



Cameroon: **Civilian** **Population** **Targeted in the** **Anglophone Crisis**

**Report on Human
Rights violations
and abuses in 2020**

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These contributors include:

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- Mrs Rita ABIA, representative of the North-West Regional Coordinator of the Coalition, in charge of Refugee Welfare Association Cameroon (REWAC);
- Mr NFORMI William NGENGE, National Coordinator of the Coalition and Coordinator of Volunteers for the Consolidation of National Unity (VOCONU);
- Jean Claude Fogno, Vice-Coordinator of the Coalition, Executive Secretary of Mandela Centre.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BIR: BRIGADE D'INTERVENTION RAPIDE

CDC: CAMEROON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,

CEFTA: CENTRE DE FORMATION TECHNIQUE DES ARMÉES

CHRDA: CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

CMTV: CHILLEN MUZIC TELEVISION

CPDM: CAMEROON PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT

D.O.: DIVISIONAL OFFICER

DDR: DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION COMMISSION

ELECAM: ELECTIONS CAMEROON

ENEO: ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION, TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANY IN CAMEROON

GBHS: GOVERNMENT BILINGUAL HIGH SCHOOL

GCE: GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

HRH: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

ICG: INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

MECUDA: META CULTURAL AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

NDH : NOUVEAUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

NGO : NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

NWR: NORTH-WEST REGION

NW-SW: North-West and South-West

PTA: PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

SWR: SOUTH-WEST REGION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with protection principles, the objective of this report is to present a general view on the prevailing Human Rights situation for the first three quarters of 2020 in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon within the context of the ongoing war. We hope that the various readers, especially stakeholders, will use it as basis for taking informed decisions aimed at both protecting the population and establishing accountability and responsibilities.

The violations and abuses recorded in the report show that both State security forces and non-State armed groups fall short of respecting the International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. They include, among others:

The 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol as depicted by the torture and death of the journalist Samuel Wazizi and the barbaric killing of Tamassang Comfort AKA Babe Blanche in Muyuka on August 11 2020 and many more found in the report; The 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as depicted by the case of Tih Trevor and many others who are still missing till date as seen in the report.

The Right to Own Property as guaranteed by Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 14 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights is also violated with the destruction of dwellings as shown in the report.

This year the atrocities in the North-West and South-West Regions reached unprecedented high levels with the barbaric beheading of Afiri Comfort in Muyuka. The stories documented in this report show how dangerous life has become in the two war-torn regions and above all call for the need for accountability.

Although more than fifty (50) cases are documented in this report, we however believe that hundreds more remain unreported nor in-

investigated. The report also shows the violations and abuses cut across almost all the Divisions of the North-West and South-West Regions and clearly point out responsibilities.

On the one hand, we have violations committed by State security forces ranging from arbitrary arrests, torture, illegal detentions, summary killings, enforced disappearance and burning of dwellings. On the other hand, we have abuses by non-State armed groups who have turned life in the countryside and villages of the two Regions into a veritable nightmare. They also carry out kidnappings for ransom and extrajudicial killings.

This report also demonstrates the government has no control over some parts of the Regions especially the countryside, thereby failing in its Responsibility to Protect.

The report also makes some vital recommendations:

- The government must engage dialogue with the separatist leaders if it wants to regain control and protect the population from violations and abuses;
- The government should hold the security forces accountable and establish responsibilities;
- All separatist armed commanders and their civilian leadership should call their fighters to order and ensure they respect the principles of International Humanitarian Law;
- Human Rights Activists and Humanitarian workers should be protected by both State security forces and the armed separatists.

INTRODUCTION

The fight for the respect and protection of Human Rights is a constant struggle. Although nowadays some countries have been able to take ownership of fundamental rights and freedoms by ensuring that they are respected, in Africa and Cameroon much still has to be done. In fact, although Cameroon has integrated several Human Rights instruments into its normative framework, the reality is quite different in practice. It is hard to understand that a country which claims to be democratic and which advocates for peace continues to be the scene of many violations and abuses, especially since the advent of the two major crises that Cameroon is currently facing, notably the fight against terrorism in the northern regions (Far North, North and Adamawa) and the socio-political crisis in the English-speaking Regions. Yet, as the Dalai Lama says: "Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free".

It is worth recalling that the current conflict in the English-speaking Regions was born out of secessionist demands the root causes of which date back to the reunification of the two Cameroons. According to Professor Njoya Oumarou, the State of Cameroon has contributed to a progressive assimilation of the English-speaking population to the benefit of the French-speaking population. In the view of Francis Beng Nyamnjoh, this gradual assimilation justifies why Anglophones are denouncing the "francophonisation"¹ or "francization" of their community². Mireille Razafindrakote and François Roubaud distinguish between historical causes that begin with the French and British mandate of 1916 and immediate causes that began with the corporatist demands of lawyers and teachers in English-speaking areas³.

¹Njoya Jean, « La constitutionnalisation des droits de minorité au Cameroun : usages politiques du droit et phobie du séparatisme », 2001, p.24-47

²Koning Piet, and Francis Beng Nyamnjoh, *Negotiating an Anglophone Identity, A Study of the Politics of Recognition and Representation in Cameroun*, vol.1. Brill, 1 January 2003, p.230

³Mireille Razafindrakote et François Roubaud « Sous la crise anglophone au Cameroun : frustrations politiques et défiance à l'égard des autorités »

The crackdown of peaceful protests on behalf of those lawyers and teachers was the straw that broke the camel's back and gave rise to the implicit aspirations of the English-speaking community. An asymmetrical war has gradually developed over time between the secessionist rebels and the regular state forces, with multifaceted abuses and human rights violations in both English-speaking regions.

According to this report by the NGO Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme⁴, human rights violations and abuses include torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, arbitrary arrest and detention, extrajudicial and summary executions, kidnappings, destruction of homes and schools, etc. The report also highlights the need for the government to take measures to ensure that all human rights defenders are treated with respect and dignity, and that they are not subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Several international organisations have consistently denounced the many violations and abuses recorded following this crisis. Human Rights Watch's global report for 2020⁵ notes the increase in homicides in English-speaking regions in the run-up to the 2020 legislative elections. The report shows that the army has set dozens of houses on fire. The analysis of remote sensing data confirms more than 50 fires in both areas. The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA) also painted an even bleaker picture of the violations in this Anglophone crisis⁶. Amnesty International said on 6 February 2020⁷ that in the run-up to legislative elections scheduled for Sunday 9 February, the Cameroonian army engaged in renewed violence, which resulted in dozens of killings and forced thousands of people to leave several areas of the Anglophone regions. The "International Crisis Group" (ICG), also said in its monthly report published on Saturday, 4 April 2020, that at least 44 civilians, 15 security officers and about forty separatists were killed in violence in March of that same year in the two Anglophone regions of Cameroon. This is a whole balance sheet which shows that the social order of the English-speaking regions is seriously disrupted.

The Cameroon government is blaming the Anglophone separatists, while the latter denounce the violations of the Cameroon army and say they continue to fight for the independence of their territories⁸. Sepa-

⁴Report on human rights violations-NWSW 2019: The Appalling Situation of Human Rights in the Anglophone Regions of Cameroon

⁵World Report 2020 Human Rights Watch

⁶Full report « Evidence of Human Rights Violations and Crimes against Humanity», 3 June 2019

⁷www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2020/02/cameroon-rise-in-killings-in-anglophone-regions

⁸Consulté YouTube, document exclusif de TV5 sur les poulis de l'Ambazonie, régions anglophones en crise

ratist armed groups broadcast horrific and dehumanising images on digital platforms to sow terror and chaos in the popular imagery.

