MISCA Tribute Photobook

AU Peace and Security Department

Merci MISCA

Dedicated to the brave African women and men
who paid the ultimate sacrifice to bring
lasting peace to the Central African Republic.

MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

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Thank You MISCA

For piecing together the puzzle of elusive peace
in the Central African Republic

African-led International Support Mission in the
Central African Republic (MISCA)
5 December 2013 - 15 September 2015

A Message of gratitude from the Chairperson,
African Union Commission

Thank You, MISCA, for a Job Well Done!

After nine months of hard work, MISCA is winding up its operations. The African Union is handing over the Mission to the United Nations with the conviction of having fulfilled the mandate entrusted to it, despite having worked in very challenging conditions.

While many challenges still lie ahead, there is no doubt that the initial stabilization phase of the situation in the Central African Republic has been successfully completed. Security has improved significantly not only in Bangui, but also elsewhere in the country, thus facilitating the delivery of the much-needed humanitarian assistance to the affected populations; the number of internally displaced persons has decreased substantially; state authority is gradually being restored; and economic and other daily activities are resuming at a faster pace.

In short, the present situation bears little resemblance with the one that prevailed before the deployment of MISCA, particularly in early December 2013, following the large-scale attack carried out by the anti-Balaka armed group in Bangui.

The results achieved have been made possible thanks to the determination and sense of duty of MISCA military, police and civilian personnel. They have demonstrated an exemplary commitment, achieving so much with limited resources. They acted with courage, dedication and selflessness. They worked not only with their minds, but also with their hearts, driven as they were by the spirit of pan-African solidarity and the desire to assist, as effectively as they could, their sisters and brothers in the Central African Republic in their hour of need.

It is only fitting for me to pay tribute to MISCA's leadership and personnel, mindful as I am that no amount of words can express the debt owed to them by the AU and the African continent. You have filled us with pride and, through your actions, you have illustrated the growing capability of the African Union to act timeously and effectively in response to emergency situations on the ground. Be assured of our enduring gratitude. Allow me to seize this opportunity to express appreciation to my Special Representative and Head of MISCA, General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko, as well as to the Force Commander and Police Commissioner, General Martin Chomu Tumenta and Colonel Patrice Ostangue Bengone, respectively, for their leadership.

I would like to pay a special tribute to those MISCA personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice in discharging their duties. From December 2013 to date, 31 MISCA soldiers and police officers died in the line of duty. I reiterate the African Union's heartfelt condolences to their loved ones and to their countries. I also would like to seize this opportunity to, once again, express our best wishes for speedy recovery to the 153 personnel of the Mission who sustained injuries in the course of discharging their duties.

The African Union is grateful to the troop and police contributing countries, namely: Burundi, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda, as well as Chad. By providing the personnel that was so desperately needed to turn the tide of violence in the Central African Republic and create conditions conducive for a meaningful political process, they have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent.

The current Chairperson of the Economic Community of Central African States, President Idriss Deby Itno of Chad, the ECCAS Mediator, President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, and the other leaders of the region deserve a special mention. They never relented in their efforts to assist the Central African Republic in overcoming the daunting and complex challenges facing it, deploying peacekeepers, convening peace talks and reconciliation conferences, extending financial assistance, while also offering hospitality to refugees fleeing violence and unrest in the CAR. I have no doubt that we can continue to rely on the region's engagement.

Finally, let me put on record our gratitude for the financial and in-kind support received from a number of African Union Member States, particularly during the pledging conference for MISCA which the Commission organized in Addis Ababa, in February 2014.

The results achieved by MISCA were greatly facilitated by the multifaceted support the African Union received from the international partners. I would like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the other international forces deployed in the Central African Republic, namely the French Sangaris Operation and the European Union Operation – EUFOR-CAR. Our appreciation also goes to all the partners who extended financial and logistical support to MISCA, particularly the EU and its Member States, the United States of America, Canada, Norway and Japan. I commend the United Nations for the technical support extended to MISCA.
I have no doubt that the new United Nations peacekeeping operation will build on and consolidate the gains made over the past nine months.

