

Dealing with reports of paedophilia by French troops in the Central African Republic

This report was written by Mr Anders Kompass, Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on 29 March 2015. Whenever records of dates were available, such dates were specified. Other dates referred to as possible or probable were inferred or reconstructed on the basis of other meaningful dates or recurrent meetings and are to the best of the Director's recollection.

1. The report from the MINUSCA Human Rights and Justice Section is undated: according to the text, interviews were conducted between 19th May (first interview) and 24th June (sixth interview) 2014.
2. The report was hand-delivered to me by Mr Roberto Ricci, Chief of the Rapid Response and Peace Missions Section of OHCHR, probably around 15 July 2014. This was not during a scheduled meeting but at an impromptu one, requested by him with the sole purpose of discussing this report. I have no record of when the meeting occurred.
3. I spoke to the French Deputy Ambassador about the allegations during a special session of the Human Rights Council. Looking at the dates of special sessions, this was in all probability on 23 July 2014 (21st special session of the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem).
4. I spoke to the Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Flavia Pansleri, about the report and my conversation with the French Deputy Ambassador shortly thereafter. I do not have a record of when this meeting occurred but this would have been the same week or the following one.
5. I received a request from the French Permanent Mission to share any available written information that would allow them to expedite the investigation, with assurances that any information received would be treated with the highest confidentiality and ensuring the protection of anyone involved. I therefore shared a copy of the report – this would have happened during the last days of July 2014.
6. I shared a copy of the report with [REDACTED] – in hard copy on 07 August 2014, and by email on 08 August 2014. According to an email sent by Ms Pansleri's Special Assistant, [REDACTED], to me on 08 August 2014, the EOSG was briefed on this on 08 August 2014 and the DSG was going to be informed "this afternoon".
7. Towards the end of October 2014, the French authorities asked to contact the Human Rights Officer (HRO) who had been in charge of the investigation. The HRO was assisted by OHCHR Legal Adviser on all steps related to this.
8. At the end of November 2014, the French judicial authorities asked OHCHR to share the report of their investigation on the cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. I believe this was done by the OHCHR Legal Adviser.

9. On 12 March 2015, during a meeting with the Deputy High Commissioner I was informed that the High Commissioner requested my resignation for the way I dealt with reports of paedophilia in the Central African Republic. I was told that the High Commissioner had been asked for my resignation by Mr Ladsous, Under Secretary-General for the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations in New York, during a visit of the High Commissioner to New York.
10. I responded to this request by the High Commissioner saying that I acted with the only concern of stopping the violations as soon as possible and in the context of the UN zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse; that she herself had been aware of this since August and had never indicated that my behaviour had been mistaken; and that I would therefore not offer my resignation for this. She responded by saying that she understood my position and that she would take advantage of their joint trip to Turin for the Secretary-General's Annual Retreat (19-20 March 2015) to advise the High Commissioner not to proceed with his request.
11. On 19 March 2015, I was told by a colleague that Mr Mohammad Ali Alnsour, Special Assistant to the High Commissioner, had contacted by phone the HRO who had investigated the case asking her to formally request an internal investigation on the case. I was told that the HRO had refused to do so.
12. On 24 March 2015, I was told by Ms Pansieri that a conversation about the case had taken place among the Chief of OIOS, the Chief of the Ethics Office, the High Commissioner and herself at the margin of the Secretary-General's Annual Retreat in Turin. I was told that during this conversation, the Chief of OIOS and the Chief of the Ethics Office did not consider that there were grounds to proceed against me with a formal investigation. She then asked me to nevertheless send her information in writing about how I dealt with the case.
13. On the same day, I wrote to her to ask for clarification of the context in which she needed a report from me. I was specifically inquiring about which procedure was being applied, in particular if OIOS and Ethics Office had indicated that they did not think there were grounds to proceed. In her reply, she indicated that she had not told me *"that OIOS and the Ethics office advised not to proceed with an investigation. I told you that before deciding on any course of action they felt it appropriate to hear your views."*
14. On 24 March 2015, I wrote to the Chief of the Ethics Office, Ms Joan Dubinsky, to ask for clarifications. She asked Mr Kevin Waite, Head of the Advice, Outreach and Protection against Retaliation Section of the Ethics Office to talk to me. Mr Waite called me on 25 March and he told me that to his knowledge there was no intention of initiating an investigation. He said that his understanding was that the report was going to the Chef de Cabinet, Ms Malcorra, and not to them. He had understood that the report had been requested to document the case, because they had so many cases of sexual exploitation and abuse under-reported. This is in contradiction with what I was told by Ms Pansieri as to the addressees of and rationale for this report.
15. It is against this background and in the understanding that this is not a part of any pending investigation that I am submitting this report on 29 March 2015. This does not include "my

views" but rather the events that have taken place so far with regard to this episode of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Geneva, 29 March 2015