 18 February 2014, respectively. Following criticism from international community, the Chadian authorities withdrew their 850 soldiers from MISCA on 3 April 2014. Amnesty International urges the UN and the African Union to investigate alleged human rights violations by Chadian peacekeepers in CAR. We also urge the Chadian authorities to ensure that the withdrawal of their troops does not result in impunity for any such violations.

Amnesty International welcomes the announcement of the African Union that it will open investigations into allegations that members of MISCA's Congolese (Brazzaville) contingent were implicated in the enforced disappearance on 24 March 2014 of at least 11 persons. It is important that the outcomes of these investigations are made public and that anyone responsible face justice.

Amnesty International encourages the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic to report on these issues and to call for prompt, thorough, independent, full and public inquiry into all allegations of failure by peacekeepers to respect or protect human rights.

Thank you Mr. President.