

## Central African Republic Cases, 1970-2012

Last Updated: 6 January 2018

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T2342	JANJAWEED		1997	2010
T2455	UNION DES FORCES DEMOCRATIQUES POUR LE RASSEMBLEMENT (UFDR)	28-Nov-06	1998	2011
T2224	POPULAR ARMY FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY (APRD)		2006	2007
T1567	FORCES FOR THE UNIFICATION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (FIRCA)		2008	2008
T743	CPJP	7-Dec-09	2009	2012
T1880	FREEDOM EAGLES OF AFRICA		2009	2009
T2664	POPULAR FRONT FOR RECOVERY		2012	2012

Context: Ange-Felix Patasse gained power in 1993 and ended a series of military rule and dictatorships in the country. In 2001, military forces tried, but failed, to oust Ange-Felix Patasse after Libya, Chad, and Congolese rebels intervened to prop up the presidency (**Forces of Andre Kolingba**). Later that year, Patasse fired the army chief of staff, General Francois Bozize, who led a force of ex-military officials against the group (**Forces of Bozize**). The Central African Republic tried to put down the coup with Libyan assistance, but Bozize seized the capital in 2003 and overthrew Patasse. In again put down the military forces with the help of Libyan military assistance. Bozize held a controversial set of elections in 2005, which excluded Patasse from running. In 2006, a series of rebel groups in northwest Central African Republic began to form to protest Bozize and try to overthrow him (**UFDR** and **APRD**). In August 2006, Central African Republic courts convicted Patasse in absentia of fraud and sentenced him to prison.

Note: Lansford (2012) suggests FDPC and MLCJ - this is considered part of the UFDR

- I. JANJAWEED  
Torg ID: 2342  
Min. Group Date: 1997  
Max. Group Date: 2010  
Onset: NA

Aliases: None

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### **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Janjawid, Rapid Support Forces, RSF

Group Formation: mid-1980s to 1987 (Hastrup 1987)

Group End (Outcome): 2014 (active)

### **Part 3. Narrative**

Janjaweed formed in the 1980s as the armed wing of the Arab Gathering (Grawert 2008; Hastrup 2013, 87). The Arab Gathering, originally an ethno-nationalist coalition of Arab tribes, fought for increased rights and representation in Darfur (Hastrup 2013, 87). The Arab Gathering frequently clashed with Chadian rebels in Darfur. In 2003, it became a proxy for the Sudanese army (Slate 2005; Amnesty International 2007). The group's first violent attack occurred sometime between 1987 and 2003 (Hastrup 2013). In 2003, the Sudanese military deployed the Janjaweed militia as a proxy force against the JEM and SLA rebel forces in Darfur (Slate 2005; Mans 2004; Amnesty International 2007).

### **Geography**

Janjaweed operated out of northern Darfur. The group's base was in Misteriya in Darfur (Human Rights Watch n.d.). It mainly conducted attacks in the Darfur region (Amnesty International 2007; Human Rights Watch n.d.; Berg 2008).

### **Organizational Structure**

Members initially came from Arab tribes in the Chad and Sudan region (Tubiana 2011; Grawert 2008, 605).

The militias were ethnically Arab and come from northern Rizegat and Chadian Arab groups (HRW n.d.; Mans 2004). The government recruited ethnic groups with grievances against Sudanese rebels and those with strong interests in land reform (HRW n.d.).

The group had no identifiable leadership, although the government treated prominent tribal leaders, including Sheikh Musa Hilal, as de facto leaders (Tubiana 2011, 67; HRW n.d.). Janjaweed operated out of northern Darfur and reported to Sudanese army officers, including LTC Abdul Wahid Said ALi Said (HRW n.d.).

Janjaweed served as the armed wing of the Arab Gathering. There are disputes over whether the Arab Gathering was ever a coherent organization (Grawert 2008, 607; Hastrup 2013; Human Rights Watch n.d.). No estimate could be found about the group's size. The group funded itself through external support from the Sudanese government (Slate 2004).

### **External Ties**

The group received most of its supplies and training from the Sudanese government (Slate 2004). The Sudanese government financed the group and allowed the organization to maintain any resources, cash, or loot taken from villagers during operations (Slate 2004).

