

Human Rights Council - 28th session
(2nd March – 27th March 2015)

**Interactive Dialogue with the UN's Independent Expert on the situation of
human rights in Central African Republic**

Statement by Ireland

24 March 2015

Ireland welcomes the Independent Expert, Ms Keita Bocoum, and thanks her for her presentation to the Council today.

Ireland remains gravely concerned about the ongoing conflict and the resulting humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic which is affecting virtually the entire population and is supporting an environment in which human rights abuses can thrive.

Ireland condemns unreservedly reports of summary executions of civilians, gender-based violence against women and the continued exploitation of children including the forced recruitment of boys and girls by armed groups.

Ireland is also particularly appalled by recent attacks on humanitarian workers as they seek to deliver lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable. It is vital that all parties to the conflict respect international humanitarian law and that humanitarian access is provided for UN agencies and NGOs.

Ireland calls on all parties to support the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in carrying out its vital tasks, including the protection of civilians and supporting extension of state authority as part of the transition process.

Ireland acknowledges the positive steps taken by the transitional authorities and welcomes the decision of the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into alleged atrocities in CAR since 1 August 2012, following a self-referral by the transitional authorities last year. Tackling impunity plays a fundamental role in breaking the cycle of violence and helps restore law and order. Ireland is therefore encouraged by recent discussions on the establishment of a Special Criminal Court to try serious crimes, including serious abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law.

We would like to ask the Independent Expert her views on how the international community can best support the transitional authorities in re-establishing a functioning justice system and adequate policing.

What are the Independent Expert's views on the actions required to build trust between different religious communities in CAR?

We would also be keen to hear about progress in reintegrating children previously used by armed groups.