However, conscious of the societal demands of English speakers and following the demobilisation campaigns, the restoration of linguistic values and the consideration of Common Law in English-speaking jurisdictions, in October 2019, the President of the Republic of Cameroon initiated a "Grand National Dialogue". The National Dialogue brought together key stakeholders of Cameroonian society intended to find an effective solution to reduce or eradicate the chaos observed in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon. However, the national dialogue organised under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Dion Ngute, lacked credibility due to poor inclusiveness and lack of formal guarantees on the outcome of the dialogue. For secessionist leaders, the national dialogue should take place on neutral ground under the auspices of mediation by the international community⁹. They consider the National Dialogue as a political farce designed to entrench the imperialist policies of the Cameroonian executive. One of the important resolutions of this dialogue was the adoption of the special status of the English-speaking regions, adopted by the Cameroonian parliament and enacted by the President of the Republic¹⁰. In spite of what some consider to be a significant step forward in the resolution of the Anglophone crisis, human rights violations and abuses continue to persist in a horrific and traumatic manner. Witness the beheading of a young woman on Tuesday, 11 August 2020, in Muyuka in the South-Western Region, by separatist armed groups, or allegations of atrocities committed by the Cameroonian army in the Ngarbuh village.

Armed gangs continue to crack down hard in towns in the English-speaking regions, where there has been a drastic decline in economic activity. These armed gangs use unconventional and dehumanising means. The collaboration of the population with state institutions is considered by these combatants to be a form of treason. On the side of the Cameroonian army, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, destruction of property¹¹, etc. are also noted.

All these acts of extreme violence, mostly against the civilian population, create an atmosphere of terror. In view of this escalating violence and atrocities, it is clear that the population is no longer really protected.

⁹<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.dw.com/fr/cameroun-dialogue-national-sur-fond-de-contestations/a-50637041> consulté le 26/08/2020

¹⁰Loi n° 2019/024 du 24 décembre 2019 portant code général des collectivités territoriales décentralisées au Cameroun

¹¹Consulté le dossier de la crise anglophone sur www.camerounweb.com

Human dignity is violated without restraint, as shown by the numerous videos of civilians who are shot in cold blood and published on social networks by both separatists and the military. It is therefore necessary to ask whether the time has not come to requalify the legal scope of this crisis/conflict in order to take into account the respect of certain fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

These include, inter alia, **the principle of humanity**, which prohibits inflicting superfluous or unnecessary suffering on the population not involved in hostilities, **the principle of distinction**, which prohibits the civilian population and civilian objects from being attacked by armed forces; armed attacks must target only military objectives¹³ and **the principle of precaution** in armed attacks, which requires that military operations be conducted with constant regard to the civilian population and civilian objects.

In this sense, in order to present this hostile environment and the situation of the civilian population, civil society organisations in Cameroon, including Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme, Conscience Africaine, Veritas Law Office, members of the Civil Society Coalition for Peace in NOSO, have set about monitoring and documenting cases of serious human rights violations and abuses in the two English-speaking regions in 2020. This report therefore presents accurately documented and verified allegations of human rights violations by both protagonists, namely soldiers of the Cameroonian army and serious human rights abuses by separatist armed groups.

Drawing on the legal framework for the protection of human rights at the national, regional and international levels, the report presents the ugly face of this crisis. With recommendations addressed to all levels. The report thus advocates, among other things, the cessation of violations and abuses against the civilian population, the cessation of hostilities, reparation for victims and the reconstruction of English-speaking regions in crisis. Finally, the report stresses the urgent need for the opening of direct negotiations between representatives of the Cameroonian government and separatist leaders whose legitimacy is not compromised.

¹²Article 3 commun aux Conventions de Genève

¹³Protocole additionnel II, protocole II à la convention des armes classiques de 1996, le protocole III à la convention sur les armes classiques de 1980, les conventions d'Ottawa.

¹⁴Confère L'article 13, paragraphe 1 exige que «la population civile et les personnes civiles jouissent d'une protection générale contre les dangers résultant d'opérations militaires ».

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

This report has been produced thanks to the deep commitment of several leaders of Cameroonian civil society who involved their respective organisations in collecting and processing data and information on human rights violations and abuses during the reference period. This is a successful example of working in synergy, in a common strategy, with a single objective: report on documented human rights violations and abuses within the context of the Anglophone crisis. Beyond the individual actions carried out on a daily basis by these organisations, the aim of this report was to speak through the same channel.

They are all human rights promotion and defence organisations, working in different ways to contribute to peace building and crisis resolution in the Anglophone regions. These include:

- Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme Cameroun (NDH-CAMEROUN), a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) involved in the protection and defence of human rights in Cameroon, with its Head Office in Yaounde.

- Veritas Law Office-Buea Located in Buea, SWR of Cameroon. Attorneys and Human Rights Defenders in Veritas Law Office have extensive training and high-level experience in advising and representing individuals and corporate bodies in all areas of the law, both at national and international levels and on Monitoring, Documenting and Reporting violations.

- Conscience Africaine North-West (African Network of Grassroots Democracy) is an International Non-Governmental Organization recognised in Cameroon in 1995. Its missions include promoting a peaceful society of democracy and development based on values such as respect for Human Rights, freedom of enterprises and market economy. Its North-West branch created in 2012 is based in Ndop, in the Ngoketunjia Division of the North-West Region.

- Civil Society Coalition for the Return of Peace to the North-West and South-West and Affected Regions: The Mission of the Coalition is to Monitor, Document and Report Human Rights Violations and Abuses committed within the context of the war in the North-West and South-West Regions while advocating for the return of Peace in these regions and other affected regions. This coalition brings together 30 CSOs from the North-West, South-West, West, Centre and Littoral regions.

³Konings and Nyamnjoh, "The Anglophone problem," p 213

METHODOLOGY

For credibility purposes, this report adopted the established technique known as MDR (Monitoring, Documentation, and Reporting). This is based on the monitoring and documentation of facts witnessed by the monitors involved or incidents reported by victims, relatives of victims or eyewitnesses, which are verified/corroborated by different sources. The report is therefore based on the investigations carried out in and around the places where the incidents occurred.

Initially, Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme undertook to retrain volunteers from associations involved in the MDR technique. The workshop also enabled to take ownership of all the collection tools that were tested.

The instructors then spoke to various sources of information. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with State actors, witnesses, relatives of victims and the victims themselves. Telephone interviews and WhatsApp were used either to collect additional information or to verify some information.

Teams travelled to villages and towns in the North-West and South-West for the interviews. In the North-West, these were Bamenda, Ndop, Mbengwi, Kumbo, Nkambe; and in the South-West, Buea, Muyuka, Mautu, Tiko, Mamfe, Kwakwa, Eyumojock.

Interview forms and guides were developed to collect information. All statements in this report were confirmed by at least two sources of information such as different victims, witnesses, other contacts or physical evidence (photos, medical reports etc.) and media. A total of approximately one hundred (100) people were interviewed about the cases dealt with in this report.

To diversify the sources of information on the incidents, the monitors consulted dedicated Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups.

They also consulted the print media and information sites that dealt either with the cases concerned or with the crisis in general.

Subsequently, NDH organised mini workshops to consolidate the data and field work, and lastly, a final validation workshop for the draft report, in which different context and content experts participated.

The report presents forty-one (41) cases of human rights violations and abuses. These cases involve close to one hundred and sixty (160) victims, most of whom are civilians.

For confidentiality and safety reasons, the identity of sources interviewed for this report cannot be revealed although some witnesses and victims accepted that their names could be disclosed.

However, in order to contribute to the search for victims of enforced disappearances and facilitate their reintegration into the judicial circuit, images and names have been presented in this report.

In the same vein, the report highlights images. This is solely intended to present atrocities the way they are experienced in English-speaking regions. The purpose is to raise urgent awareness of the community about the worsening situation.

CLARIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN EXPRESSIONS USED

To ease understanding, some unusual expressions, specific to the local context have been defined below.

Ekelebe: Name given to security forces by English speaking Cameroonians. In effect it means a crazy fellow.

Black leg: Expression used by separatist fighters to describe all those who disclose information to the Cameroon military about their position. In other words, it means a traitor.

Pidgin English: Local lingua franca.

Charms: Amulets.

Human Rights violations: Acts against Human Rights committed by State actors or the failure to act to uphold the State's human rights obligations

Human Rights abuses: Acts against Human Rights committed by non-State actors.

