

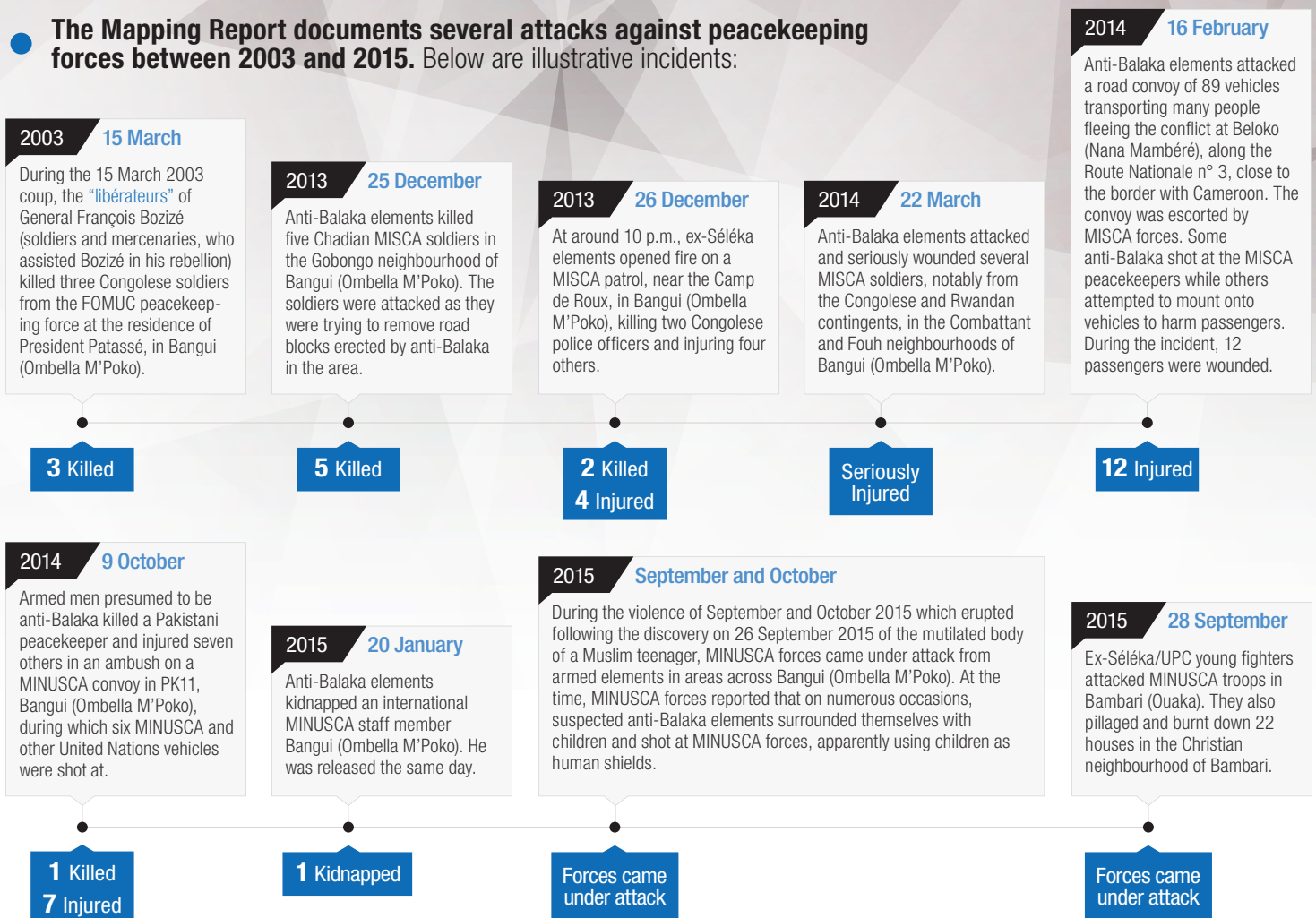


The report, documenting violations that occurred in the Central African Republic (CAR) between 2003 and 2015, shows that a distinctive feature of the multiple conflicts in the country has been disregard by many of the parties to the conflicts of fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. This includes **the obligation of parties to an armed conflict not to direct attacks against personnel and objects involved in a peacekeeping mission, so long as they are not directly involved in hostilities.**

● Legal protection of peacekeeping missions

The prohibition to direct an attack against peacekeepers is a rule of customary international humanitarian law.¹ In addition, under the ICC Rome Statute², in a non-international armed conflict – such as in the CAR – “intentionally directing attacks against personnel or objects involved in a **peacekeeping mission** in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations” is a war crime. To benefit from this protection from all forms of attack, peacekeeping missions need to retain their status as civilians and civilian objects under international humanitarian law.

● The Mapping Report documents several attacks against peacekeeping forces between 2003 and 2015. Below are illustrative incidents:



● Conclusion and recommendation

The report concludes that several attacks against peacekeepers could, if proven in court, constitute war crimes. The report also highlights that while attacks against peacekeepers are grave in their own right, the persistence of such attacks in total impunity, impedes efforts to provide security and to deliver humanitarian assistance.

The report recommends that such attacks against peacekeepers are considered as a priority area for investigation in the prosecution strategy of the Special criminal court.

¹ ICRC, Customary IHL, Rule 33.
² See article 8 (2) (b) (iii) of the ICC Rome Statute