

# Central African Republic



*The Government of the Central African Republic is implementing a National Action Plan to Combat Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, as well as related programs, such as the National Action Plan for Education and a National Poverty Reduction Strategy. However, the worst forms of child labor continue to exist in the Central African Republic, where children work in the streets and are still present in armed militias. There is little evidence to suggest that laws prohibiting the worst forms of child labor are enforced.*

## Statistics on Working Children and School Attendance

| Children                  | Age         | Percent |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Working                   | 5 - 14 yrs. | 51.1*   |
| Attending School          | 5 - 14 yrs. | 53.9    |
| Combining Work and School | 7 - 14 yrs. | 33.4    |

\* Population of working children: 602,932

## Prevalence and Sectoral Distribution of the Worst Forms of Child Labor

Children in the Central African Republic (CAR) are engaged in the worst forms of child labor,<sup>1157</sup> many of them vending and begging on the street or being used as child soldiers in non-State militias.<sup>1158</sup> The high rate of orphanhood, including from HIV/AIDS, is partly responsible for the displacement of many of these children to the streets.<sup>1159</sup> According to the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, 3,000 children in Bangui live and work in the streets.<sup>1160</sup> Children working on the streets may be exposed to many dangers, including severe weather, vehicle accidents and criminal elements.

Children, including street children, abandoned children and those dwelling in urban areas, are also exploited in prostitution.<sup>1161</sup> Some children traffic drugs.<sup>1162</sup> Children have also been forced to work as porters, carrying stolen goods for criminal groups.<sup>1163</sup>

Due to protracted conflict, spill-over violence from neighboring countries and rebel groups, the Government of CAR has little control over regions outside of the capital.<sup>1164</sup> In some cases, villages have formed self-defense groups to protect themselves from attacks from various factions, ranging from rebel groups and bandits to government troops.<sup>1165</sup> Children are sometimes recruited by some of these self-defense groups. Children are also abducted for forced labor and/or soldiering by rebel groups, such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel force that has moved into CAR, and are reported to still exist within one or more of the indigenous rebel groups—the *Union des Forces Démocratiques pour le Rassemblement, L'Armée Populaire pour la Restauration de la République et la Démocratie, Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix, Forces Démocratiques Populaires de Centrafrique, or Mouvement des Libérateurs Centrafricains pour la Justice*.<sup>1166</sup> Children abducted by the LRA work as child soldiers, sex slaves and spies.<sup>1167</sup> The

LRA has trafficked children to and from Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda for work and child soldiering.<sup>1168</sup> Children have been forced to terrorize their own communities and kill or mutilate civilians.<sup>1169</sup>

Children also work in gold and diamond mines, transporting and washing gravel, digging pits and carrying heavy loads.<sup>1170</sup>

Children are engaged in dangerous work in fishing and agriculture. Although evidence is limited, there is reason to believe that children are engaged in work on coffee, cassava and peanut farms under conditions that amount to the worst forms of child labor.<sup>1171</sup> Children’s work in agriculture commonly involves carrying heavy loads and applying potentially harmful pesticides. Fishing commonly involves exposure to waterborne diseases and drowning. Children from indigenous groups, such as the *Baaka* (Pygmy), are forced into agricultural labor and domestic service.<sup>1172</sup>

Children work as domestic servants.<sup>1173</sup> Some domestic work involves long hours, dangerous activities and exposure to physical and sexual exploitation.

CAR is a source and destination country for trafficked children.<sup>1174</sup> Along with children trafficked by the LRA, children are trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic service, work in agriculture, restaurants and markets, and mining, including diamond mines.<sup>1175</sup> Children are trafficked into and out of the country for similar purposes.<sup>1176</sup>

