

**CAR ACTING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR CALLS FOR RESPECT OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

Bangui 8 February 2017 – A military operation in Bangui’s PK5 neighborhood resulted in 26 people injured and another three dead. These figures include civilians and combatants. The injured people were brought to a health facility supported by an international humanitarian organization. Following the incident, armed elements forcefully entered into the facility with the intention to kill some of the injured.

This is the second incident in the same health facility within four days. The Acting Humanitarian Coordinator in the Central African Republic (CAR), who is also the World Health Organisation Representative, Dr. Michel Yao, strongly condemns the violation of the International Humanitarian Law and forceful entry into a health facility with arms.

“It is unacceptable that armed elements come to the Hospital with arms to kill patients. I urge all stakeholders to respect health facilities and ensure the civilian character of these health installations to enable free and unhindered access to patients and medical staff”, said Dr. Yao.

During this incident, several houses, a school and a church were destroyed. “I call on all parties including national authorities to enhance the protection of civilians and peaceful cohabitation of communities”, Dr. Yao added.

Protection of civilians continues to be a major concern in CAR where 400,000 people remain displaced due to conflict. 2.2 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. This is coming at a time when funding levels are at its lowest. The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan is asking for 400 million United States dollars to save lives and alleviate suffering.

For more information, please contact
OCHA CAR: Joseph Inganji, Head of Office +236 70738730, inganji@un.org
Laura Fultang, Public Information Officer + 236 70 18 80 64, fultangl@un.org
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