Amba boys: Separatist fighters

Bush: Forest

Habeas corpus: is used to bring a prisoner or other detainees before the court to determine if the person's imprisonment or detention is lawful. A habeas petition proceeds as a civil action against a civil servant (usually a warden) holding the defendant in custody.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Several Human Rights violations have been documented in this report. These include enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and detention, extrajudicial executions, destruction of property.

The report notes that arbitrary arrests and detention are a very common practice by security and defence forces. Numerous cases of mass arrests took place during mop-up operations carried out by the army. These systematic arrests are very often followed by detention. This practice has enabled certain public officials to devise new corruption practices and means of extorting funds from victims and their relatives. For example, several people have claimed to have paid either in kind or in cash before being released by the security and defence forces holding them in detention.

I- ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

According to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, "enforced disappearance" means the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of freedom by civil servants or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State or political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fate or whereabouts of those persons, with the intention of removing them from the protection of the law.

More interestingly, the Convention makes it very clear that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or threat of war, internal political instability or any other state of emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance.

Cameroon is a signatory to this Convention; it has therefore undertaken not to commit acts contrary to the objectives of the Convention or its *raison d'être*.

Although it does not specifically deal with enforced disappearances, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), incorporated in the Constitution of Cameroon, establishes the obligation for Cameroon to ensure access to justice for all its citizens (access to judges, access and availability of judicial remedies).

1. The Case of Samuel Ajiekah Abuwe (Samuel Wazizi)



Samuel Wazizi

Cameroonian journalist Samuel Wazizi, who was arrested in August 2019 for criticizing government's handling of the Anglophone crisis, died in detention according to the government. The breaking news was revealed by Equinox Television News

on 2 June 2020 after Wazizi's lawyers had filed a Habeas Corpus at the Fako High Court in Buea. Wazizi worked for CMTV, a local broadcaster based in Buea South-West Region. The following day, journalist associations confirmed his death, adding that he died after succumbing to torture under detention.

Following Wazizi's disappearance on 1st August 2019 after presenting himself at Muea Public Security in Buea, police sources said he was picked up by the elements of the 21st Motorised Infantry Battalion. He presented himself at the police because of the convocation he had there and he was mainly respecting this convocation, he went there to hear why he was being convoked without knowing the security agents had a hidden agenda of arresting him. Despite several pressures from journalists, his family, lawyers and human rights activists, he remained incommunicado. It was only on 5 June 2020, that a press release by the Ministry of Defence declared him dead in custody.

As we will explain below, Wazizi's case appears to involve a number of violations including illegal detention, enforced disappearance for 10 months as well as possible torture or negligence leading to death in custody.

Where is the corpse of Samuel Wazizi ?

This is the question the family and lawyers of the journalist has been asking since 5 June 2020 when the government announced he died of severe sepsis and not of severe torture. In the same release the government declared he died as far back as 17 August 2019 in Yaounde. Yet Samuel Wazizi's body was never handed over to the family.

Wazizi's main lawyer, Barrister Nkea Emmanuel, claims that an application has been made to the Fako High Court of Justice for clarification of Samuel Wazizi's situation. No appropriate action has been taken since the request was lodged on 11 July 2020.

It should be noted that the French Ambassador, after his audience with President Paul Biya on 5 June 2020, indicated that they discussed the journalist's death with the President of the Republic and that the latter undertook to order an investigation into the circumstances of his death. At the time of reporting, the investigation has still not been officially ordered and the family has still not received the corpse of Samuel Wazizi either.

2. Arrest and Disappearance of Tih Trevor Atsinbon (30 Years Old Man) in Muyuka, Fako Division, SWR



25

Tih Trevor Atsinbon

Tih Trevor, was among a group of 35 persons (men, boys and women) arrested by the military in Owe Road Muyuka on 3 February 2020 at 9 am. The mass arrest was a result of the crackdown prior to the Municipal and Parliamentary Elections of 9 February 2020. Since separatist fighters had imposed a



Group of 35 persons

ban on these elections in the Anglophone regions and had promised to disrupt them, the State on the other hand took it as a deterrent measure the arrest and detention of people in areas suspected to be separatists' stronghold.

According to close relatives, some persons were released, because they paid an amount of CFAF 10,000 each, and the rest were taken to the Buea Judicial Police where they spent the night. According to Trevor's relatives, they could not find their son at the Judicial Police. After talking with the Chief of the Judicial Police, Commissioner Nzobang, they were informed that their son and four others had been taken by the military early that morning (4th February). Following this information, they went to the Military Command Centre and were told their son was not there and were told the same story at the Gendarmerie Legion and Brigade. The search went on for 5 days before the family decided to seek help from Human Rights Defenders and lawyers.

On 10 March 2020, Veritas Law Office took the matter to the prosecutor at the military tribunal in Buea. He asked for a formal complaint. The formal complaint was filed on 11 March 2020. As of the time of this report Trevor remains unaccounted for and the complaint before the military prosecutor has not been acted upon.

II-ILLEGAL ARRESTS, ARBITRARY DETENTION

At the international level, several treaties duly ratified by Cameroon prohibit arbitrary arrest and detention. The ICCPR states that "1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law. 2. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him".

This provision is also reflected in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, while the Constitution of Cameroon and more particularly the Criminal Procedure Code also prohibit arbitrary arrest and detention. The Constitution also lays down the legal conditions for arrest and detention.

Criminal Procedure Code

Section 30 paragraph 1: An arrest shall consist of apprehending a person for the purpose of bringing him without delay before the authority prescribed by law or by the warrant.

Section 31: Except in the case of a felony or misdemeanour committed flagrante delicto, the person effecting the arrest shall disclose his identity and inform the person to be arrested of the reason for the said as arrest, and where necessary, allow a third person to accompany the person arrested in order to ascertain the place to which he is being detained.

Section 7: Any person arrested shall be given reasonable facilities in particular to be in contact with his family, obtain legal advice, make arrangements for his defence, consult a doctor and receive medical treatment and take necessary steps to obtain his release on bail.

Section 119 paragraph 2 a) The time allowed for remand in custody shall not exceed forty-eight (48) hours, renewable once

Section 122 paragraph 1 a) the suspect shall immediately be informed of the allegations against him, and shall be treated humanely both morally and materially.

Paragraph 3 The person on remand may at any time within the period of detention and during working hours, be visited by his counsel, members of his family, and by any other person following up his treatment while in detention

1. The case of journalist Kingsley Njoka Fomunyuy, arrested, detained and kept incommunicado. Now at the Yaounde Central Prison facing trial



Kingsley Njoka

Kingsley Njoka, a freelance journalist, is currently being held in temporary detention in the Yaounde Central Prison. He was picked up by Security forces in Douala in May 2020 and kept incommunicado for 24 days.

In an interview with his lawyer, we were told “his arrest is linked to his criticism of the way the Cameroonian authorities have handled the crisis in the English-speaking Regions of Cameroon.”

Again, we met with one of his journalist colleagues based in Buea who said: “It is a serious cause for concern that Cameroonian journalists such as those who report on the Anglophone conflict are held incommunicado, routinely linked with terrorists and tried by special courts...”

The Cameroon Government, the Military spokesman Colonel Cyrille Serge Atonfack Guemo has made a serious statement over the media¹⁵ against Kingsley Njoke, accusing him of serving as a logistic officer for an armed group. The Colonel said Kingsley was a member of a key separatist group in Kumbo, Bui Division, North-West Region of Cameroon.

It should be noted that this utterance of the Ministry of Defence (a party to the conflict) violates the sacrosanct principle of the presumption of innocence. The statements of the spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence are serious accusations that cast doubt on whether Njoke Kingsley can expect a fair and just trial.

Note: *Our only attempt on 25 July 2020 to meet with Kingsley at the Yaounde Central Prison, was not successful as we were refused access to meet him.*

¹⁵Equinoxe television's La Vérité en face

¹³Protocole additionnel II, protocole II à la convention des armes classiques de 1996, le protocole III à la convention sur les armes classiques de 1980, les conventions d'Ottawa.