**Laws and Regulations on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The Labor Code sets the minimum age for employment at 14.<sup>1177</sup> However, children who are at least age 12 may engage in light work in some forms of agriculture or domestic service.<sup>1178</sup> Research did not identify which activities are

allowed under this exception. Children younger than age 18 are prohibited from working between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and from performing certain kinds of work, including work in mines. The law protects children from performing work that involves carrying heavy loads but only applies to children younger than age 14.<sup>1179</sup> The Government has not issued a more specific list of prohibited hazardous work.<sup>1180</sup> The Labor Code does not apply to self-employed workers, including children.<sup>1181</sup>

|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
|    | C138, Minimum Age  | ✓   |
|   | C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor   | ✓   |
|    | CRC  | ✓   |
|   | CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict  | ✓   |
|   | CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography | ✓   |
|  | Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons   | ✓   |
|  | Minimum Age for Work   | 14  |
|   | Minimum Age for Hazardous Work   | 18  |
|  | Compulsory Education Age   | 15  |
|   | Free Public Education  | Yes |

The Mining Code prohibits the employment of children in mining.<sup>1182</sup>

The minimum age for compulsory or voluntary recruitment into the Government Armed Forces in CAR is 18.<sup>1183</sup>

The Labor Code prohibits the procurement or offering of a child for illicit activities, including the production and trafficking of drugs, and it prohibits the procurement or offering of a child for prostitution and the production of

pornography.<sup>1184</sup> The Labor Code also prohibits all forms of slavery, forced labor and bonded labor. It also bans forced or compulsory recruitment of children in armed conflict.<sup>1185</sup>

The Penal Code prohibits the procurement of persons of any age for sexual purposes, including assisting in or profiting from prostitution.<sup>1186</sup> The Penal Code prohibits human trafficking.<sup>1187</sup>

### **Institutional Mechanisms for Coordination and Enforcement**

In November 2010, the Government began the process to create the National Council for the Protection of Children, which is charged with coordinating policy and strategy to protect children.<sup>1188</sup> Committees of the Council will address the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation and child soldiers. The Prime Minister signed the decree to establish the Council in April 2011.<sup>1189</sup> The Council will convene once member ministries and organizations have named their representatives.<sup>1190</sup>

The Ministry of Civil Servants, Labor and Social Security is charged with monitoring and enforcing laws related to forced and hazardous child labor.<sup>1191</sup> However, as noted by the ILO Committee of Experts, there has not been a labor administrator to coordinate efforts since 1999.<sup>1192</sup>

The Ministry of Civil Service and Labor employs 73 labor inspectors in the Labor Inspection Unit.<sup>1193</sup> A 2008 study—the latest year where information is available—sponsored by the Ministry with help from UNICEF concluded that inspections are not conducted in a manner that effectively prevents child labor. There is no system in place for the Ministry to track child labor complaints.<sup>1194</sup> In addition, inspectors are not provided with transportation funds.<sup>1195</sup> Information on whether any child labor inspections took place during the reporting period is unavailable.

The Ministry of Justice, in coordination with security forces, is responsible for the oversight and investigation of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, child trafficking and the use of children in illicit activities. However, the ministry does not have sufficient office facilities and transportation to carry out inspections.<sup>1196</sup> It is unclear whether there are specific officers dedicated to trafficking or other worst forms of child labor.<sup>1197</sup> The Government does not have a means for identifying victims of trafficking and was unable to provide data on the number of arrests and prosecutions of those involved in using children in trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation or other illicit activities.<sup>1198</sup>

In January 2010, a Senior Gendarmerie was tasked by the Deputy Minister of Defense to investigate reports of child soldiers in self-defense militias.<sup>1199</sup> However, there is no available information on the result of this investigation.

### **Government Policies on the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

The Government has a National Action Plan to Combat Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, which includes measures to address sex trafficking. The Government also has a separate Action Plan designed to combat trafficking in persons, including child trafficking.<sup>1200</sup>

The Government is also implementing related policies, such as the National Action Plan for Education and the National Poverty Reduction Strategy.<sup>1201</sup> An evaluation of whether the National Action Plan for Education has an impact on the worst forms of child labor does not appear to have been conducted.