## Group Outcome

The Janjaweed militia operated during the Sudanese Civil War (Slate 2005; Amnesty International 2007). In 2004, the group disarmed under the orders of Sudanese president Omar Hassan al-Bashir (Adam 2014). In 2013, Bashir reactivated the group as a personal security force. Bashir renamed the group the Rapid Support Forces (Adam 2014).

## II. UNION DES FORCES DEMOCRATIQUES POUR LE RASSEMBLEMENT (UFDR)

Torg ID: 2455

Min. Group Date: 1998

Max. Group Date: 2011

Onset: 2006

Aliases: Union Of Democratic Forces, Union Des Forces Democratiques Pour Le Rassemblement (Ufdr), Union Des Forces D\_mocratiques Pour Le Rassemblement (Ufdr), Union Of Democratic Forces (Ufd), Union Of Democratic Forces (Ufdr), Union Of Democratic Forces For Unity

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<https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/central-african-republic-news-bulletin-no-79-29-sep-06-oct-2008>
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## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 2006

Group End (Outcome): 2008 (disarm)

\*umbrella

## **Part 3. Narrative**

The Union Des Forces Democratiques Pour Le Rassemblement (UFDR) formed in 2006 as a coalition to overthrow the CAR government. The UFDR consisted of three Central African Republic (CAR) rebel groups: MLCJ, GAPLC, and the FDC (HRW 2007; Lansford 2013, 253). The group’s first violent incident occurred in 2006 (Human Rights Watch 2007; Lombard 2012).

## **Geography**

The UFDR operated out of northeastern CAR, which borders Chad and Darfur. The group was mostly active in Vakaga prefecture (HRW 2007). The UFDR also conducted operations in Bamingui-Bangoran (Human Rights Watch 2008). The group had a base in Birao (Lombard 2012).

## **Organizational Structure**

Michel Detodia, the former leader of the GAPLC, served as President of the UFDR. Meanwhile, the former leader of the FDC, Justin Hasan, led the UFDR's armed wing. Hasan was a former major in the Presidential Guard (HRW 2007).

The UFDR primarily consisted of ethnic Gulas, who faced discrimination by the state (HRW 2007). The group also included a coalition of Bozize's former colleagues and individuals involved in the overthrow of Patasse in 2003 (HRW 2007; IRIN 2009). The group once had approximately 200 fighters (Gleditsch et al. 2013).

The UFDR engaged in indiscriminate violence against civilians and funded the organization through looting, the diamond trade, animal poaching, and agriculture (HRW 2007; Global Security n.d.). The UFDR controlled the roads leading into Sudan and southern CAR, enabling the group to tax and steal from these trade routes (Global Security n.d.). CAR forces also engaged in indiscriminate violence and executed rebels captured during fighting (HRW 2007).

## **External Ties**

There is no explicit evidence of external support for the group (Gleditsch et al. 2013).

## **Group Outcome**

Government forces initially fled from the UFDR during a military offensive. When fleeing, military officials left behind large caches of weapons, which the rebels acquired (HRW 2007). In November 2006, Saboune and Detotida were arrested in Benin (HRW 2007). In December, the French army intervened and helped the CAR wrest control from the UFDR (HRW 2007). In 2007, the group signed a peace agreement with the government, but Saboune refused to accept it (HRW 2007). A splinter, known as the Forces of Unification for the Central African Republic (FURCA), broke off in protest. Most UFDR fighters agreed to disarm, however, due to the provision of an amnesty. In 2008, the group formally disarmed (BBC 2017). In 2009, a group of UFDR fighters under Zakaria Damane announced they would abandon Birao, their stronghold in northern CAR (Global Security n.d.).

Notes for iris:

-ufdr story sounds a lot like isis and iraq

-error in GTD coding. Links to Chadian political party group, which was active in 2006.

### III. POPULAR ARMY FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY (APRD)

Torg ID: 2224

Min. Group Date: 2006  
Max. Group Date: 2007  
Onset: NA

Aliases: Popular Army For The Restoration Of Democracy (Aprd), Popular Army For The Restoration Of Democracy

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## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Armee Populaire pour la Restauration de la Republique et la Democratie

Group Formation: 2005 or 2006

Group End: 2012 (disarm)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

The Popular Army For The Restoration Of Democracy (APRD) formed around 2005 as a center-seeking rebel group. At a minimum, the APRD sought to improve the security situation in the northwest CAR and open dialogues with CAR President Francois Bozize (Human Rights Watch 2007; Human Rights Watch 2008). Ideally, the group wished to overthrow Bozize (Human Rights Watch 2007, 6; Lansford 2013, 251). The group supported former president Patasse, whom Bozize had overthrown in 2003 (Lansford 2013, 251; Global Security n.d.).