Bangui, September 2014
Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Chairperson
African Union Commission

MISCA Chain Of Command

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma
Chairperson
African Union Commission

Mr. El-Ghassim Wane
Director, Peace and Security Department

Commissioner Smail Chergui
AU Commissioner for Peace & Security

Général Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko

Mr. Sivuyile Bam
Head, Peace Support Operations Division

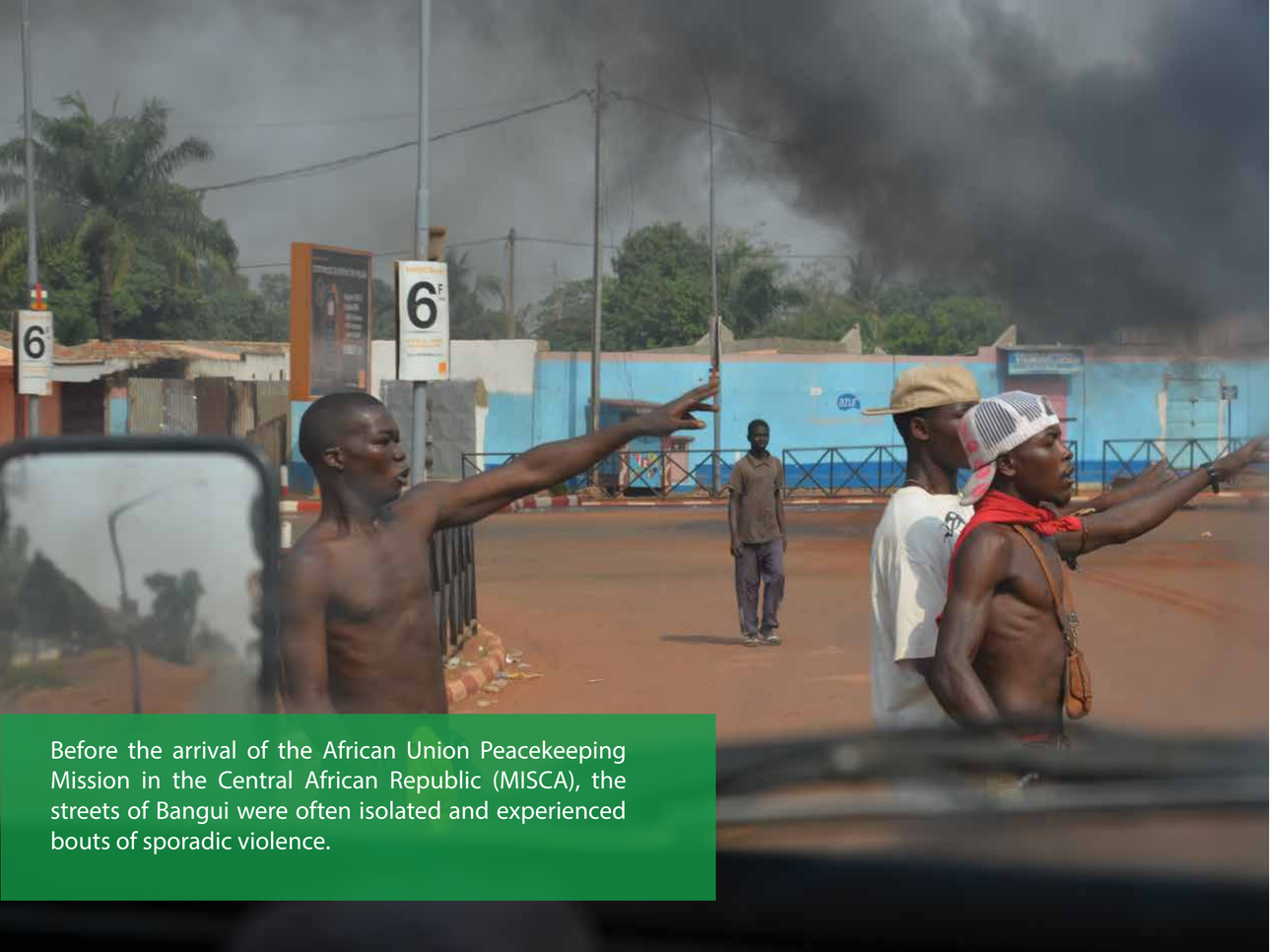
Gen. Martin Tumenta

Colonel Patrice Otsaga Bengone
MISCA Police Commander

AUC Chairperson,Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, accompanied by the Commissioner for Peace and Security, Amb. Smail Chergui, arrives in Bangui , Central African Republic, for the Transfer of Authority from MISCA to MINUSCA , 15 September 2014

Commissioner Smail Chergui (R) commends MISCA Head of Mission, Gen. Mokoko (L) for excellent leadership under challenging circumstance

MISCA was a truly Pan-African solidarity endeavour. This Algerian plane transported Burundian Police Officers from Bujumbura to Bangui.



Before the arrival of the African Union Peacekeeping Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA), the streets of Bangui were often isolated and experienced bouts of sporadic violence.

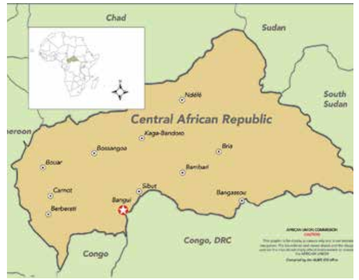
December 2013-Bangui,
Central African Republic

When MISCA was deployed in CAR in December 2013, the country was in chaos following the overthrow of President Francois Bozize. Mainly Muslim rebels from a coalition known as Seleka had launched an offensive in late 2012 and eventually forced the then president, Francois Bozize (a Christian), from power in March 2013.