¹⁴Confère L'article 13, paragraphe 1 exige que «la population civile et les personnes civiles jouissent d'une protection générale contre les dangers résultant d'opérations militaires ».

2. Illegal arrests and arbitrary detention of 13 Persons in Bangolan Village , Babessi Sub Division, Ngoketunjia Division

Bangolan village is said to be one of the strongholds of separatist activities. It is in line with this that on 13 May 2020 a patrol of soldiers stormed homes in the area between 1 am and about 5 am, arresting 13 persons. This operation was carried out without any warrant and no reason was given for their arrest. The arrests were carried out in an undignified manner according to witnesses and family sources. Some were taken off their sleeping beds virtually naked and carried on military vehicles to a local Baptist Health Centre in Bangolan transformed into a temporal military camp. Here they spent 3 days before being transferred to the Gendarmerie Company in Ndop and detained incommunicado for 14 days as Mandela Center says in his alert on this case.

However, family members and friends were only permitted to visit them at the Gendarmerie Company in Ndop after a statement of civil society organizations asking for their immediate and unconditional release . The victims were then transferred to Bamenda (mile 4 Nkwen Gendarmerie Brigade) on 26 May 2020 very late in the evening, where they spent the night before being presented before the State Prosecutor of the Military Tribunal in Bamenda. The Prosecutor granted bail the same day to the most elderly person in the group (78 years old) for reasons of poor health. The remaining twelve (12) persons were transferred to the Bamenda Central Prison. On 11 June 2020 (29 days after), eleven (11) of them were officially charged for collaborating with armed separatists and for not possessing identification documents. They were later granted bail. One (1) person, was charged with collaboration with armed separatists and the murder of a gendarme officer at Bangolan in 2017.

¹⁶Alert N° 62/MCI of May 23 2020 by Mandela Center international

3. Arrest of a 42 Year-old Carpenter at Mile 25 Ndop

On Wednesday, 1 July 2020, soldiers of the Cameroon military stormed the home of a 42 year-old carpenter, arrested and took him to the Ndop Police Station where he was detained. Some of his belongings including 3 phones and other valuables were equally carried along. He was arrested at about 6 am without arrest warrant nor given the reason of his arrest. Family members suspected his arrest was linked to the ongoing crisis as similar cases had been recorded in the area. Some family sources said he was detained incommunicado for 14 days¹⁷ .

His illegal arrest and arbitrary detention lasted for 30 days before he was released on Thursday, 30 July 2020. The three phones which were confiscated during his arrest were never returned to him upon his release.

4. Illegal arrests and arbitrary detention of 2 Men in Baba 1 Village, Babessi Sub Division, North-West Region

On 26th January 2020 gendarmes arrested the quarter head of Meya and youth President of the same quarter, in their respective homes without arrest warrants and transported them to the Babessi gendarmerie brigade. Upon their arrest, they were told the motive was collaboration with the armed separatists group by collecting money from the population on instruction of armed separatists. They were detained until 14th February 2020, and then transferred to the State Prosecutor of the military tribunal in Bamenda.

They were then granted bail on Saturday, 15 February 2020. They were detained for a total of 19 days.

¹⁷Alert N°75/MCI on July 14 2020by Mandela Center international

5. 15 Persons in Baba 1 arbitrary arrest, detention and extortion for their release

This happened on 6th January 2020 when a mixed control of gendarmes and the army came to Baba 1 arresting people at random in different quarters of the village and accusing them of sponsoring terrorism, since some were arrested in possession of receipts in their wallets. The receipts were issued by the separatist fighters. They said their names were never registered in the gendarmerie registry since the day they were detained until their release. No charges were made against them. After our investigation with regards to the issue of receipts, it was confirmed from diverse sources that the separatist fighters in Ngoketunjia Division had established a system of tax collection in all the villages and those who paid were issued a receipt with the exact amount paid. Though no specific sum was levied on an individual as some confirmed paying money ranging from 2,000 to about 15,000 francs.

NGOKETUNJIA
COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND
RECEIPT No. 0002415-7

Name of Contributor: [REDACTED]

Amount: 3000 Rs CFA

Amount in words:

Received by: G. P. R. A. 7

Date: 13/01/2020

Controlled by: G. A. R. B. V.

Date of control: 13/01/2020

Family members of the victims recounted that none of them was permitted to visit those arrested for the first 3 days and on the 4th day, those who went again were permitted to see them. On the fourth day of their detention, some of the victims said the gendarmes on duty requested them to call their family and ask them to bring at least CFAF 100,000 each to bail them out; otherwise they would be eventually transferred to the Company brigade in Ndop, where they would be sent to the military tribunal in Bamenda. They then called friends and family who came with sums ranging from 30,000 to 100,000 francs. Those whose family paid the money, were released immediately and it continued till about four days later when the last person was released. So some spent 4 days in detention while others spent 8 days depending on when the money was paid. Victims said the money was handed directly to the gendarme in duty.

6. A palm wine tapper arrest and detain in Baba 1 Village, Ndop

A 37 year-old palm wine tapper was arrested on 18th January by soldiers in Baba 1 village, while returning from his daily activities and taken to the gendarmerie brigade in Babessi. He was accused of collaborating with armed separatists. According to family sources, the gendarme asked the family pay the sum of 500,000 francs before his release. As the family could not pay the said amount, he was transferred to Bamenda and presented to the military prosecutor on 14 February 2020.

The Divisional Officer of Ndop when contacted by phone, told us that he had received a confidential document from the Military prosecutor granting bail to the victim. It was only on Tuesday, 18th February 2020, one month after his arrest, that the palm wine tapper was released.

7. Illegal arrests and arbitrary detention 22 Persons in Bamunka Village, Ndop Sub Division

Between 22nd June and about 4th July 2020, the military started arresting at random all the family members of alleged separatist fighters in Bamunka Village. According to 3 victims we interviewed, there were both men and women although they could not specify the number of men or women arrested that day.

Family sources and witnesses told us most of these arrests took place between mid-night and 5 am taken to the Ndop District Police Station. Family sources equally added that it was the Mayor of Ndop

Central Sub Division who ordered for their arrests, claiming that the alleged family members of armed separatists have vehemently denied to disclose the hide out of the separatist fighters. After about 30 days of detention in the premises of Ndop Police Station, they were finally released on 30th July without ever being presented before any judicial authority.

8. Two (02° students arbitrary arrests and detained in Baba 1-Ndop

On Sunday, 9th August 2020 two male students were arbitrarily arrested at Meya-quarter Baba 1 allegedly by gendarmes. Witnesses interviewed informed us they were picked up by gendarmes on patrol and taken to the gendarmerie brigade in Babessi.

According to the family they were released on 14th August 2020 without any charge but after the payment of the sum of 20,000 francs for both of them.

9. Illegal arrests and arbitrary detention 5 Persons at Kingang Quarter Baba 1-Ndop

On 15th August 2020, between 8:30 and 9:30 am, soldiers entered Kingang quarter (beside the Convent at St. Monica health center) shooting at random. The military men forcefully broke into about 10 homes, brutally arresting 5 unarmed villagers. They were taken to the Babessi Gendarmerie Brigade where they were detained. Two mobile phones and 16,000 francs were equally taken away.

About 9 hours after the arrests, all the five (5) villagers were released. However, the two (2) phones and sum of 16,000 francs taken by the soldiers were not returned as the military men who were involved had taken them away as said by the Commander of Babessi Brigade.

10. Illegal arrests and arbitrary detention Two (2) villagers in Baba 1 Village

On 16th August 2020, at about 8 am, soldiers entered Baba 1 in search of members of the armed separatist group which are said to have mounted barricades along the Bamenda- Bansa high way. The operation led to the arrest of two (2) unarmed villagers. They were both taken to Babessi gendarmerie brigade where they were detained for 11 days before being transferred to Bamenda. The Military prosecutor granted them bail on 16 September 2020 after a total of 30 days in detention.