Education is compulsory for six years until age 15. Tuition is free, but students must pay for their own supplies, books and transportation.<sup>1202</sup> The cost of these associated fees may be prohibitive for some students and may increase the risk of children's involvement in the worst forms of child labor.

## Social Programs to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor

The Government of CAR is partnering with UNICEF to provide two programs aimed at the protection, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers.<sup>1203</sup>

The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs continues to operate a shelter for children in distress, including possible victims of trafficking.

This shelter has the capacity to house 35 children.<sup>1204</sup> However, the shelter lacks the space to accommodate all who seek its services.<sup>1205</sup>

Aside from the limited programs above, the Government does not provide social protection services aimed at children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation, child soldiering, mining and agriculture.<sup>1206</sup>

### Based on the reporting above, the following actions would advance the reduction of the worst forms of child labor in Central African Republic:

#### IN THE AREA OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

- Strengthen legislation by amending the Labor Code to
- Include a specific list of prohibited hazardous work for children.
- Extend the code to cover self-employed children.
- Ensure all children in agriculture and domestic work are protected from hazardous work.

#### IN THE AREA OF COORDINATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

- Convene the members of the National Council for the Protection of Children.
- Provide adequate resources to enforce laws against the worst forms of child labor, including trained personnel, budgetary resources and office facilities.
- Create an inspection system that monitors and tracks reported cases of the worst form of child labor.
- Complete an investigation of militias' use of child soldiers, publish the results, and based on this information, take vigorous steps to end this practice and rehabilitate its victims.
- Create a system to identify child victims of trafficking, and provide them with adequate shelter and protection.

#### IN THE AREA OF POLICIES:

- Assess the impact that existing policies, such as the National Action Plan for Education, may have on addressing the worst forms of child labor.
- Eliminate education fees to increase the number of children able to access schooling.

#### IN THE AREA OF PROGRAMS:

- Implement programs that address the worst forms of child labor, particularly in prostitution, child soldiering, agriculture and mining.



<sup>1157</sup> Data provided in the chart at the beginning of this country report are based on UCW analysis of ILO SIMPOC, UNICEF MICS, and World Bank surveys, *Child Economic Activity, School Attendance, and Combined Working and Studying Rates*, 2005-2011. Data provided are from 2006. Reliable data on the worst forms of child labor are especially difficult to collect given the often hidden or illegal nature of the worst forms. As a result, statistics and information on children's work in general are reported in this section, which may or may not include the worst forms of child labor. For more information on sources used, the definition of working children, and other indicators used in this report, please see the "Children's Work and Education Statistics: Sources and Definitions" section of this report.

<sup>1158</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Central African Republic," in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices- 2010*, Washington, DC, April 8, 2011, sections 1g, 7d; available from <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154337.htm>. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 12. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 4, 2011.

<sup>1159</sup> Dorn Townsend, "Central African Republic: Prevention strategies making in-roads, but cases of HIV continue to climb", UNICEF.org, [online], [cited February 9, 2011]; available from [http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/2009\\_2858.html](http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/2009_2858.html). See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, November 10, 2010.

<sup>1160</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2010: Central African Republic," sections 6, 7d. See also Emily Bamford, "Growing up in the streets of Bangui", HDPTCAR.net, [online], September 25, 2007 [cited February 9, 2011]; available from <http://hdptcar.net/blog/2007/09/25/growing-up-in-the-streets-of-bangui/>. See also UNICEF, *Central African Republic: Our lives--Street children pick up cameras in CAR*, Press Release, June 16, 2008; available from [http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/2009\\_2402.html](http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/2009_2402.html).

<sup>1161</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 11. See also Julia Spry-Leverton, *A Cry from the Heart: Central African Republic*, UNICEF, March 22, 2007, 25; available from [http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/WCARO\\_CAR\\_Pub\\_ACryFrmHeart.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/wcaro/WCARO_CAR_Pub_ACryFrmHeart.pdf). See also Ministry of Family and Social Affairs official, Interview with USDOL consultant, July 1, 2005.

<sup>1162</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 11.

<sup>1163</sup> U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2010: Central African Republic," section 1g.

