



# ALTERNATIVES - CENTRAFRIQUE

## *Discrimination, violence in Central Africa Sexual and gender minorities*

### *Implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle*

In the second cycle of the UPR, no Central African civil society submitted a report on sexual minorities and gender. No recommendations have been made. Our report is the first to be submitted by a Central African organization working on sexual and gender minorities (SGM).

The Central African government has not proposed any bill against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity years and the next.

### *Fundamental rights and freedoms often violated*

- Arbitrary detention
- Right to privacy
- Right to education
- Inhumane treatment and torture in detention
- Right to health
- Right to justice
- Right to work

### *Major challenges*

Challenges	Case study
<p><b>1 Arbitrary detention</b> : In Central African Republic, people often seek to discredit SGMs on the basis of malicious allegations. The SGM are being detained by the police without proof and without preliminary investigation.</p>	<p>In October 2017, the police arrested and detained one of the members of our association, a man in his thirties. He had been reported for illegal sale of sperm to practitioners (a sort of magician). However, the police had no evidence and the allegations was unfounded. The police released him after three days, failing to consolidate the complaint. We later learned that these denunciations came from neighbors in our member's neighborhood. They sought to persecute him on the basis of his sexual orientation.</p>
<p><b>2 Right to privacy</b> : The security forces interfere in the private life of sexual and gender minorities (apartment, mobile phone, arrest on the public square for gender identity etc.) without valid grounds due to stigmatization of SGMs within society.</p>	<p>In 2014, a transgender person was beaten by members of Seleka, a rebel group. She was waiting for a taxi in front of the police station of the second district of Bangui. At that time, the post was held by the rebel coalition. They then arrested her, beat her, insulted her and undressed her in the street because of her clothing that expressed her gender identity.</p>
<p><b>3 Right to education</b> : SGMs experience physical and verbal abuse, bullying by peers in schools. Faculty and administration remain indifferent, causing minorities to drop out of school.</p>	<p>A young schoolboy in the 5th class in Bangui suffered verbal aggression (insults) and physical abuse by his classmates. The teachers gave free rein to this violence. In all classes and during breaks, this young schoolboy was subjected to these persecutions. He dropped out of school.</p>

4 **Inhumane treatment and torture in detention** : We recorded several cases of SGM in detention that report acts of torture against them such as flogging, perpetrated by the peacekeepers of the police force or prisoners with indifference of the guards. In addition, there are several cases of rape in prison, which promotes a risk for reprobation.

In 2014, three members of our association were arrested by the army and detained following slanderous reports that men engaged in sex an apartment. They entered without legal authorization and questioned them about their physical appearance. They confiscated their cell phones and shipped them. At the barracks, they charged them without proof of having sex. They asked them to undress completely before incarcerating them. One of the men was flogged and beaten. Unlike other prisoners, no food ration was served to them. These men had to clean a house before being released on bail the third day.

## Recommendations

1. Revise Article 294 of the criminal code to include sexual and gender minorities in their full protection against discrimination.
2. Implement the Paris principles to ensure the class A of the Central African National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (NCHREFF) by the global alliance of the NCHR (GANHRI).
3. Propose and implement a two-year training plan for medical, judicial, police and educational personnel to sensitize them on the violence and discrimination faced by sexual and gender minorities.
4. Set up a desk to receive, inform and provide psycho-sociological and judicial support for sexual and gender minorities who are victims of violence.
5. Introduce Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the school system to protect sexual and gender diversity and develop a plan to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against students.
6. Promote a dialogue with unions of employees and employers and civil society working on sexual and gender minorities to eliminate violence and discrimination in the workplace.

## Questions submitted in advance

1. Does the Central African government plan to develop and implement an awareness program on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity?
2. Why has the Central African Republic voted against the resolution to establish the mandate of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity in 2016?

## Contact

Central African Republic (Bangui)  
Alternatives-Centrafrigue  
Contact person : Steven Bedaya-Ngaro (Deputy coordinator of NGO)  
[Bedayas001@yahoo.fr](mailto:Bedayas001@yahoo.fr) / Tel : (00236) 72 43 64 41 / 75 02 15 16