

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
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To: H
Subject: FW: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION REPORT No. 1 12/27/III (SBU Version)

From: OpsAlert
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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION REPORT No. 1

TFCAR01

Thursday, December 27, 2012
 1700 EST

SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

- (SBU) Bangui is calm and the security situation improved over the previous 24 hours. Non-violent youth demonstrations were organized by the ruling National Convergence party. Central African Republic (CAR) President Bozize asked demonstrators to stay calm and not engage in violence or vandalism. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*
- (SBU) Unconfirmed reports indicate Seleka rebels appear to be expanding and encircling Bangui. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*

EVACUEE STATUS

- (SBU) Thirty-two individuals are at Embassy Bangui awaiting evacuation, including eight USG and 24 non-USG. The 24 non-USG individuals include nine Americans, five French, four Belgians, two Canadians, one Swiss, and three escorts accompanying Americans. Post is conducting a full briefing with all evacuees to verify documentation and paperwork. All evacuees will remain on the embassy compound until departure for the airport. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*
- (SBU) Evacuees will be shuttled to the airport in up to three convoys, for staging at least two hours before the arrival of the evacuation flight. Evacuees will be located in a secure lounge inside the airport until departure. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*
- (SBU) The airport is operating normally and there have been no reports of any roadblocks at night between the embassy and airport. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*
- (SBU) France has completed evacuation planning for its personnel but has no imminent plans to evacuate. France is reinforcing its security presence; French gendarmes and police will augment the 200 military staff already on the ground. France is also working with air carriers including Air France and Ethiopian Airlines to resume their flights in and out of the CAR. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*
- (SBU) The UN has drawn down to emergency personnel only and currently has 40 staff in the CAR. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS/DIALOGUE

- (SBU) Ambassador Wohlers met with senior CAR officials, including President Bozize, explaining the reasons behind the ordered departure, and encouraging Bozize to engage in dialogue with all parties. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Carson spoke with President Bozize and French officials regarding the situation in the CAR. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*
- (U) President Bozize exhorted France and the United States to help push back the rebels to their initial positions to permit talks in Libreville. *(Reuters)*
- (SBU) The Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) Deputy Secretary General is in Bangui. Gabonese Foreign Minister Issoze-Ngodet invited CEEAC foreign and defense ministers, as well as rebel representatives, to Libreville December 28 for a preliminary meeting. A follow-on meeting tentatively is scheduled January 15. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*
- (SBU) The Ambassador of France to Gabon reports Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) President Kabila is organizing non-DRC troops to cross the DRC/CAR border to support the CAR government. *(TFCAR01 interagency telcon)*

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

- (U) French President Hollande denied the French presence in the CAR was to protect the Bozize regime, stating any presence in the country was to protect French nationals and French interests. *(Reuters)*
- (U) UN SYG Ban strongly condemned attacks on CAR towns by rebel groups, stating the rebels' contradictory messages and continued military offensive indicates they might be intent on capturing the capital. *(The Guardian)*

Additional updates on flights and international developments are available through our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov>

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