The then Seleka leader, Michel Djotodia, became the nation's first Muslim president from March 2013 until his resignation on 10 January 2014. This was followed by the brief acting presidency of Alexandre-Ferdinand Nguendet until 23 January 2014 when Catherine Samba-Panza, the mayor of Bangui, became the current Head of State of the Transition after elections in Parliament.

From late 2012, fighters from the Seleka forces committed a range of atrocities. The abuses they carried out spurred majority Christians into creating vigilantes known as the anti-balaka ('anti-machete'), which in turn have carried out atrocities against Muslims.

Thousands of people have been killed and several hundreds of thousands of the country's 4.5 million people have been displaced in the Central African Republic since late 2012. About half of the population are in need of humanitarian assistance.

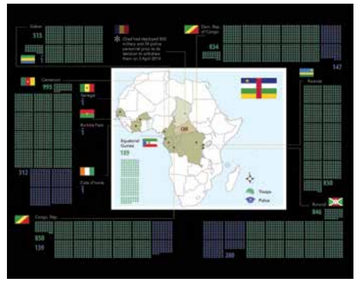


MISCA Strength

At the date of rehatting to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), MISCA strength was made up of 5,137 military personnel and 602 police from seven African countries, staff officers from a further five countries along with a substantive civilian component dealing with such issues as human rights, disarmament, gender, humanitarian liaison and political affairs.

"Our heartfelt thanks to all those African countries that contributed troops and police to MISCA, especially, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda."

