

Distr.: General
24 July 2023
Arabic
Original: French



رسالة مؤرخة 19 تموز/يوليه 2023 موجهة إلى رئيسة مجلس الأمن من القائم بالأعمال
بالنيابة للبعثة الدائمة لجمهورية أفريقيا الوسطى لدى الأمم المتحدة

يشرفني أن أحيل إليكم طيه الرسالة المؤرخة 18 تموز/يوليه 2023 التي تكرر فيها وزيرة الخارجية وشؤون الفرنكوفونية ومواطني جمهورية أفريقيا الوسطى المقيمين في الخارج طلب الحكومة الدائم أن يُرفع بالكامل الحظر المفروض على توريد الأسلحة إلى جمهورية أفريقيا الوسطى (انظر المرفق). وأرجو ممتنا تعميم نص هذه الرسالة ومرفقها على أعضاء مجلس الأمن وإصدارها باعتبارها وثيقة من وثائق المجلس.

(توقيع) ماريوس أريستيد هوجا نزيسيوي
القائم بالأعمال بالنيابة



مرفق الرسالة المؤرخة 19 تموز/يوليه 2023 الموجهة إلى رئيسة مجلس الأمن من
القائم بالأعمال بالنيابة للبعثة الدائمة لجمهورية أفريقيا الوسطى لدى الأمم المتحدة

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FRANCOPHONIE AND CENTRAL
AFRICANS ABROAD



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Unity – Dignity – Work

THE MINISTER

Bangui, on 18 JUL. 2023

Madam the President of the Security Council,

With this letter, I would like once again to share with you the position of the Government of the Central African Republic regarding the arbitrary sanction that continues to be imposed on my country, the Central African Republic.

First of all, the Government of the Central African Republic would like to reaffirm its request for the total lifting of the arms embargo. We reaffirm that this embargo is an obstacle to the efforts being made by the Government with the support of its multilateral and bilateral partners.

This embargo is an iniquitous sanction on government forces and with no effect on the cause of the Central African crisis, which are the armed groups. A sanction that leaves the people at the mercy of its executioners. A draft Resolution which is currently under discussion, constitutes a real affront to the people of the Central African Republic.

We therefore call on the member countries of the Security Council, concerned with respect for the dignity of every human being and lovers of peace and fairness, to support the position of the Central African Republic and request a review of the text proposed by the penman.

First of all, as we have repeatedly deplored, the text was not the subject of consultation with the Central African side.

YEMr: Ambassador Barbara WOODWARD

Ambassador, Representant of United Kingdom
to the United Nations
President of Security Council of the month of July
- NEW YORK -

As a result, the text represents a real step backwards for the Central African Republic, and is totally inconsistent with the report, which describes significant progress achieved by the government with the support of MINUSCA and bilateral partners.

Progress has been made in the areas of Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation (**DDRR**), the Political Process for Peace, the fight against human rights violations, with a noticeable drop noted in the report, not forgetting other Benchmarks such as the storage and marking of weapons as part of the management of illicit arms trafficking led by the National Commission for the Fight against Small Arms and Light Weapons.

All these efforts, presented last June, seem suddenly to have been forgotten, same as the challenges of the Central African Security Forces. In particular, the cross-border challenges aggravated by the situation in Sudan, adding further complexity to an existing insecurity exploited by armed groups on the borders with the Republic of Chad and the Republic of Southern Sudan.

Madam President of the Security Council,

In a sub-regional context under tension, maintaining an embargo on the Central African Republic's regular forces through a notification regime is a real aberration, as it constitutes a real handicap to the Security Sector Reform and a continuation of the humiliation inflicted on the Central African people by an army diminished in its capacity to respond to its regalian mission of protecting the population and the integrity of the territory.

As I already stated on June 20th, none of your countries can accept suffering the same fate as the Central African Republic. A country that has been attacked but marginalized in favor of its executioners, for strategic reasons.

It is also important to underline the deliberate conflation of the democratically elected government and the rebels, in order to legitimize the latter, with a text entitled "Arms embargo on the Central African Republic", justified by certain member states of the Council as intended to curb their supply of heavy weapons.

This system, which combines legitimacy and illegality, and above all unproductive when it comes to armed groups, who have continued to equip themselves outrageously, and whose leaders, despite being on the list of people under sanctions, benefit from the favour of the organization meant to ensure peace, namely the Security Council, which advocates dialogue between

the aggressed and the aggressors, to the detriment of the fight against impunity.