11. Illegal arrests and arbitrary detention of 12 persons at New Layout quarter in Ndop

According to a victim and witnesses, the incident happened on the 13th of August 2020 when well-armed police officers stormed homes of about 12 men, arrested them and took them to Ndop Police Station. The sources we interviewed told us they were accused of collaborating with the armed separatists and refusing to denounce them.

They spent one day in detention and the next day, they were told to call their respective family members to bring 25,000 francs each to bail them out. Family sources confirmed the said amount was paid by each of them to the police officer on duty that day before their release on Friday 14th August 2020.

III-EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

Extrajudicial killings violate the right to life. Extrajudicial killing means a homicide committed deliberately by or with the consent of a public official, without prior trial. Exceptional circumstances, including a state of war or threat of war, political instability within the country or any other public emergency, may not be invoked as a justification for such executions. Such executions shall not take place under any circumstances, including in situations of internal armed conflict or as a result of the excessive or unlawful use of force.

The protection of the right to life is the basis for the protection of human dignity in times of peace or war. Several legal instruments protect against extrajudicial killings. These include the UDHR, the ICCPR, the Geneva Conventions and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Constitution of Cameroon reiterates this by stating in its preamble that "Everyone has the right to life, to physical and moral integrity and to humane treatment in all circumstances. Under no circumstances shall any person be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. »

The extrajudicial executions go in sharp contrast to the fundamental rights protected by the constitution of Cameroon and all International Human Rights instruments as well as the Criminal Procedure Code. All these instruments proclaim the right to life, right to a fair hearing as well as the presumption of innocence which is guaranteed to a suspect even when caught in flagrante delicto (in the act of committing an offence).

12. Four (4) unarmed young men killed in Buea, SWR



On Thursday, 28th May 2020, the military conducted a raid around the neighbourhood of Upper Bundouma in Buea. This led to the killing of four (4) unidentified and unarmed young men. The incident took place in an uncompleted building, where the young men were allegedly caught smoking weed before being executed by the military. According to some eyewitnesses we interviewed, the building was raided by the military, while they heard voices of young men crying under pain of beatings for close to 45 minutes before gunshots were heard.

Access to the scene of the incident was restricted for the locals, but after the administrative authorities of Buea visited the scene, the corpses of the victims were taken to the Buea Hospital mortuary. A few journalists of the local media like the Post Newspa-

per, Media Africa Radio station in Buea who visited the building recounted that apparently there were no weapons found in the building, save for the fact that the building appears to be a host for marijuana consumers. It is also alleged one person survived the shooting and was whisked off by the military to an undisclosed destination and by the time of this report, his whereabouts is still unknown.

It should be recalled that this is not the first case of extrajudicial executions in Buea within the context of the Anglophone crisis.

Veritas Law office also monitored a case on 30th July 2018, where five (5) young men in the locality of Bakweri Town still in Buea Sub Division, were massacred under similar circumstances.

Equally, Veritas Law Office reported that on the 27th of September 2018, the military targeted and killed seven (7) identified unarmed civilians in a compound at Ikundi Street in Babuti neighbourhood of Buea town in Fako Division of the South-West Region of Cameroon.

None of these cases has ever been investigated despite calls from the local and international Human Rights Defenders.

13. 40 years old carpenter executed in Babungo Village, Ngoketunjia Division, NW

The victim, a 40 years old carpenter was arrested by the Military in Babessi village on January 18th 2020 and detained at the gendarmerie brigade, where he spent 5 days. He was later on shot to death on 22nd January 2020 and his corpse deposited by the roadside in Babungo village according to information we got from family sources and a witness.

He was initially arrested for not having an identification document. At the moment of arrest and during his detention, the gendarmes found out that his brother was a member of the armed separatist group and his charges changed into complicity with armed separatists. On the day he was killed, he was allegedly taken from his detention cell and transported via a green gendarmerie Hilux vehicle on pretext of transferring him to the Company brigade in Ndop. His corpse was found few hours later with traces of bullets on him according to many sources.

14. Motorcycle Rider executed in Bamunka, Ndop

On 10th January 2020 the Military entered Mbanka quarter in Bamunka rural, shooting to death a motorcycle rider just few hours after confrontation with the armed separatists.

The motorcycle rider was shot, while he was transporting his clients' goods from a mini market around Mbanka. According to witnesses and family sources, his identity card was first seized by the same military men about an hour before he was killed. He was reportedly shot and killed instantly while riding his bike. His family said he was accused of complicity with the separatist fighters as the military claimed he knew the camp of the separatist fighters in the said locality but had refused to take them there.

15. Five (5) Unarmed Persons killed at Ndu Sub Division in Ndonga Mantung Division

It was on the night of 28th breaking 29th June 2020 that the Military entered a compound at Mbawrong village, where some armed separatists were hiding. They started shooting at random. This resulted in the killing of three (3) civilians, four (4) armed separatists while three (3) other civilians were seriously wounded, on the spot. The three (3) civilians who sustained severe injuries after receiving bullets were carried immediately by the same army to the hospital at Ntaba village. One of them died on the way before they could get to the hospital. While another one died immediately they got to the hospital. The lone survivor was transferred to another hospital in Sabong Garri in Nwa Sub Division. Witnesses added that before confronting these separatist fighters, the army was aware of the civilians who were kidnapped the same day by separatist fighters were still held captive. Among the five (5) civilians killed, two were Fulani herdsmen and occupants of the said compound where the armed separatists had forcefully spent the night against their wish. Three of those killed with the lone survivor were drivers and conductors of some two 12 tones trucks, containing goods, were burnt down at SOP hills on 28th June 2020.

16. 30 Years old mechanic killed in Baba 1

This happened on 7th February 2020 in Mbaghangha when soldiers on board 3 military trucks, stormed the garage of the young man burning down some motorcycles that were under repair before taking him away. The victim was deaf and dumb as he could not talk except using the sign language.

Few hours later, his corpse was seen in another part of the same quarter with bullet wounds, according to witnesses. The young man was accused of repairing the motorcycles used by armed separatists, according to some two witnesses who are apprentices in the said garage and were equally present during the military operation. After burning the motorcycles, they took the owner of the garage away.

IV. DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

The protection of civilians and their property in times of war or internal conflict is a fundamental principle of international humanitarian law. As a reminder, any property - movable or immovable, private or public - which does not present, during combat, any specific military interest, benefits from general protection. During combat, any building which is normally of a civilian character is presumed to be civilian until it is established otherwise.

This protection afforded to all civilian objects is understood to mean immunity from attack, destruction or misappropriation. Large-scale violation of the latter rule may be established as a serious offence.

In a normal situation, the Cameroon Penal Code punishes anyone who destroys, even partly, any property belonging, in whole or in part, to another person, or encumbers in favour of another person.

17. Houses burnt down by the military in Mbanghanga Quarter Baba 1 Ndop

On 7th February 2020, the military burnt down buildings in Baba 1. Sources revealed that it started very early in the morning by 4 am. Military men on board 3 military trucks entered the village and started shooting randomly while moving towards Mbanghanga quarter. This is said to be the quarter where members of the armed separatists are camped. Few hours later, they burnt the entire building. The military broke into a cosmetic shop and looted goods as confirmed by witnesses and set the building ablaze. The remaining content of the shop together with other properties of some occupants were all burnt.

The military had in their previous attacks in the same quarter and village in general burnt down some houses closer to the road.



18. Burning of the building of a 80 years old traditional Healer in Mbanghanga Quarter Baba 1

This happened on 7th February 2020 in the morning as the military attacked the quarter in Baba 1. According to witnesses and family sources, the military burnt a house in the compound with its entire contents. The house belonged to a traditional healer who was accused of immunizing members of the armed separatist group in the village against the penetration of bullets.

According to corroborated information we gathered from witnesses and family sources, the military invaded the compound and burnt the house in the absence of its occupant, who had all fled into the bushes after getting information of a military operation. The owner of the house that was said to be hiding in the bush around his compound together with some of the armed separatists and when he saw the fire, he immediately came out of his hide out to confront the military. He was captured, killed and his body chopped up.