H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma



Multidimensional composition,Military, Police and Civilian

MISCA was multidimensional in composition consisting of military, police and civilian components with a mandate to protect civilians and support transition processes in the Central African Republic

Women played a critical role

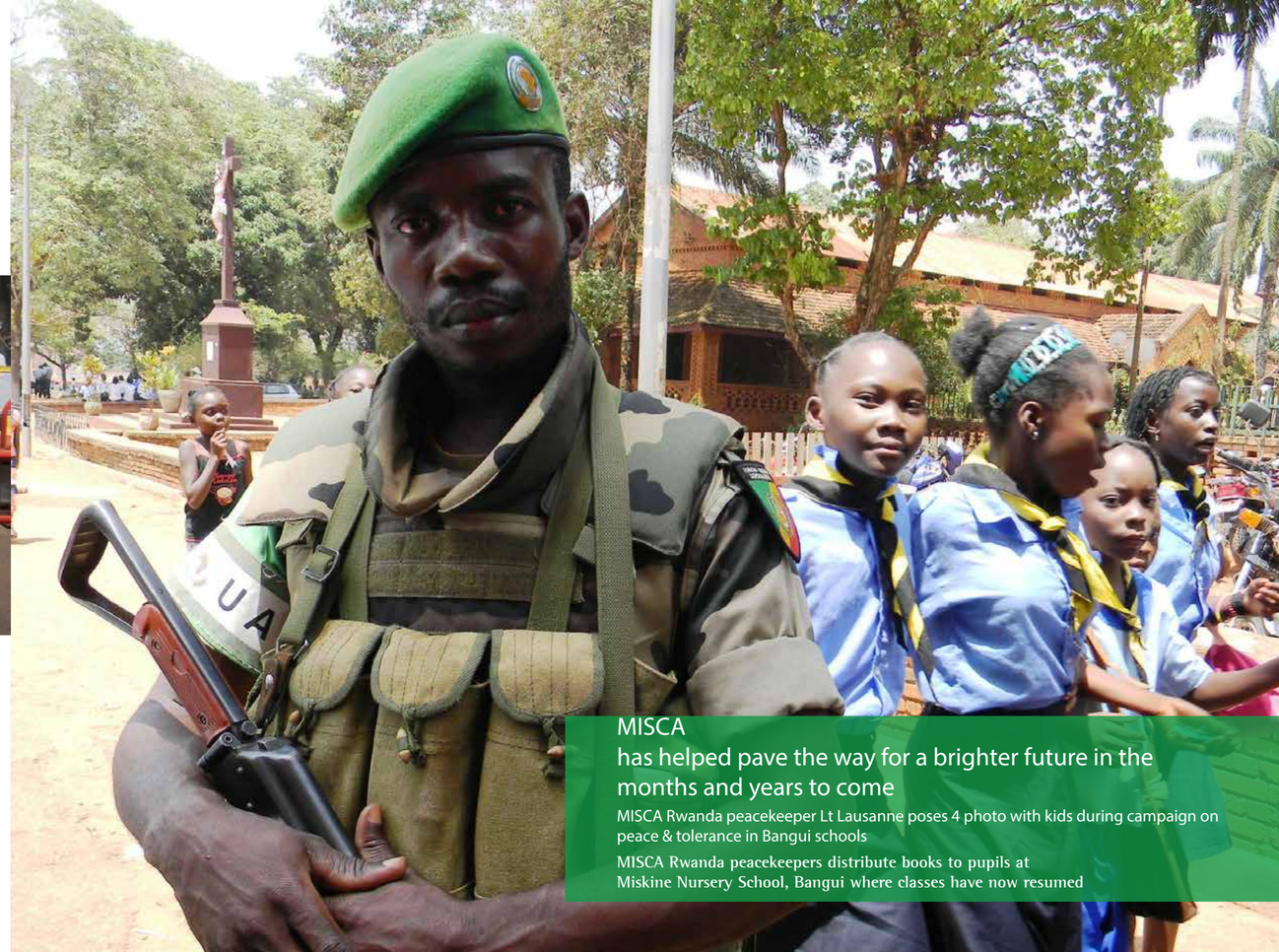
39 policewomen, 20 from Cameroon and 19 from the Democratic Republic of Congo served MISCA

MISCA succeeded in restoring law and order in large measure and prevented the country from descending into total mayhem

MISCA has helped pave the way for a brighter future in the months and years to come

