

PRESS RELEASE

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SRSG CALLS FOR RESTRAINT AND REASSURES ABOUT MINUSCA'S PRESENCE TO PREVENT ESCALATION

27 October 2015 - The Special Representative of the Secretary General for the Central African Republic, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, called on all Central Africans to exercise restraint to avoid an increase of violence with serious consequences and reassured the population about the presence in the field of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and its partners to avoid an escalation of violence.

"MINUSCA strongly condemns the use of violence to resolve differences. We call for restraint to ensure that recent unfortunate events will not lead to a tragedy, with more human life losses and material damages which could set back the peace consolidation efforts," Onanga- Anyanga stated in a message aired on Tuesday in Guira FM, the mission's radio station. The Head of MINUSCA was addressing Monday and Tuesday incidents in Bangui which also had repercussions in Bambari and Bria cities.

"We appeal to all people of good will", he added while urging religious leaders, community leaders, civil society, politicians and national authorities to raise their voices "to avoid an escalation and a senseless violence."

In his message, Onanga-Anyanga reassured the population as he stressing the coordination between MINUSCA and its partners, in particular the Sangaris operation, to avoid the escalation of violence and to protect civilian population. "We worked very closely with Sangaris. Our forces have been at work all night long. We are present, we are in the most difficult neighborhoods", the SRSG said, while reaffirming MINUSCA availability to work with all Central Africans, "whatever their differences, so that the country can move out of this unacceptable situation."

The Special Representative also condemned reported violence against international forces including MINUSCA on Tuesday and humanitarian workers

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in September. "This violence must stop. The international presence in the country is nothing but helping the country to move forward in these difficult times and to support the reconciliation process, which is essential for the return of peace, stability and prosperity for all in the Central African Republic," Onanga-Anyanga concluded.

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