

26th Session of the Human Rights Council
Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert
on the CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Ms. Keita Bocoum

24th June 2014

Statement by the Czech Republic

Mr President,

The Czech Republic supports the statement delivered by the European Union.

We thank the Independent Expert for her first written report submitted to the Human Rights Council. We appreciate the cooperation of the transitional Government of the Central African Republic with Madame Keita Bocoum and we are glad that in recent months she had a chance to visit the country twice, to meet the local authorities in Bangui and to visit regions as well.

The international community has strengthened its presence in the CAR and recognised the massive human rights violations which unfortunately continue and people are still being killed on the grounds of their religion or tribe affiliation.

We remain worried about the human rights situation, especially in regions, and about the safety of local and international non-governmental organizations and human rights activists there (as we were worried about the Czech NGO project in Bozoum). *We would like to hear what is the Independent Expert's assessment of the situation in regions in comparison to the situation in the capital? How does she assess the NGOs' activities in regions?*

During the March Session, the Czech Republic raised the issue of impunity for perpetrators of crimes, acts of violence or any other human rights violations. In her report, the Independent Expert mentions the Government's efforts to restore the authority of justice and to make courts in regions functional. *We are interested to know whether there was any significant development in justice activities with regard to investigation of concrete cases of the worst human rights violations committed by armed militias (which is so necessary for the national reconciliation). Does the Government cooperate with UN experts on national reconciliation and transitional justice?*

To conclude, we wish the Independent Expert, Madame Keita Bocoum, all the best in her challenging work.

Thank you, Mr President.