

Committee: Central African Civil War (Séléka)

Representing: Mohamed-Moussa Dhaffane

Delegation: JACMUN

School: John Abbott College

POSITION PAPER FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN CIVIL WAR JCC

(SÉLÉKA)



Introduction

War, war never changes. These may as well be the words of Mr. Dhaffane in regards to the violence perpetrated in his country. While both Séléka and Anti-Balaka have committed atrocities, the actions of Christian reactionaries are not for Dhaffane to limit directly, himself being a high ranking Séléka and a devout Muslim. His focus should be on relations with both the French and United Nations military presences in the country, the safeguard of infrastructure for the purpose of maintaining humanitarian aid, the limiting of racially charged rhetoric within the ranks of the Séléka, as well as creating Séléka protocols for the protection of civilians regardless of creed.

1. Relations with France and the United Nations

In 2012, neither France nor the United Nations had yet deployed their respective armed forces to the Central African Republic's conflict zones. It is in the interests of the civilians for these foreign peacekeepers to intervene in the country. Their intervention should be behind the front lines so as to prevent any asymmetrical tactics that would resemble terrorism. This would greatly limit the number of civilian casualties, which in turn would maintain a sense of security and order among the population.



2. Protecting Infrastructure to Facilitate Humanitarian Aid

One of the continent's major problems in its development post-colonialism was the lack of adequate infrastructure, particularly roads. While the committee takes place in 2012, a study of the road system in November of 2018 shows that only 700 kilometres of the nation's roads are paved out of a total of 24.000 kilometres of roads.¹ For comparison, the city of Montreal has 4.000 kilometres of paved roads;² this with roughly half the population of the C.A.R. and 0,06% of its surface area. Humanitarian missions had trouble before the conflict began due only to the seriously lacking infrastructure: why make things worse?

3. Limiting Racially Charged Rhetoric

Here are some facts: the colonial French used the rhetoric of the supremacy of their white religion to discriminate against Africans, this rhetoric survived their "departure" and was used by C.A.R. officials to discriminate against Muslims, and Dhaffane will ensure that the Séléka are better. The enemy is not the Christian farmer or labourer, but the sitting government and reactionary forces of the Anti-Balaka. It is imperative that Christians in Séléka-occupied territory not feel alienated or, worse, endangered by Séléka control. Sticks and stones may break bones, but words can sentence millions to death.

1 Lucy Styles, "2.3 Central African Republic Road Network," Digital Logistics Capacity Assessments, November 13, 2018, accessed April 26, 2019, [https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/2.3 Central African Republic Road Network](https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/2.3+Central+African+Republic+Road+Network).

2 Roberto Rocha, "Here's How Bad Montreal's Asphalt Gets in Just 5 Years," *CBC*, July 17, 2017, , accessed April 26, 2019, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/multimedia/here-s-how-bad-montreal-s-asphalt-gets-in-just-5-years-1.4199896>.



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4. Implementation of Protocols to Protect All Civilians

Let the bloody Bush Wars of Rhodesia stay in Zimbabwe, the Séléka should become the model for African liberation movements. Dhaffane should oppose all moves by his Séléka colleagues that are in the direction of disregarding the rights and freedoms of non-combatants, regardless of their religion. Gone are the days of Bokassa the Cannibal, now have come those of the Dhaffane's Séléka.



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TEMPLATE