### **Geography**

Jean-Jacque Demafouth, an ex-CAR defense minister, led the APRD from exile in France (Lansford 2013, 251). The group operated in the northwest provinces of the CAR, likely around Kaga Bandoro (Global Security n.d.). It also operated and conducted attacks around Ouham, Ouham-Pende, and Nana-Grebizi (Human Rights Watch 2008).

### **Organizational Structure**

Jean-Jacque Demafouth, an ex-CAR defense minister, led the APRD from exile in France (Lansford 2012, 251; Global Security n.d.). Foreign fighters from Chad, Nigeria, and Cameroon allegedly joined the group (Lansford 2012, 251). APRD members also included ex-police and guards from the presidential palace under Patasse (Lansford 2012, 251). The group had a political wing, known as the New Alliance for Progress, based out of France (Global Security n.d.). The group had about 1,000 “poorly-equipped” fighters yet was considered the largest rebel group in the CAR (Human Rights Watch 2007; Norwegian Refugee Council 2011).

### **External Ties**



The group supported Patasse, the former CAR president (Lansford 2012, 251). The group allegedly formed ties with the Lord's Resistance Army in 2007 (Lansford 2012, 251).

### **Group Outcome**

Beginning in February 2008, the APRD participated in peace talks with the government (Lansford 2013, 251). By June, the group agreed to disarm in exchange for forming a new political party, known as the New Alliance for Progress, and gaining a cabinet seat in the new government (UN News Centre 2008; Lansford 2013, 251; Global Security n.d.; BBC 2017). In 2009, talks temporarily fell apart due to disagreements about whether ex-combatants would receive amnesty (VOA 2009). The group was last violent around 2008 or 2009 (UN News Center 2008; VOA 2009). The APRD did not completely disarm until 2012, as it refused to do so until the FPR also disarmed (IRIN News 2012).

Note: interesting disarmament requirement conditional on other groups  
Interesting quote from HRW about "minimalist" aims: .They claim their aim is to engage in "dialogue" to address the political exclusion of Patassé and his supporters and to improve the security situation in the northwest, rather than to overthrow the government

- IV. FORCES FOR THE UNIFICATION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (FIRCA)  
Torg ID: 1567  
Min. Group Date: 2008  
Max. Group Date: 2008  
Onset: NA

Aliases: None

### **Part 1. Bibliography**

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## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Forces pour l’Unification de la Republique Centrafricaine, FURCA, Forces for the Unification of the Central African Republic (FURCA)

Group Formation: 2007

Group End: 2008 (unknown)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

The Forces for the Unification of the Central African Republic (FIRCA) splintered from the Union Des Forces Democratiques Pour Le Rassemblement (UFDR) in 2007 due to a disagreement over whether to accept a proposed peace deal (Lansford 2012, 251). FIRCA opposed the Bozize government and sought to overthrow the regime (BBC 2008). FIRCA’s first violent incident occurred in 2008 (BBC 2008).

### **Geography**

FIRCA conducted attacks and seized territory near Am Dafok, CAR (Humanitarian and Development Partnership Team CAR 2008; Lansford 2012, 251; BBC 2008; GTD 2017).

### **Organizational Structure**

Oumar Sdiam led FIRCA (Humanitarian and Development Partnership Team CAR 2008). This rebel group is composed of ex-militants from the UFDR (Humanitarian and Development Partnership CAR 2008). In 2008, the group had at least 20 members (BBC 2008).

### **External Ties**

FIRCA splintered from the UFDR in 2007 (Lansford 2012, 251).

### **Group Outcome**

FIRCA’s last known attack occurred in 2008, when it seized territory near Am Dafok (BBC 2008; GTD 2017). More information about this group’s outcome could not be found.

