

CAR: UN must urgently deploy a peacekeeping mission

FIDH - International Federation for Human Rights

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The UN Security Council met yesterday to discuss different options on how to respond to the growing crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR), and are expected to vote next week on a draft resolution presented by France.

In an open letter sent today to the UN Security Council, FIDH calls for a comprehensive and decisive response to the crisis, notably through the creation of a

UN
Peacekeeping
Mission
in the
CAR.

“The UN Security Council must immediately authorize the creation of a UN Peacekeeping Mission in the CAR,”
said
Karim
Lahidji,
FIDH
President.
“Any delays in doing so will result in more lives lost, and the country collapsing further into chaos.”

While the Security Council discussed the immediate need for a stronger mandate and increased
N
financial
and
logistical

U

support
to
AFISM--
-
CAR
(the
African
Union
force
currently being
deployed
in
the
CAR),
this
will
not
be
sufficient
to address growing instability in the country.
AFISM--

-
CAR
does
not
have
the
capacity
or
expertise
to
deal
with
the
crimes
being
committed
on
a
gross
and
systematic
scale
in
the
CAR,

including
increasing
inter-communal
and
religious
violence.
In
addition,
the
longer term
challenges
of
political
transition,
the
promotion
of
human
rights
and
the establishment of rule of
law
require
a
more
comprehensive
international
engagement.
The
urgent
deployment
of
a
robust
UN
force
is
the
best
option in order
to ensure
the
effective
protection
of

civilians
from
violence
and
establish
long--
-
term
stability
and reconciliation.

The UN Secretary General's latest report on the CAR published this week already outlines provisions and recommendations for the creation of a UN Peacekeeping Mission in the CAR. The report also describes a desperate and rapidly deteriorating situation in the country, echoing FIDH's recent report that describes crimes being committed by elements of the former Seleka including murder, rape, kidnapping, and destruction of property, as well as the escalation of inter--
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communal violence.

Considering this escalating violence, FIDH's open letter published today calls on the UN Security Council to immediately authorize the UN to begin preparing for the transformation of AFISM---CAR into a UN Peacekeeping Mission. This mission should be given a strong mandate that includes the protection of human rights defenders and other vulnerable groups, security sector reform, and demobilization of armed groups. This mission should also support peaceful political transition and national reconciliation processes, and contribute to ensuring ac countability for human rights violations through national and international justice mechanisms.

Read the full press release [here](#) .

Read FIDH's corresponding open letter to the UN Security Council [here](#) .