It is undeniable that the voice of the Central African Republic is not heard, or is rendered inaudible by the geopolitical stakes involved.

However, the responsibility of a sovereign State is, as **Souleymane BOEL** stated : "If the only seat you are offered to sit in life is the dock, then stand up". Consequently, the Central African Republic has a duty to stand up to the injustice imposed upon it, to claim its most fundamental rights, and not to allow its history to be perverted.

Indeed, do I need to remind the members of the Security Council, that the arrival of Russian instructors on Central African soil is the result of a decision taken within the Security Council itself.

Should the aggressed country be condemned for having accepted, in time of an emergency, the support of the only partners who answered to its cry of distress - I'm here referring to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Rwanda - and this, in a sovereign, official and transparent manner.

Madam President of the Security Council,

Renewing the arms embargo on the Central African Republic would be seen as a will to keep the Government tied hand and foot, at the mercy of its oppressors, in order to keep it under trusteeship, in total violation of the United Nations Charter and respect for its sovereignty.

The Central African Republic urges the Security Council to recognize the efforts that are visible and recognized by all, and to encourage the Government's determination to pursue its efforts relentlessly in its quest for a return to definitive peace and reconstruction.

In fact, it is based on the work accomplished by the Security Sector Reform within its framework, a reform carried out by the Government with the support of its multilateral and bilateral partners, that the Central African Republic has been able to rise from its ashes.

A brief historical reminder would help us to understand that the Central African Republic has come a long way, and contrary to the media hype of the moment, the May 30th, 2017 report, an in-depth UN report covering the period from 2003 to 2015, already highlighted serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law

committed by successive government forces, by local and foreign armed groups, and by international and foreign defense forces that are not the ones decried today.

It is therefore imperative that legitimacy be given to the Central African security forces, so that they can guarantee justice and peace in the country, and thus restore the pride of its people.

We must also bear in mind that it was on the strength of this embargo on regular forces alone that these same armed groups went back on the rebel path, in the presence of over 12,000 UN peacekeepers, creating a new coalition at the end of 2020, called the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (**CPC**), to once again attack and destabilize the population and the institutions of the republic, while highlighting the limits of the peacekeeping mission.

A mission whose recurrent accusations of violations, sexual abuse and inaction, such as the event of July 10, 2023 when the withdrawal of the Pakistani contingent of MINUSCA deployed in the north-west of the country a few kilometers from Batangafo, allowed the attack or the stripping of the service provider ECOLOG, by the rebels taking away goods, vehicles and money, should also draw the attention of the members of the Security Council and convince us that it is imperative that legitimacy be given to the Central African security forces so that they can guarantee justice and peace in the country and thus restore pride to its people.

Madam President of the Security Council,

On the basis of the foregoing, I call for the respect of the United Nations Charter and its homogeneous application without discrimination against countries subject to aggression.

I therefore call on the Member States of the Council to uphold the fundamental rights of the Central African Republic and its people by supporting the request for the total lifting of the arms embargo on the Central African Republic.

The Central African Government, while specifying that the text initiated and under review does not reflect its position and is inconsistent with the Central African context and its challenges.

It therefore calls on the Security Council to break with the arbitrary sanctions and focus on proposals that can tackle the real obstacle to arms trafficking, in

particular the source of arms supplies for the rebels, and thus respond to the priorities of the Central African Republic, such as security challenges like reducing the killing capacity of armed groups, securing borders by implementing a border management policy and thus reducing cross-border challenges, the continuation of the shared political process of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation and the Luanda Roadmap for a definitive return to peace, support for the DDDR framework, the restoration of state authority throughout the country through strong support for the reform of the security sector, a reform carried out by the Central African government, not forgetting the encouraging progress made on the benchmarks that the government has fully adopted.

A decision by the Security Council to allow the government forces to fulfill their regalian duty of protecting the population and the integrity of the territory would undeniably help to establish the conditions for stabilising the Central African Republic and thus its sovereignty.

I would like to conclude by inviting us to place our trust in each other, so that this trust is not questioned after so many efforts, and to ensure proper coordination between the Central African Government and MINUSCA, with a view to achieving more conclusive results.

In the hope that this appeal to the collective conscience in a situation of inequity that has gone on too far and long, can be heard, please accept, Madam President of the Security Council, the expression of my highest consideration.