V. CPJP  
Torg ID: 743  
Min. Group Date: 2009  
Max. Group Date: 2012  
Onset: 2009

Aliases: Convention Of Patriots For Justice And Peace, Convention Des Patriotes Pour La Justice Et La Paix, Convention Des Patriotes Pour La Justice Et La Paix (Cpjp), Convention Of Patriots For Justice And Peace, Cpjp

### Part 1. Bibliography

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## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 2008 or 2009

Group End: 2012 (disarm)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

The Convention Of Patriots For Justice And Peace (CPJP) formed in 2008 in protest of the unity government created by the Bozize government, UFDR, and APRD (Lansford 2012, 251; IRIN News 2014; BBC 2017; Human Rights Watch 2013). The CPJP specifically sought to protect the Rounga population from the predominantly-Goula UFDR, due to the Goula's brutal treatment of the Rounga (Global Security n.d.; International Crisis Group 2010). The CPJP's first violent incident occurred in February 2009 (Lansford 2012, 251).

### **Geography**

The CPJP controlled territory in the Birao region (Global Security n.d.). The group conducted attacks in Ndele, Sissikebe, Libi, and Sido (Global Security n.d.; GTD 2017). The group's headquarters were located in Akoursoulbak, CAR (International Crisis Group 2010). The CPJP also controlled territory near Bria in Haute Kotto (Human Rights Watch 2013).

### **Organizational Structure**

Sources have conflicting claims regarding the CPJP's leadership. One source indicates Charles Massi, a politician from the Democratic Forum for Modernity Party in 2009, led the group (Lansford 2012, 251). Another source suggests, in 2009, Dhafane Mohamed Mousa led the group (Global Security n.d.). Nevertheless, multiple sources indicate Abdoulaye Hissen led the CPJP (International Crisis Group 2010; UN Security Council 2017). Hissen had previously served in the Bozize government.

Members are ethnic Rounga tribesmen (Global Security n.d.; International Crisis Group 2010). There are disputed reports about the background of the group's members. Some sources suggest these were ex-militants from the UFDR who did not disarm after the peace agreement, while others suggest they were ex-members of Bozize's president guard (International Crisis Group 2010; Global Security n.d.).

The CPJP funded itself through revenue from nearby diamond mines (International Crisis Group 2010; Human Rights Watch 2013).

### **External Ties**

The group had a splinter group known as the CPJP Fundamental. The splinter broke off sometime around 2012 (IRIN News 2014). The CPJP had another splinter known as the Patriotic Convention for the Salvation of Kodro, which broke away in 2012, under the leadership of Mohamed Dhaffane (Human Rights Watch 2013, 30).

### **Group Outcome**

In 2011, the CPJP agreed to a ceasefire with the CAR government (Norwegian Refugee Council 2011; Freedom House Report 2013; IRIN News 2014). In 2012, the group formally disarmed (Freedom House 2012; BBC 2017; RFI 2012; Human Rights Watch 2013). A faction known as the CPJP Fundamental splintered away from the core CPJP around 2012 (IRIN News 2014). In 2013, the CPJP dissolved (IRIN news 2014). From 2013 to 2014, Hissen served as the Youth and Sports Minister in Michel Djotodia's government (UN Security Council 2017).

Notes: some weird tension in membership here - UFDR was primarily Goula

Note: gtd is wrong here - records attacks to CPJP but actually committed by splinter group

## VI. FREEDOM EAGLES OF AFRICA

Torg ID: 1880

Min. Group Date: 2009

Max. Group Date: 2009

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

### **Part 1. Bibliography**

- "Freedom Eagles of Africa," TRAC. n.d.  
<http://www.trackingterrorism.org/group/freedom-eagles-africa>
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- "Kidnappers threaten to kill French aid workers if France doesn't negotiate," Sudan Tribune, 2009, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article33419>
- GTD Perpetrator 30115. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017.  
<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=30115>
- "Foreign Aid staff freed in Darfur." BBC. 2009.

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## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Falcon for the Liberation of Africa

Group Formation: 2009 (?)

Group End (Outcome): 2009? (Unknown)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

The Freedom Eagles of Africa came to attention as a violent group in April 2009, when it kidnapped individuals from two French relief groups. The group took 3 more hostages in November 2009 (AFP 2009). The group engaged in kidnappings in CAR and Chad in order to “secure a change in French policy in the region” (AFP 2009). The kidnappings likely seek to protest the policy of French intervention in war-torn countries, such as Chad in the 1970s and Mali in 2013.

### **Geography**

The group's attack occurred in Birao (AFP 2009).

### **Organizational Structure**

Abu Mohammed Rizeigi both led the group and served as its chief spokesman (AFP 2009).