<sup>1164</sup> Kelly Campbell, "Central African Republic, Chad, and Sudan: Triangle of Instability?", USIP.org, [online],

December 2006 [cited February 10, 2011]; available from <http://www.usip.org/publications/central-african-republic-chad-and-sudan-triangle-instability>.

<sup>1165</sup> Al Jazeera, *Self Defense Forces in the Central African Republic*, September 9, 2008; available from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iM7uL6VyWP8>. See also British Broadcasting Corporation, "Thousands flee from CAR violence", news.bbc.co.uk, [online], March 25, 2006 [cited February 10, 2011]; available from <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4844664.stm>. See also UN General Assembly Security Council, *Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General*, A/64/742-S/2010/181, April 13, 2010, para 57; available from <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/311/28/PDF/N1031128.pdf?OpenElement>. See also Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, "Central African Republic," in *Child Soldiers Global Report 2008*, London, 2008, 88; available from [http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country\\_pdfs/FINAL\\_2008\\_Global\\_Report.pdf](http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/files/country_pdfs/FINAL_2008_Global_Report.pdf).

<sup>1166</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 12. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui official, E-mail communication, July 4, 2011. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, paras 6-7. See also U.S. Department of State, "Central African Republic," in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010*, Washington, DC, June 14, 2010; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142982.pdf>. See also UN General Assembly Security Council, *Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General*, paras 57 and 58 and Annex I.

<sup>1167</sup> Human Rights Watch, *CAR/DR Congo: LRA Conducts Massive Abduction Campaign*, August 11, 2010; available from <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/08/11/cadr-congo-lra-conducts-massive-abduction-campaign?print>. See also Afrol News, "LRA now also in Central African Republic", afrol.com, [online], March 31, 2010 [cited February 14, 2011]; available from <http://www.afrol.com/articles/35833>. See also UN General Assembly Security Council, *Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General*, para 58.

<sup>1168</sup> United Nations Security Council, *Additional report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Uganda*, S/2008/409, June 23, 2008, para 6; available from <http://www.un.org/children/conflict/english/securitycouncilwgroupdoc.html>. See also U.S. Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Central African Republic."

<sup>1169</sup> World Vision, *Northern Ugandan Crisis Caution: Children at War*, [online] 2010 [cited February 14, 2011]; available from <http://www.worldvision.org/content.nsf/learn/globalissues-uganda>.

<sup>1170</sup> Ministry of Mining official, Interview with USDOL consultant, May 27, 2005. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, paras 2, 8, 9, 11. See also U.S. Department of State, "Country Reports- 2010: Central African Republic," section 7d. See also Integrated Regional

Information Networks, “Central African Republic: Where diamonds damage diet”, IRINnews.org, [online], December 16, 2009 [cited February 14, 2011]; available from <http://www.irinnews.org/PrintReport.aspx?ReportId=87451>. See also Ministry of Labor official, Interview with USDOL consultant, April 26, 2005.

<sup>1171</sup> Spry-Leverton, *A Cry from the Heart*, 5. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, paras 2, 11. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Central African Republic,” section 7d.

<sup>1172</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 11.

<sup>1173</sup> *Ibid.*, para 11. See also U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Central African Republic,” section 7d.

<sup>1174</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Central African Republic.”

<sup>1175</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, March 1, 2010*, 1. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, June 11, 2009*, para 8. See also U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Central African Republic.”

<sup>1176</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, March 1, 2010*, 1. See also U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Central African Republic.” See also U.S. Department of State, “Cameroon,” in *Trafficking in Persons Report- 2009*, Washington, DC, June 16, 2009; available from <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/123361.pdf>.

<sup>1177</sup> Government of the Central African Republic, *Code du Travail de la République Centrafricaine*, Loi N° 61/221, (June 15, 1961), article 125. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS du 21 mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*, accessed February 14, 2011, section 2; available from [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex\\_browse.home](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex_browse.home). See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, para 12.

<sup>1178</sup> ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS du 21 mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, para 12.

