

FAS advocates for women's protection and participation in the Central African Republic peace process at the 24th Session of the Human Rights Council

During the 24th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) continued its advocacy on the Central African Republic (CAR) for women's protection from violence and their participation in the peace process. FAS welcomes the interim report on CAR submitted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), which highlights the gravity of the human rights situation and recommends that the transitional government “adopt legal reforms to combat sexual and gender-based violence [...] and expand the scope of protection of and support for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.” FAS engaged in advocacy during the 23rd session of the HRC towards the adoption of a resolution (A/HRC/23/L.3) to request this interim report.

Since June 2013, the security situation in CAR has continued to deteriorate and has forced large numbers of people, particularly women and children, to leave their homes and livelihoods. UNHCHR reports outline massive gross violations of international human rights law such as crimes, summary executions, grave violations against children and gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence including rape, torture and looting.

To raise international awareness of the critical situation in CAR, FAS has continued to actively engage CAR civil society leaders in advocacy initiatives. Ms. Brigitte Balipou, a longstanding defender of human rights in CAR, has worked with FAS to liaise with governments including the Group of African States at the HRC, to advocate for the need to implement Security Council resolution 1325 so that Central African women can actively participate in the restoration of peace, security and rule of law. Ms. Balipou addressed the Council at its 24th session during the interactive dialogue on CAR emphasizing that the conflict in her country needs increased attention by the international community particularly with regards to the protection of women. She called on the Human Rights Commissioner to recruit an Independent Expert to investigate and report on human rights violations.

At the closing of its 24th session, the Council adopted a new resolution on CAR (A/HRC/24/L.39) that encourages women's full participation in election and reconciliation processes and requests an Independent Expert to present a preliminary report to the Council at its 26th session.

Resolution A/HRC/24/L.39 on CAR (French / English)

FAS oral statement delivered at the interactive dialogue on CAR (French)

Video :

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/interactive-dialogue-human-rights-in-central-african-republic-31st-meeting-24th-regular-session-of-human-rights-council/2695007069001>