### **External Ties**

No information could be found about this group's external ties.

### **Group Outcome**

There is not much information available about this group. The Freedom Eagles of Africa came to attention as a violent group in April 2009, when it kidnapped individuals from two French relief groups. The group took 3 more hostages in November 2009 (AFP 2009). In December 2009, the group reiterated its demands and chastised France for supporting Deby and SLA leader Abdel Wahid al-Nur (Sudan Tribune 2009). Violent activity by this group could not be found beyond 2009.

## VII. POPULAR FRONT FOR RECOVERY

Torg ID: 2664

Min. Group Date: 2012

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: Popular Front For Recovery (Fpr), Front Populaire Pour Le Redressement, Front Populaire Pour Le Redressement (Fpr), Popular Front For Recovery

### Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 40095. Global Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017. <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=40095>
- "Boost for peace as rebel group disbands." IRIN News. 2012b. <http://www.irinnews.org/news/2012/10/09/boost-peace-rebel-group-disbands>
- "Un highlights 'security vacuum' as northern clashes continue." IRIN News. 2012a. <https://reliefweb.int/report/central-african-republic/un-highlights-security-vacuum-northern-clashes-continue>
- "Central African Republic Annual Report 2013." Amnesty International. 2013. <https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/annual-report-central-african-republic-2013/>
- "Armed groups in CAR." IRIN News. 2014. <http://www.irinnews.org/report/100623/armed-groups-car>
- "High Likelihood of Army-Rebel Fighting on Chad-CAR Border Raises Death and Injury Risks to Expatriates in Short Term." 2014. Jane's Intelligence Weekly 7 (1). <https://search.proquest.com/docview/1634992264?accountid=14026>.
- "Ex-Chadian Rebels Reportedly Attacked by CAR's Anti-Balaka, Cameroonian Army." 2014. BBC Monitoring Africa, Feb 19. <https://search.proquest.com/docview/1499749860?accountid=14026>.
- "Central African Republic Army Kills Rebel Group Official." 2012. BBC Monitoring Africa, Sep 22. <https://search.proquest.com/docview/1050974368?accountid=14026>.
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### Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: FPR

Group Formation: 2008 (IRIN 2012) or 2011 (IRIN 2014)

Group End: 2014 (unknown)

### Part 3. Narrative

#### Group Formation

The Popular Front for Recovery (FPR) formed in 2008 or 2011 to promote and protect the rights of the Peuhl communities along the Chad-CAR border (IRIN 2012a; IRIN 2014). The FPR was an ethno-nationalist group, but its aims were unclear. While the group claimed to protect local citizens, NGOs reported that the group operated more as a criminal gang (IRIN 2012a). The group's first violent incident occurred as late as 2011 (IRIN 2012a).

## **Geography**

The group mainly conducted attacks in Ouandago Commune (IRIN 2012b). The group also operated in northern CAR. In 2014, Cameroon forces attacked the group along the CAR-Cameroon-Chad area (BBC 2014). The group clashed with the FDPC in Vafio, CAR (IRIN 2012a). The group's leader surrendered in Bangui (BBC 2012).

## **Organizational Structure**

Abdel Kader Baba Ladde, an ex-police officer from Chad who moved to the CAR in 2008, led the FPR (IRIN 2012; BBC 2012; Jane's Intelligence 2014).

Most of the members were foreign fighters from Chad (IRIN 2012b). In 2012, the group had approximately 3,000 followers (IRIN 2012b). Members may have been ethnically Peuhl (IRIN 2012a; IRIN 2014).

The FPR funded itself through extortion and robbery, particularly the stealing of cattle (IRIN 2012a; IRIN 2012b).

## **External Ties**

The FPR clashed with the Central African People's Democratic Front (FDPC) in 2012 (IRIN 2012).

## **Group Outcome**

In 2012, CAR and Chadian forces coordinated attacks against the FPR (IRIN 2014). That same year, the group signed a peace agreement with CAR, and Ladde surrendered (IRIN 2012). A few days later, Ladde returned to Chad (IRIN 2012a). Nevertheless, the agreement fell apart, and the group returned to fighting. In 2014, Cameroon forces attacked the group along the CAR-Cameroon-Chad area (BBC 2014). The FPR's last violent attack occurred in 2014 (Jane's Intelligence 2014; GTD 2017). The FPR's activities beyond 2014 could not be found.