

Central African Republic in chaos, says UN

28th November, 2013



The United Nations has warned that the Central African Republic (CAR) needs urgent help. The UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said it

was "descending into complete chaos before our eyes". The landlocked nation has been slowly moving towards a state of total anarchy since rebels seized power in March. Mr Eliasson called for the strengthening of the African Union's military presence in the country. He suggested turning it into an official UN peacekeeping operation. Mr Eliasson warned: "If this situation is left to fester, it may develop into a religious and ethnic conflict with long-standing consequences - even a civil war that could spread into neighbouring countries."

Rebels known as the Seleka replaced former President Bozize with their own commander Michel Djotodia. Mr Djotodia later disbanded the rebels but they regrouped and formed armed gangs, which now control most of the impoverished country. Mr Eliasson said: "The population is enduring suffering beyond imagination. As we see far too often, women and children are bearing the brunt. Human rights violations are mounting. The use of child soldiers is rising. Sexual violence is growing. There are widespread reports of looting, illegal checkpoints, extortion, illegal arrests and detentions, torture and summary executions." He warned that: "The CAR is becoming a breeding ground for extremists."

Sources: BBC / AllAfrica.com / VOA News.com

Writing

Why do the poorest people always suffer the most? How can we change this? Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

urgent help / chaos / anarchy / rebels / peacekeeping force / ethnic conflict / civil war / armed gangs / impoverished / suffering / human rights / sexual violence / torture

True / False

- The UN says the CAR is now beyond help. T / F
- Rebels took control of the country in September. T / F
- The UN wants the African Union to serve as peacekeepers in the CAR. T / F
- The UN is worried the CAR's internal strife may spill over its borders. T / F
- Armed gangs are in control of most of the CAR. T / F
- The UN said the middle class is bearing the brunt of the suffering. T / F
- There have been very few reports of looting in the country. T / F
- The UN warned the country is being used by extremists. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. urgent | a. deteriorate |
| 2. descending | b. broke up |
| 3. anarchy | c. poor |
| 4. presence | d. sliding |
| 5. fester | e. leader |
| 6. commander | f. desperate |
| 7. disbanded | g. blackmail |
| 8. impoverished | h. existence |
| 9. brunt | i. lawlessness |
| 10. extortion | j. full force |

Discussion – Student A

- What would you think if you woke up one morning to find rebels were in power in your country?
- When has your country been in chaos? What happened?
- Why do the poor always suffer?
- How can women and children in the CAR be protected?
- Will those who violate human rights ever be caught and tried?
- Would the intervention of foreign troops help stop the chaos?
- Should the USA intervene to stop people being killed?
- What questions would you like to ask Jan Eliasson about the CAR?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. descending into complete chaos | a. operation |
| 2. moving towards a state of | b. reports of looting |
| 3. an official UN peacekeeping | c. neighbouring countries |
| 4. develop into a religious | d. but they regrouped |
| 5. a civil war that could spread into | e. total anarchy |
| 6. Mr Djotodia later disbanded the rebels | f. impoverished country |
| 7. control most of the | g. ground for extremists |
| 8. women and children are bearing | h. and ethnic conflict |
| 9. There are widespread | i. before our eyes |
| 10. becoming a breeding | j. the brunt |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the Central African Republic?
- Why is the UN only acting now if rebels seized power in March?
- People believe there could be genocide. How can we stop this?
- What urgent help does the CAR need?
- What happens (and doesn't happen) in a state of total anarchy?
- Should the African Union or United Nations keep the peace in the CAR?
- What "long-standing consequences" might there be?
- What would happen if the CAR's unrest spread to its neighbours?

Spelling

- gcennideds into complete chaos
- total crhaayn since rebels seized power
- the African Union's military cseerepn
- develop into a religious and tihenc conflict
- long-standing sqncnesocuee
- spread into roenguinhbgj countries
- Mr Djotodia later dbeidsand the rebels
- control most of the edisopevrmhi country
- gniurend suffering beyond imagination
- Human rights ioovnltsai are mounting
- titxreoon, illegal arrests and detentions
- becoming a breeding ground for trtiesxsme

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. h	5. a
6. e	7. b	8. c	9. j	10. g

Role Play

Role A – African Union peacekeeping force

You think an African Union peacekeeping force is best for the CAR. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a regional conference, military intervention or letting the CAR sort out its own problems.

Role B – A regional conference

You think a regional conference is best for the CAR. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): an African Union peacekeeping force, military intervention or letting the CAR sort out its own problems.

Role C – Military intervention

You think military intervention is best for the CAR. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a regional conference, an African Union peacekeeping force or letting the CAR sort out its own problems.

Role D – Let the CAR sort its problems out

You think letting the CAR sort out its own problems is best for the CAR. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their solutions. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a regional conference, military intervention or an African Union peacekeeping force.

Speaking - Anarchy

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- no laws
- corrupt government
- violence
- looting
- no schools
- no shops
- armed gangs
- extremism

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.