MISCA has protected tens of thousands of displaced Central Africans in camps, escorted civilians in need of protection and kept people alive

UN-MISCA escorts convoy of Muslims fleeing Bangui Photo by Catianne Catianne



MISCA
has helped pave the way for a brighter future in the months and years to come

MISCA Rwanda peacekeeper Lt Lausanne poses 4 photo with kids during campaign on peace & tolerance in Bangui schools

MISCA Rwanda peacekeepers distribute books to pupils at Miskine Nursery School, Bangui where classes have now resumed

MISCA has protected tens of thousands of displaced Central Africans in camps, escorted civilians in need of protection and kept people alive

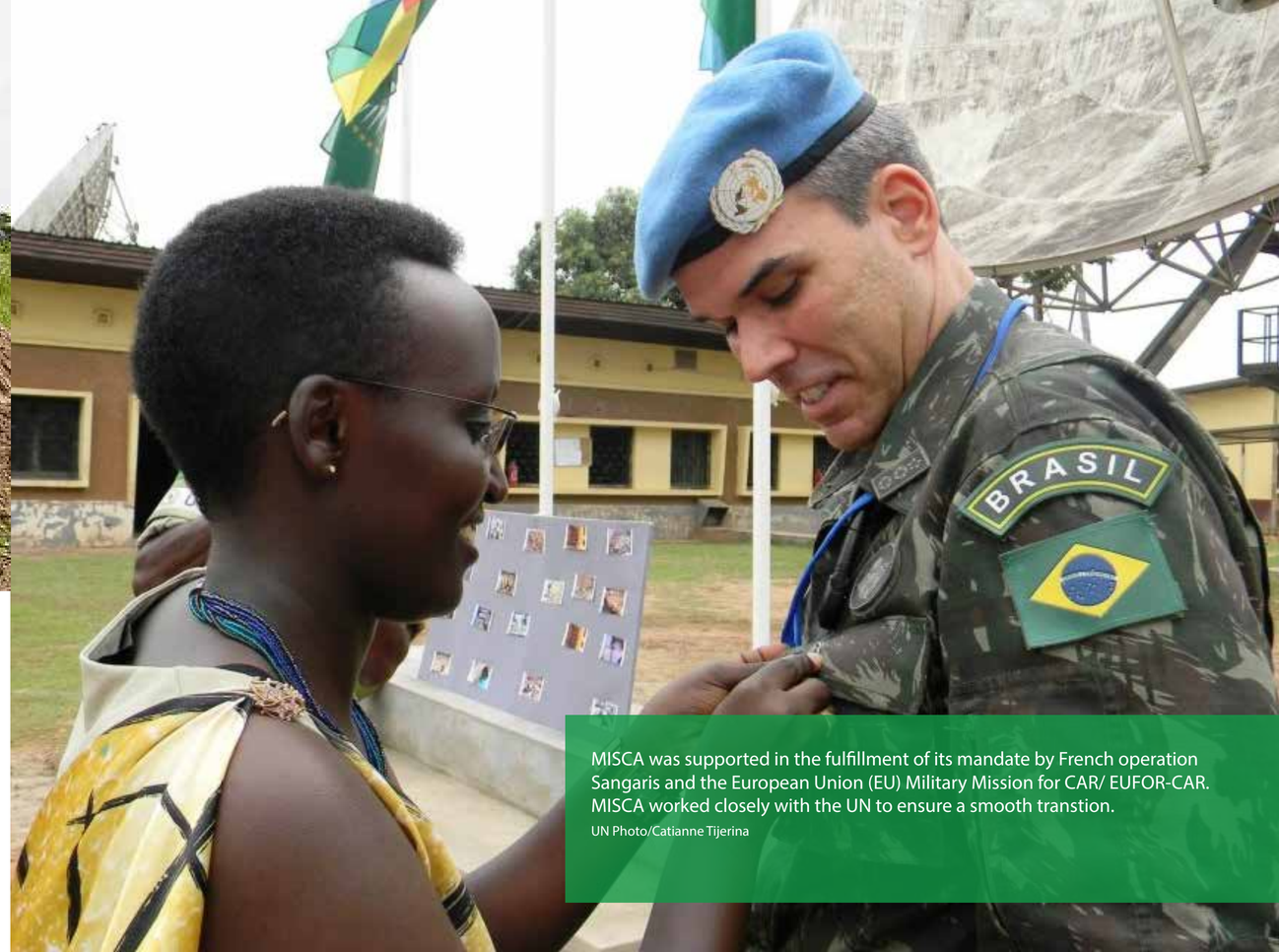
UN-MISCA escorts convoy of Muslims fleeing Bangui
Photo by Catianne Catianne

