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Press Release

Bangui, 21 August

Attacks on EUFOR troops in Bangui

During the night of Tuesday, 19 August and in the course of Wednesday, EUFOR was attacked by unidentified groups with small arms fire. Five EUFOR soldiers were injured, whilst an additional four suffered acoustic trauma during the attacks while on patrol in the third district. The unknown attackers escaped from the scene as the peacekeepers responded in self-defense.

Following the night's events, two demonstrations came into confrontation. An EUFOR International Police Unit enforced by troops of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion attempted to separate the crowds when it was attacked with hand grenades and small arms fire by extremists and criminals among and from the vicinity of the demonstrators.

The clashes caused five EUFOR RCA soldiers to be wounded. None of them suffer from life-threatening conditions.

EUFOR RCA and its partners succeeded in calming the situation.

The role of the military mission of the European Union in Central Africa Republic, EUFOR RCA, is to secure the airport and to protect the population in certain districts of Bangui, whatever community they belong to. EUFOR contributes to restoring a safe and secure environment to help bring about a return to normal life and to re-enable humanitarian organisations to provide aid to the most vulnerable. This in turn is to allow for the continuation of EU-backed humanitarian and development projects in the Central African capital.

EUFOR RCA remains committed to fulfilling its role with determination and impartiality, in close coordination with the African Union Mission, French forces and CAR Internal Security Forces, which act together for a sustainable peace in Central Africa Republic.

For the Commander Lieutenant Colonel Harald Kammerbauer Press Officer