



Oral Statement by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

59th Session of the Human Rights Council

High-level dialogue on the Central African Republic

4th July 2025

The Need for Justice and Accountability for Human Rights Violations

The IBA's Human Rights Institute (the IBAHRI) is highly concerned about gross human rights violations being perpetrated in the Central African Republic (CAR) with impunity, including gender-based violence (GBV) and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). According to the UN data, in the first quarter of 2025, a total of 2,445 GBV cases were reported, with 96% of them being women and girls. Sexual violence, particularly rape, accounted for 70% of reported cases.

Victims/survivors of GBV and CRSV have been failed by the international community in that these preventable crimes were ultimately not prevented. Victims/survivors of GBV and CRSV have been failed by the international community in that there has been no progress on justice and accountability for the crimes. Now, victims/survivors of these crimes have been failed by the international community as they are left behind with humanitarian assistance being slashed due to foreign aid cuts. Life-saving programmes have been terminated as a result.

The IBAHRI is further concerned about the worsening insecurity in parts of country, including in areas near the border with Sudan, where violence and displacement have surged in recent months as a result of the civil war in Sudan. Sexual violence, trafficking and forced marriage are rising at alarming rates, particularly in displacement camps and areas controlled by armed groups.

The IBAHRI calls upon this Council to:

- Support, with all possible means, CAR in ensuring that all cases of gross human rights violations, including GBV and CRSV, are investigated and prosecuted;
- Assist CAR in building capacities to support victims/survivors of GBV and CRSV, including addressing their physical and psychological needs;
- Address the gaps in funding for life-saving assistance.

Thank you.

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