

VAKAGA PREFECTURE

SUB-PREFECTURE OF BIRAO

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Unity-Dignity-Work

MINUTES OF THE RECONCILIATION MEETING BETWEEN KARA AND GOULA COMMUNITIES

Considering the repeated crises which have taken place in Vakaga and the surrounding areas, the Kara community, in light of the effects of the same, initiated a meeting with the Goula community on 30 August 2019 in Delembe, located 55km from Birao on the Ouanda-Djalle axis.

More than 150 participants of the two ethnic communities attended to take part in this meeting, including:

- The sub-prefect of Ouadda Maikaga,
- The ethnic chief of the Kara community
- The ethnic chief of the Goula community,
- The leader of the Tiringoulou group,
- The leader of the Ouandja group and
- The radio correspondent Ndeke Luka, to provide media coverage.

The following points were on the agenda:

- 1) Reconciliation for long-term peaceful cohabitation;
- 2) Defining criminal responsibility in the event of voluntary or involuntary crime.

The meeting began at 8:08am with a prayer given by the Imam Abbou Awaye. Next, Mr. Ramadan Abdramane, the ethnic chief of the Kara community and Chair of the meeting, said a few words of welcome. In his speech, he introduced the goal of the meeting, which is to “reconcile with our close Goula relatives”. Not only do we have family ties but history shows that these two communities and the Yulus were the first occupants of Vakaga in the 15th century. And, during the colonial period, these three communities were involved in constructing public buildings in Birao. He went on to add that this meeting will allow us to put an end to ethnic divisions among 80% of the population of Birao and, therefore, in Vakaga. This is a factor which is hindering local development.

Coming to the first point on the agenda, that is, reconciliation, the Chair gave the floor to the attendees. The participants showed great interest in this point and stressed that there had been several past reconciliations between the parties, which were not respected. This is

due to hatred and the misconduct of local authorities which, due to personal interest, favour foreigners to the detriment of indigenous peoples. These friendships based on self-interest are detrimental to the population and results in killings, thefts, etc.

In summary, after discussion, the participants recommended that

- the two communities peacefully cohabit with others in the city of Birao;
- the authority of the State be effective through the various decentralized services throughout Vakaga.

Regarding the second point, the participants decided to shine a brighter light on criminal acts: "From now on, we can only tolerate involuntary criminal acts". In cases where crime is committed voluntarily, the party must be held responsible for his acts before the court.

Finally, a dozen representatives of the two communities swore on the Koran and signed a document to formalise this agreement.

The meeting ended at 10:35, with a prayer given by Sheik Djouma Issa followed by some closing words from the Chair, who clarified that an official ceremony will be held in Birao in the coming days.

Done in Delembe, on (not dated)

The Clerk

Chair of the meeting

Jeremie Nadre

Abdramane Ramadan

Minutes of meeting between Kara and Goula communities on 30 August 2019

(Names of signatories)