<sup>1179</sup> Government of the Central African Republic, *Code du Travail de la République Centrafricaine*, articles 120, 121. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6) Central African Republic (ratification: 1960): Submitted 2009*, February 14, 2011; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>. See also ILO NATLEX National Labor Law Database, *Arrêté no 6/MFPTSS du 21 mai 1986: Elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons*. See also U.S.

Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, para 12. See also Government of the Central African Republic, *Suivi de la Situation des Enfants et des Femmes: Resultats de l'enquete nationale a indicateurs multiples couplee avec la serologie VIH et anemie en RCA 2006, Rapport final*, Bangui, January 2009, 173; available from [http://www.childinfo.org/files/MICS3\\_CAR\\_FinalReport\\_2006\\_Fr.pdf](http://www.childinfo.org/files/MICS3_CAR_FinalReport_2006_Fr.pdf).

<sup>1180</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) Central African Republic (ratification: 2000) Published 2010*, March 17, 2011, para 8; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>.

<sup>1181</sup> *Ibid.*, para 3.

<sup>1182</sup> Government of the Central African Republic, *Portant Code Minier de la République Centrafricaine*, (April 29, 2009), article 190; available from <http://www.droit-afrique.com/images/textes/RCA/RCA%20-%20Code%20minier%202009.pdf>.

<sup>1183</sup> Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, “Global Report 2008- Central African Republic.”

<sup>1184</sup> ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Central African Republic (ratification: 2000) Submitted: 2011*, May 5, 2011, para 2; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>.

<sup>1185</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, June 11, 2009*, 2. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) Central African Republic (ratification: 2000) Published: 2010*, February 14, 2011, para 2; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Direct Request C182: Central African Republic (2011)*, para 2.

<sup>1186</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 18.

<sup>1187</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report- 2010: Central African Republic.”

<sup>1188</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 19.

<sup>1189</sup> *Ibid.*, para 19. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui official, E-mail communication, July 4, 2011.

<sup>1190</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui official, E-mail communication to USDOL official, July 12, 2011.

<sup>1191</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 20.

<sup>1192</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, paras 15-16. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation concerning Labour Inspection Convention*,

1947 (No. 81) *Central African Republic (ratification: 1964)* Published: 2009, February 14, 2011, para 3; available from <http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/iloquery.htm>.

<sup>1193</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 20.

<sup>1194</sup> *Ibid.*, para 21.

<sup>1195</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, paras 15-16. See also ILO Committee of Experts, *Individual Observation C81: Central African Republic (2009)*, para 3.

<sup>1196</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, para 17.

<sup>1197</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>1198</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report-2010: Central African Republic.” See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 24.

<sup>1199</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, March 1, 2010*, 3.

<sup>1200</sup> *Ibid.*, 1, 3.

<sup>1201</sup> Ministère de l’Education Nationale et de la Recherche Scientifique Coordination Nationale de L’E.P.T., *Plan*

*National d’Action de l’Education Pour Tous (2003-2015)*, Bangui, November 2002; available from <http://planipolis.iiiep.unesco.org/upload/Central%20African%20Republic/Central%20African%20Republic%20PNA%20EPT.pdf>. See also Government of the Central African Republic, *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper Analytical Summary, 2008-2010*, 2008; available from [http://hdptcar.net/files/documents/CAR\\_PRSP\\_AnalyticalSummary\\_ENG.pdf](http://hdptcar.net/files/documents/CAR_PRSP_AnalyticalSummary_ENG.pdf). See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, para 22.

<sup>1202</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Country Reports- 2010: Central African Republic,” section 6. See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, January 27, 2011*, para 8.

<sup>1203</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report-2010: Central African Republic.”

<sup>1204</sup> U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, March 1, 2010*, 5.

<sup>1205</sup> U.S. Department of State, “Trafficking in Persons Report-2010: Central African Republic.”

<sup>1206</sup> *Ibid.* See also U.S. Embassy- Bangui, *reporting, February 17, 2010*, para 21.