19. Burning of a house in Mbanka-Bamunka rural in Ndop

On 10th January 2020, the military burnt a house in Mbanka quarter, Bamunka village close to the Bamunka Fon's Palace. This house was reportedly burnt when the military men entered the quarter and its occupants evacuated to other safe places due to fear. The owner of the house was accused of being member of the separatist fighters. Just a few hours after the burning, there was a serious confrontation between the two belligerent forces which lasted for close to two hours and led to the killing of some separatist fighters. According to information gathered from some villagers, the owner of the said house was accused of collecting money and goods from the villagers and supplying to the fighters.



HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Separatist armed groups have established a continuous and apparently sustained presence in rural areas in the North-West and South-West Regions. Access to these areas has become a frightening and traumatic obstacle. We paid the price for this while documenting the assassination of the Mayor of Mamfe by these groups.

In Cameroon, particularly in the Anglophone regions, it can be said that international humanitarian law is applicable.

In this sense, the Geneva Convention of 1949 and its additional protocols define the means and methods of combat. All this is indicated by the fundamental principles that must absolutely, and without exception, be observed in the conduct of hostilities.

It is therefore unacceptable for separatist armed groups to contentedly engage in hostage-taking, make videos of assassinations and broadcast them, destroy public and private property, rape and keep young girls as sexual slaves.

I. KIDNAPPING AND ASSASSINATION

As presented above, the right to life is sacred. In international and national law no one is allowed to take the life of another individual except in situations of armed conflict if it is done in accordance with principles of international humanitarian law (between combatants, taking military necessity and proportionality into account).

According to the 2nd Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, all persons who do not or no longer take a direct part in hostilities, whether or not they are deprived of their liberty, have the right to respect for their person, honour, convictions and religious practices. They shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction. It is thus prohibited to violate the life, health and physical or mental well-being of "non-combatants" (people who do not take part in hostilities), for example by murder, cruel treatment such as torture, mutilation or any form of corporal punishment; collective punishment; the taking of hostages; outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, rape, enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault; threats to commit any of the foregoing acts, etc..

At the national level, the Criminal Code deals with arrest and sequestration, murder, assassinations, fatal blows.

However, within the context of the Anglophone crisis discussed in this report, the State of Cameroon applies the law on the repression of terrorism. As a result, all acts committed by separatist armed groups, even the profound demands that they make, are considered terrorism.

All persons liable to be sentenced in the light of this law may be sentenced to the death penalty.

1. The Killing of the Mayor of Mamfe, in SWR



Mayor Pricely Ojong Ashu

Mayor Pricely Ojong Ashu was shot and killed the May 10 2020 around his native Eshobi, some 8 kilometres away from Mamfe, Manyu Division, South-West Region of Ca-

meroon.

Though circumstances surrounding his death are not clear, some Mamfe inhabitants we talked to, said his convoy was attacked as he was heading to the village to donate items in the fight against COVID-19. However, sources close to the family said he was heading to the village, supposedly to receive Ambazonian separatist fighters who had dropped their weapons when he was attacked. This version was confirmed by his party, the CPDM, through the National Radio Station.

Armed separatist fighters in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon have allegedly declared an open war to local elected authorities who took part in the February 9 Legislative and Municipal Elections, describing them as ‘traitors’. That is probably one of the many reasons why the new Mayor was a target.

In March 2020, half a dozen councillors of Oku, Bui Division in the North-West Region were ambushed by separatist fighters while another local elected official of the Nwa Council was killed, as reported by some English newspapers like the Post Newspaper and the Guardian Post Newspaper. We also got this information of some local inhabitants from Oku we talked to in Bamenda. In the same month, soldiers successfully rescued the newly elected Mayor of Mbengwi, Momo Division, who had spent about five (5) weeks in captivity by separatist fighters.

The death of the young mayor has left many people in fear. At the time of writing this report, some persons were arrested by the police in connection with the killing of the mayor and sent to the Buea Central Prison and they are still awaiting trial before the Military tribunal. Amba fighters are planning to carry out mass arrests of those who participated in a government-sponsored demonstration against the killing of the young Mayor according to some leaflets distributed by unknown persons around Mamfe town.

2. Separatist fighters slaughter civilian woman in Muyuka, Fako Division, South-West Region of Cameroon

On August 11, 2020, at the Makanga neighbourhood in Muyuka, a lady in her early 40s, named Confort Tumas-sang (alias Bebe Blanche) and mother of four (4) children was about to take a car to Buea when the Amba fighters caught her at the Muyuka Motor Park in the Makanga neighbourhood. The lady was seen in the video sitting by the roadside between Buea and Kumba with her hands tied on her back.

With her back to the ground, she begged her abductors to free her but they refused to listen. The armed men believed to be separatist fighters of the putative State of Ambazonia were heard ordering the lady to put her head on the ground as one of them brandished a machete.

Using the machete, the lady's neck was cut twice as the armed men threw invectives at her. With blood oozing vigorously from her neck, one of the executioners pulled the lady's body and placed it in the centre of the Buea-Kumba highway.

The woman is accused by the armed men of being a "blackleg" (someone who serves as an informant for the state forces).

"Fresh from the Makanga Muyuka Fighters. Another blackleg down. From now on, we are going to clean Muyuka from all blacklegs. Her husband was beaten and sent out of town by us. She took her husband's position as a blackleg" a Facebook user, Amba Gangster said in a post.

Shortly after the incident, Belgium-based separatist fighter Mark Bareta published a tweet which put responsibility at the doorsteps of the armed separatist fighters, and it read:

“If you hate the struggle, ignore it and go about your business like some. Do not blackleg it. It’s a dangerous business to blackleg. Like in any war or revolution, blacklegging pains, it has a cost and most often blacklegs are treated worse than the enemy because it hurts,” Bareta tweeted.

On 12 August 2020, the Cameroon Government through the Governor of the South-West Region, issued a Communiqué condemning the barbaric act of the separatist group. The Minister of Communication as well as the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Human Rights and the return of Peace in NWSW also issued a communiqué condemning the brutal assassination of the lady.

As for those arrested following the Muyuka killings many remain held in detention at the Buea Central Prison while others still remain unaccounted for.

This incident in Muyuka resembles the killing of Ayafor Florence, warden at the Bamenda Central Prison on September 29, 2019. Ayafor was kidnapped in Pinyin North-West Region of Cameroon and her head chopped off the next day by separatist fighters.

Earlier on 12 August 2020, armed separatists murdered a man in Ngoketunjia Division, North-West Region of Cameroon on the allegation that he is an informant for the government forces, says a local inhabitant in Ngoketunjia.

On Friday the 7 of August 2020, Pastor Tanjoh Christopher Fon, a community leader and humanitarian aid worker with the local nongovernmental organization Community Initiative for Sustainable Development was killed by the separatists in Kuzang village, Momo Division, North-West Region of Cameroon, as reported by the Guardian Post newspaper.

3. Traditional Ruler Kidnapped and Tortured by Separatist Fighters in Mbengwi



One of the most shocking cases of kidnapping by separatist fighters in Mbengwi Sub Division, was the kidnapping and torture of the traditional ruler of Mbemi village. He was kidnapped because the chief's name appeared on the list of councillors of the ruling party for the municipal election that was scheduled for February 09 2020.

It was on 3 December 2019 that some separatist fighters stormed the traditional ruler's palace and took him away. The victim himself told us that it was around 1 am at night that he was taken from his palace by heavily armed men, most of them masked. He was taken to a nearby school where he met another traditional ruler already tied. They were then moved to another distant location where for two days they were given neither food nor water.

A few days later, the traditional ruler was heard in an audio post on social media lamenting in pains as he was being interrogated by the separatist fighters. In the audio, he declared under pressure that his crime was that he was playing politics and had gone as far as putting his name as a councillor. He was therefore informing the other traditional rulers to stop playing partisan politics otherwise they will suffer the same fate. In the audio, the fighters were heard telling him that he will be an example for others to follow. Some hours later, the picture of the battered face of the traditional ruler was being circulated on social media. His entire face was covered with blood and a swollen eye.

