



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Producer: Claude de Mun  
Script version: FINAL  
Duration 6'11"

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: RE-OPENING THE BRIDGE OF DEATH

In the midst of violent conflict in Central African Republic, youths from opposing sides come together for the future of the country's children.

#### VIDEO

BARBED WIRE – PEOPLE  
RUNNING IN FEAR CROSSING  
THE BRIDGE

LUDOVIC BIENVENU, ON CAM

CONFLICT FOOTAGE

CLOSED DOWN SCHOOLS

#### AUDIO

LUDOVIC BIENVENU, (in French)

*"During the crisis, you risked being killed whenever you crossed. They were decapitating people and playing football with the heads....(11")*

*...During the crisis, this bridge became the bridge of death" (4")*

NARRATION

The Central African Republic – a country wracked, during decades, with religious conflict ... innocent civilians, as in all wars, caught in the crossfire. (13")

When sectarian violence pitting Moslems against Christians again erupted in 2012, thousands were killed and many more fled their homes moving to the relative safety zones defined by their religion. (13")

### NARRATON

Due to the violence, more than half the schools closed – including Yakite School, one of the few schools in the capital Bangui, where once Christian and Moslem children studied together. The only access route to the school from the two communities, was over the now-disputed Yakite Bridge. (19”)

Ludovic Bienvenu, a Christian local youth leader, explains how the bridge between the two communities became a frontline between warring factions. (9”)

### NAME SUPER

Ludovic Bienvenu  
Christian youth leader

### LUDOVIC BIENVENU. (in French)

*“So during the crisis, this bridge was considered to be a blood-red bridge. Nobody could cross. Even the government and the security forces - no one would cross that bridge.” (18”)*

### NARRATION

And especially not children! (2”)

MEDIUM SHOT, IBRAHIM  
ABDEL RAHMAN, PRAYING

Local self-defence groups formed to try to protect passage over the bridge for their own communities. Ibrahim Abdel Rahman, a Moslem, was in one on them. (10”)

NAME SUPER:

Ibrahim Abdel Rahman  
Moslem self-appointed Defence  
Group

IBRAHIM ABDEL RAHMAN, (In French)

*“When we started, Yakite Bridge was already deserted. You didn’t see little girls or little boys – you didn’t see anyone. There was just us, the youth. At that time we didn’t have weapons. We defended ourselves with machetes. We only defended. “ (21”)*

CLOSED SCHIOOL  
UN TROOPS

NARRATION

Meanwhile, the school stayed shut. (2.5”)

In 2014, a United Nations peacekeeping mission had arrived. (5”)

TEXT ON SCREEN:

October 2016  
UN Peacekeeping Office  
(MINUSCA)

And in October, 2016, local leaders joined forces with United Nations peacekeepers, to encourage the militia groups to disarm and for the bridge to re-open..... Ludovic took part, meeting Ibrahim face to face. (18”)

LUDOVIC, IBRAHIM AND  
OTHER YOUTH ENTER AN  
OFFICE IN MINUSCA  
HEADQUARTER

GAUTIER ON CAMERA

PASTOR JEAN-PIERRE GAUTIER, (in French)

*"Dialogue is very important. In our conversations, we said that we had had enough of the violence, enough of the crimes and the killings.. It is now a question of moving towards peace.*

NAME SUPER:

Pastor Jean-Pierre Gautier  
Local leader

*It was in this sense that we were motivated on both sides to forgive, to overcome a number of things and to give our hand for the reopening of the Yakite school. (30”)*

LUDOVIC IN A MEETING

LUDOVIC ON CAMERA

PEOPLE WORKING IN THE  
GARDENS OF THE SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE  
GATE

LUDOVIC BIENVENU, (in French)

*“With my peers, we decided to develop action for  
the reopening of the schools.....*

*Our children will be our next generation of  
tomorrow. It's up to us to prepare their way.”  
(20”)*

CHILDREN IN SCHOOL YARD

NARRATION

Working with ex-child soldiers and ex-militiamen,  
Ludovic and Ibrahim went door-to-door in the  
communities, reassuring both Christian and  
Moslem parents. (9”)

IBRAHIM ABDEL RAHMAN, (in French)

*“We decided with our young peers on the other  
side, to inform the children and especially their  
parents, that they could go back to school.”  
(11”“*

NAME SUPER:

Fatou Keita,  
Project Coordinator,  
UN Peacekeeping Mission

LUDOVIC AND IBRAHIM MEET  
IN THE STREET, WITH OTHER  
YOUTHS

FATOU KEITA, (in French)

*“The role of the project "Youth at Risk" is to show  
the public that, in fact, these disadvantaged  
youth, these youth that are set apart are in reality  
key players in the process of rebuilding the  
national government, which is the mandate of the  
Central African government ". (21”)*

CLOSE SHOT, LUDOVIC AND  
IBRAHIM SHAKING HANDS

MEDIUM SHOT, LUDOVIC ON  
CAMERA

LUDOVIC BIENVENU, (in French)

*“I am not qualified to negotiate with someone  
who carries a gun, so we developed a strategy to  
spread the message of peace from one assailant  
to another, little by little, by word of mouth. “ (20”)*

CHILDREN IN LINE IN FRONT  
OF THEIR CLASSROOM

CLOSE SHOT OF THEIT  
TEACHER

CHILDREN IN THE  
CLASSROOM

LUDOVIC AND IBRAHAM  
WALKING TOGETHER

HAPPY SHOTS OF SCHOOL  
CHILDREN

NARRATION

In January 2017, Yakite School reopened its doors. For the first time in many years, Moslem and Christian children were, once again, side by side. (12")

IBRAHIM ABDEL RAHMAN, (in French)

*"It was a collective initiative. We had to find a solution. We couldn't live like this forever. I talked about it with my colleagues and my friends. We decided to stop everything. There is a moment for barbarism and a moment for peace as well. " (21")*

LUDOVIC BIENVENU, . (in French)

*"Step by step, young people from both sides took initiatives. And we slowly managed to liberate this bridge until people could cross again. Before, the bridge was nothing special for us, but since the crisis, we want to make it a symbol, a bridge for peace. " (21")*