

Pray for Central African Republic

27 June-3 July 2021



Despite a February 2019 peace agreement, violence pitting armed groups against government forces backed by a UN peacekeeping mission, and more recently by Rwandan troops and Russian paramilitaries, continues. In January this year it was reported that over 120,000 people had fled their homes in fear of rising insecurity in the country. Find out more at csw.org.uk/car

A former Russian intelligence officer, Mr. Valery Zakharov, is currently adviser to the Central African Republic (CAR) president. In a statement issued in March 2021 the UN Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries expressed alarm over reported violations by “the private military personnel operating jointly with CAR’s armed forces (FACA), and in some instances UN peacekeepers.”

Sunday 27 June

Faustin-Archange Touadéra was re-elected as president last December; however, the political opposition demanded the annulment of the elections on the grounds that fighting had prevented over half of all registered voters from voting. Pray that the CAR would take decisive steps to establish a stable democracy characterised by the rule of law.

Monday 28 June

Before the 2013 coup, conflict rarely occurred along religious lines, but since then armed groups have regularly manipulated ethnic and religious divisions to realise their aims. Pray for an end to militia violence, and for unity and tolerance between people of different ethnicities and religions.

Tuesday 29 June

While the 2019 peace agreement - the 23rd of its kind signed in the CAR over a 13-year period - was a step forward, it has not yet been fully implemented, as militia attacks continued to occur. Pray for meaningful dialogue between state and non-state armed actors that would enable the 2019 peace agreement to succeed.

Wednesday 30 June

‘The Chinese, the Russians, the UN peacekeeping forces (MINUSCA), the rebels, the political authorities, etc are all out to plunder what they can of the mineral riches of the country. The people have eyes only to weep. When will this nightmare ever come to an end?’ Pray that peace, stability and justice will come soon, for the sake of the CAR’s civilians, who continue to suffer immensely.

Thursday 1 July

‘And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.’ (1 Peter 5:10) Pray this verse over the CAR.

Friday 2 July

Although a Special Criminal Court mandated to investigate and prosecute grave human rights violations was established in 2015, it lacks funding, and as a result, countless victims of the violence are still waiting for justice. Pray that the Court would be fully financed, so that all perpetrators can be held to account.

Saturday 3 July

Lord God, we sometimes feel overwhelmed when contemplating the vastness of the issues in a country like the CAR. But we bring them all to your throne in the knowledge that you see all, know all and are all-powerful. We ask you to do what seems impossible, to bring justice and peace to this conflict-torn country, knowing that throughout history you have done countless things that seemed impossible. We ask it in your powerful name, Amen.

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Pray for Mexico

25 April-1 May 2021



‘On 28 July 2019 my family and I were expelled from the village... since then I’ve been prohibited from accessing the community.’ - Uriel Badillo Lara. Religious minorities in Mexico face severe discrimination for not conforming to the majority religion. Uriel is just one of many.

Under Mexican law, indigenous communities have the right to protect their culture and maintain traditional governing structures – as long as fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief, are respected.

However, many local authorities lack an adequate understanding of these legal protections, and the state consistently fails to intervene in cases relating to religious freedom. As a result, the right to freedom of religion or belief continues to be regularly violated and the perpetrators benefit from a culture of impunity. Find out more at [csw.org.uk/mexico](https://www.csw.org.uk/mexico)

Sunday 25 April

Pray for six Protestant families from El Encanto village in Chiapas who’ve had their electricity supply cut off, because they refused to sign an agreement which would require them to participate in religious activities of the majority religion.

Monday 26 April

Today, pray for ten Protestant families from El Mesón Zapote community in Guerrero who have been threatened with forced displacement for refusing to contribute towards the construction of a new Catholic church. The group have also seen their rights as members of the community restricted, including access to social benefit programmes and the right to vote.

Tuesday 27 April

In January 2020 two Protestant families from La Mesa Limantitla village in Hidalgo were forced to sign an illegal agreement in which they renounced their right to hold religious services in order to have their access to water and other essential services reinstated. They risk these services being cut off again if they cannot pay the remainder of a fine that was levied as part of the agreement. Pray for them today.

Wednesday 28 April

Mexican law guarantees the right to freedom of religion or belief, but local leaders often fail to understand the legal protections, and the government is often reluctant to intervene in religious disputes. Pray for greater understanding and a willingness to follow the laws laid down by the constitution – at both a local and national level.

Thursday 29 April

Pray the following verse over those who wish to impose a particular faith on others: ‘Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.’ (Philippians 2:3)

Friday 30 April

Today is Children’s Day in Mexico. Pray for Kevin and Alma, whose stories we highlighted as part of our Faith and a Future campaign, and for all who are prevented from accessing education as a result of their religious beliefs.

Saturday 1 May

Heavenly Father, we lift up to you the nation of Mexico today. Where there is division and discord, sow seeds of love and unity, we pray. May all Mexicans be granted the freedoms that their constitution guarantees – the freedoms that you will for them. Amen.

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CSW is a human rights organisation advocating for freedom of religion or belief, and as Christians we stand with everyone facing injustice because of their religion or belief.