After close to a week in captivity, the traditional ruler of Mbemi village was released after further pressure was mounted on the separatist fighters by the villagers who came out in numbers to curse the kidnappers. In very poor health condition with a bleeding eye, he was immediately taken to the Presbyterian eye hospital in Bafousam. He spent some months there as the wounded eye was almost irreparably damaged.

4. Abduction of a human rights field worker along the Kumba-Mamfe highway, a Village in Nguti Sub Division in Kupe Manenguba Division, South-West Region of Cameroon

The incident occurred on 30th July 2020 when the one of the monitors contributing to this research/report was coming back from Mamfe. It was around 11 am when his car arrived a locality called Mayenmen. The reporter fell into the hands of armed separatist fighters. They stopped the car and asked all passengers to present their National Identity cards. The leader of the group asked the driver to follow them on a narrow bush road. After driving a distance into the bush, the car stopped. Armed separatist fighters asked everyone to surrender all their belongings such as money and android phones. The reporter out of fear gave them 20,000 francs. One woman had no cash in hand, made a mobile money transfer to a number given to her by the separatist fighters. All this took close to 3 hours in that bush under light rain.

They later allowed the passengers to go while advising them to tell other people coming to Mamfe to always bring along their support to the fighters, because as they said, they are fighting for our cause.

5. Community volunteer abducted by Separatist Fighters in Njah Etu Village in Mbengwi Sub Division, NW

Another group of persons who have been a serious target for both the military and the separatists in recent times in the ongoing armed conflict are community volunteers, health workers and humanitarian aid workers and other civil society organisations, notably Human Rights Defenders. The separatist fighters have started accusing these groups of persons for revealing their hideouts to the military since they are the only ones who have been able to get into the hinterlands to render their services to the suffering masses.

On 17th July 2020, while attending the burial in Njah Etu village in Mbengwi Sub Division, a community worker was abducted by armed separatists and taken to a camp in Batibo. When we met him a week after his release from abduction, he told us how he was abducted by five armed boys at that funeral. He was briefly taken to a primary school, where he was then taken

on a bike accompanied by others and driven to the Kai market square. From there, he was then blindfolded and taken on a bike to some enclave area that serves as a separatists' camp.

For three days, he stayed with the separatists who accused him of spying for the military and encouraging fighters to drop their guns and go to the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Rehabilitation). At the end, he said, he was asked to pay for the equivalent of three AK47 guns. After intense negotiations, and having paid close to nine hundred thousand (900,000) CFAF as ransom, he was released on 20th July 2020, after spending three days in custody of the fighters.

Despite being released by separatist fighters, he told us he kept on receiving threats forcing him and his family to leave Mbengwi.

6. Separatist Fighters attacked Penda Mboko, Mungo division of Cameroon's Littoral Region

The residence of the Manager of the Industrial Unit of the Cameroon Development Corporation, CDC, in Penda Mboko was the target of armed men in the early morning of August 13, 2020. An eyewitness working at the sand depot at the Mungo River said that he saw group of suspected separatist fighters crossing the river that early morning using a canoe.

The CDC Penda Mboko Industrial Manager was reportedly taken away to an unknown destination by the armed men. Before kidnapping him, an eyewitness saw the gunmen disarm his guard. They also shot and killed the manager's son who then was writing the GCE Ordinary Level Exams. Before leaving Penda Mboko, the suspected separatist fighters burnt down his residence. All property, including cars, were set ablaze.

According to the online newspaper Calepin, a source close to the family reportedly stated that the separatists are demanding the sum of CFAF 10 million to free the kidnapped CDC executive.

In this same locality of Penda Mboko, on 29 October 2018, unidentified gunmen attacked Government Bilingual High School Penda Mboko. Students and teachers were forced to flee before the armed men set their school items on fire.

Also back in 2018, unidentified gunmen attacked the gendarmerie brigade in Penda Mboko setting it ablaze before taking off.



The burnt Car, compound and corpse of the CDC Industrial Manager of Penda Mboko.

Note: on 24 August 2020, the army announced the arrest of the separatists allegedly involved in this attack at the home of the head of the CDC. Brigadier General Eba Eba, Commander of the E military region announced that arrested suspects will be prosecuted and punished according to the law.

7. Newly Elected Mayor of Mbengwi Council kidnapped by unknown gun men

As the ongoing armed conflict in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon keeps worsening as the days go by, one of the phenomena that is very recurrent now is the kidnapping of political figures. This is done either to get ransom or to deter them from participating in political activities organized in the regions by the government of Cameroon.

On Monday 27th February 2020, the newly elected Mayor of Mbengwi Council, was abducted from his mile 19, Mbengwi residence by some gun men. He was taken to an unknown destination. This incident occurred barely two days after taking office as the new mayor of Mbengwi.

As days went by, rumours started circulating in town that the kidnappers who have been identified as separatist fighters, were asking for a ransom of five million CFA francs. As for the reason of his kidnapping, the same rumour mills said it was because he participated in 9 February 2020 municipal elections which were banned by the leadership of ‘Ambazonian independent struggle’.

After one month and three days in captivity, the mayor finally appeared. On this day, the mayor was seen in a picture on social media in bathing slippers in the presence of the Sub divisional Officer for Momo, the BIR and gendarmerie commanders for Mbengwi. On 8th July 2020, the 2nd Deputy Mayor of the Mbengwi Council, was also kidnapped at Alabukam; along the Bamenda/Mbengwi main road. He was released hours later.

8. A man intercepted on a bike by separatist fighters, tortured and later shot dead at travellers' Bamenda

The incident occurred at the travellers' neighbourhood in Bamenda on 1 August 2020 when a man who later turned out to be an officer of the BIR was gunned down. According to a lady who witnessed the whole scene, it was around 9 am along the Mbengwi road when suddenly two boys on a bike, drove past them and intercepted another bike that was carrying someone. The man who was neatly dressed was dragged from the bike and started receiving beatings. He was later forced on their own bike and taken back towards Mbengwi Park.

According to a radio repairer at the park, the victim tried to escape but was stopped, tied and forced back on the bike and went towards Ntaturu neighbourhood. 30 minutes later, a gunshot was heard from the direction of Travellers and immediately information started filtering out on social media that a man has been shot dead before the watchful eyes of the population at the very busy Travellers neighbourhood.

From Laarry Newsroom report on the incidence, it was confirmed that the person shot dead was the same person who was being molested along the Mbengwi road. It was later confirmed that the said person was an element of BIR who left its base at Alabukam in ordinary attire, and was heading to town when he was identified by separatist fighters and ambushed.



9. Private secretary of the Mbengwi Divisional officer abducted and later shot dead

Another incidence of broad daylight execution by the separatist fighters occurred along the same Bamenda/Mbengwi main road precisely around Alabukam. It was on 6 June 2020 when a man was taken out of a public transport vehicle. He was then whisked off on a bike to an unknown destination, and an hour later he was brought to the Alakuma junction, along the Bafut/Bamenda road, tied and shot dead.

According to the driver from whose vehicle the victim was removed, the man in question was the private secretary of the divisional officer of Mbengwi, who had come to Bamenda alongside the DO's wife and kids for an errand. On their way back to Mbengwi, it seems the boys were tipped off that the DO was in his vehicle. Therefore, the private secretary was mistaken for his boss.

The driver told us that he was later on abducted by the separatist fighters for questioning. After serious intimidation and threats at their base, he was then released with strict warning to him and other drivers never to carry any person working for the government.



10. Separatist fighters kidnap and allegedly assassinate 2 persons at Ntaba Village of Ndu Sub Division, Ndonga Mantum division, North-West Region

On 26 April 2020, according to family sources and witnesses, a man and his son were kidnapped by heavily armed men who arrived on motorcycles completely masked, speaking Pidgin English. The man was accused for been a ‘Black Leg’.