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 24th AU Summit expressed appreciation to MISCA and troops and police contributing countries for the excellent work done in the Central African Republic, as well as to Member States and international partners who have provided logistical, technical and financial support to the Mission

MISCA succeeded in restoring law and order in large measure and prevented the country from descending into total mayhem

The Ministry of Defence, MISCA, Operation SANGARIS, and UNMAS and its partners co-operated to assess found ammunition in barracks of the military headquarter and destroy potentially dangerous items.

UN Photo/Catianne Tijerina



MISCA was supported in the fulfillment of its mandate by French operation Sangaris and the European Union (EU) Military Mission for CAR/ EUFOR-CAR. MISCA worked closely with the UN to ensure a smooth transtion.

UN Photo/Catianne Tijerina

Our heartfelt thanks to all those African countries that have contributed troops and police to MISCA, especially, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda

'Major General Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko of the Republic of the Congo,- Head of MISCA and AU Special Representative to the Central African Republic should be proud of what MISCA has achieved, as should the MISCA Force Commander, Major General Martin Tumenta Chomu, of the Republic of Cameroon"
AUC Chairperson

"More than thirty peacekeepers serving with MISCA have died and over 150 have been wounded. For all of those who have died, I want to extend condolences to their families and friends. Their sacrifices will be remembered by the African Union with the great respect they deserve, along with those who still suffer from their wounds".

AUC Chairperson

Hat Change to the UN

MISCA transferred to MINUSCA under United Nations authority, on 15th September 2014
These transitions from MISCA to MINUSCA are a strong endorsement by the United Nations of the success of the African Union Mission and of all those who contributed to it. AUC extends its best wishes for the success of the UN Mission, MINUSCA.
UN Photo/Catianne Tijerina

The African Union wishes all success to the Government and People of the Central African Republic, hoping for a more peaceful and stable future

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The successful deployment of MISCA could not have been possible without the financial, logistical and political support of the AU's bilateral and multilateral partners. During a visit to Bangui, the US Permanent Representative to the UN, Amb. Samantha Power, commended MISCA for a job well done.

The efforts of the AU and the international community to resolve the CAR crisis were coordinated by the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic (ICG-CAR)co-chaired by the AU and the Republic of Congo in its capacity as the mediator on CAR.

The efforts of MISCA and the international community culminated in the signing of an agreement on the cessation of hostilities by CAR armed groups, in Brazzaville, July 2014. The Brazzaville ceasefire agreement was witnessed and supported by President Dennis Sassou N'Gueso, the international mediator on the CAR crisis

Peace in CAR ultimately depends on the people of CAR, including civil society and religious leaders.

This tribute photobook is published by the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the African Union Commission (AUC),

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Cover photos: Peacekeepers from the Pa dolor re dolestis dus arum venis ipsam aut eatis doles aut adit labo. Ut ut perchitia volorehenis accusdae rerfers pistem inimaximinum que sedquamus etur asin ratur, sin pernament rerestrum et ut poritam, qui utestis cus ullacerferum fugitatem volesti berferem fugia et quam, tem ad eum atem velit, te qui sit qui optat lit es inte dolum, con pro eum quatem. PHOTO CREDIT/MISCA

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