Moreover, family sources added that they started receiving calls the next day after the kidnaps from an unknown number demanding a ransom of 1.5 million francs for the release of the son and that the family should forget about the father. They said they paid a total of 500,000 francs. After the payment to the given MTN mobile money account, the kidnappers stopped calling. All attempts of the family to reach out to the kidnappers failed. To date there is no feedback on the case.

11. Armed separatists kidnap 5 persons and assassinate 2 civilians at Bamunka Ndop

The incident happened on 8 July 2020 when separatist fighters brutally assassinated 2 men, a Contractor and businessman and an Electrician working with national electricity company ENEO. Witnesses said the first victim working with Eneo was kidnapped 3 weeks earlier before being killed on 8 July 2020. He was shot in the early hours of the morning around the Catholic Street in Ndop. His corpse was buried by his family that same day.

Meanwhile, the businessman was kidnapped together with his wife and 2 daughters on 7 July 2020 in his house. It is alleged that the businessman was assassinated in the early hours of July 8, 2020 and his body dumped along the street.. We were told by the family that the two daughters were released the next day. Their mother spent some more days before being released. According to family sources, the businessman was killed for accepting the contract for the reconstruction of the bridge earlier destroyed by separatist fighters.



On the left is Sylvester while on the right is Eric.

12. Separatist fighters kidnap and assassinate an elderly prince in Babessi Village

On 14 July 2020, members of the armed separatists operating in Babessi village brutally assassinated Prince Tienyi David Nah, a former Parent Teachers Association (PTA) chairman of Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Babessi. He was killed four (4) days after his kidnap by separatist fighters accusing him of being a spy or Black Leg to the struggle. According to some witnesses he was severely beaten before being shot to death.

About 3 days later, two (2) members of the armed separatists who reportedly killed him were taken to the Babessi market square by General Man Pass Man , their Commander, and all shot to death blaming them for erroneously accusing and killing Prince David.



Prince Tienyi David Nah

13. Separatist fighters assassinate three (3) persons in Babessi Village, Ngoketunjia division, North-West Region

It was on 10th march 2020 that 3 persons (one woman, two men) were brutally assassinated in Babessi village by an armed separatist group under the command of General Man Pass Man. These three persons were killed the same day under different circumstances but allegedly for similar motives. According to an eyewitness, separatist fighters first attacked a drinking spot belonging to one of the victims, pulled him out and asked him to follow them. He resisted and was shot dead immediately. They accused him of disclosing their camp and the warehouse where they kept their weapons.

Meanwhile, the second and the third victims were equally pulled out of their respective homes less than 30 minutes after and equally shot dead accusing them of being Black Legs. It should be noted that these two persons before being killed by separatist fighters had just been freed the same day from captivity of the armed separatists by the military.



14. Assassination of a Council Police worker at Ndop

On 9 August, Peter Njakah Chuisih a Security worker in Ndop Municipal Council was kidnapped around Long Street by separatist fighters. Witnesses said his lifeless body was found the next day, on 10 August 2020 at Catholic Street, with his head and arms chopped off and vital organs removed. Another source said his head was hung on a stick somewhere by the road side at Bamunka Rural.

Sources close to the victim revealed that the separatist fighters said, Peter was the most wanted Black Leg as he often accompanied the military during their raids. He equally disclosed all those who had in one way or the other contributed to the activities of the separatist fighters which led to some being killed and others arrested and detained by the military.



15. Kidnap and assassination of a quran teacher at Bamessing Village in Ndop by armed separatist group

On 27 August 2020, a 59-year-old man was kidnapped in the morning at Sabga hill in Turbah, Mezam Sub division and taken to an unknown destination. He was later taken back in the evening the same day to Bamessing village beside the Central Mosque and assassinated by his kidnapers and his corpse abandoned on the spot. He was a Muslim and an inhabitant of Bamessing village well known as Bah Mallam.

Family sources and witnesses added that the man was kidnapped while traveling to Bamenda town at an armed separatists checkpoint. He was accused of being a “black leg”. This was because he had been condemning the numerous atrocities of these fighters in the region and particularly in Bamessing village. Also, other sources from the same village said he was kidnapped and killed, because he was initially warned to stop being against the struggle but he denied.

They added that before he was kidnapped and assassinated, he had previously been kidnapped about 3 months ago and subjected to torture, cruel and inhuman treatments. The family added that since then he has been indoors on treatment for about 2 months due to his inability to walk. As a result of this torture, his right eye was damaged, as seen on the picture below. He was the son of the late Imam of Bamessing Central Mosque. His tongue and nose were allegedly cut off as seen on the picture below.



16. Kidnapping of some 30 civilians in Bamunka Ndop

On 24 June separatist fighters launched an operation, kidnapping virtually all the family members of the Mayor of Ndop Council as well as relatives of the defence and security forces residing in Ndop. We interviewed three (3) of the victims, ages ranging from 24 to 41 years. They testified that most of them (about 30 including a 4 months old baby and the mother) were taken from their homes by midnight, early morning and within the day and others were taken in broad daylight in the market and streets of Ndop. They further said that the kidnappings went up to the first week of July. They also added the kidnappings were done in retaliation to the reported massive arrests of more than twenty (20) family members of the separatist fighters.

Separatist fighters started releasing those kidnapped after defence and security forces started releasing family members of separatist fighters arrested earlier.

17. Kidnapping of a retired gendarme at Wainama Village in Bui Division of the North-West Region

On 26 March 2020, separatist fighters on board of four (4) motorcycles with each carrying two (2) persons attacked a bus at Wainama village in Jakiri Sub Division of Bui Division kidnapping a retired gendarme officer who was in the bus.

According to our sources, the victim, a retired gendarme officer had travelled to his village in Kumbo for a few days to check on his hospitalized sick mother. Upon returning on board a commercial public transport bus, heavily armed men dressed assorted with charms tied all over their bodies stopped their bus and only called the man's name, saying he should come out of the car immediately before they forced him out. The driver quietly said anyone in the car bearing that name should kindly go down and he immediately stepped out of the bus. When he stepped

out they ordered the driver to leave and he obeyed instantly. The man, completely masked, was then carried on their motorcycle to their camp. Barely 5 minutes after they had left, 2 other persons came and told the victim that the General has requested him to pay a sum of 2 million francs before he is freed. He said they told him anyone who has worked with the government of 'La République du Cameroun' especially uniformed officers is "an enabler or threat to the struggle."

He was then given a phone to call his family to pay in the ransom through a mobile money account... Five days later, family members and friends were able to raise the sum of 1,250,000 francs which was paid to the mobile money account given by the separatist fighters. He was then released.

18. Kidnapping of a secondary school teacher at mile 4 Nkwen Bamenda 3 Sub Division of Mezam Division in the North-West Region

On 25 February 2020, about six (6) masked separatist fighters stormed the victim's home and kidnapped a school teacher. According to family sources and friends they received calls from unknown numbers the next day after the kidnapping, requesting a ransom. He was then released on 27 February 2020 after the ransom was paid through MTN mobile money. The family denied disclosing the exact sum paid. She said upon his release four (4) out of the five (5) phones taken away were returned except one.

19. Members of an armed opposition group kidnap an unarmed woman in Baba 1 NDOP

On 31 January 2020, a group of four (4) separatist fighters on a motorcycle kidnapped an unarmed woman at her home in Quebessi quarter Baba 1.

They reportedly masked her face and took her to their camp where she spent 9 days before being released after a sum of about 305,000frs was paid by the family. According to a close family source and some witnesses she

was accused of attending a political rally in Bamenda on 29 January 2020 organized by members of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM). The victim said upon her release that she was seriously warned never to participate in any other meeting organized by any political party again in any part of "Ambazonia" except when their land shall be "freed from the oppressors".

20. kidnapping of a 44 years old farmer in Baba 1 village

On 16 August 2020 at about 11 am, the victim said he was kidnapped and taken to the separatist camp. At the camp, they questioned him why he was working on a ghost town day . He responded that his family did not have food to eat and he decided to carry some passengers so that he could raise some money to feed the family. He was warned never to work again on ghost town day. He spent the night in the camp before being released the next day 17 August 2020 at 9 am. It is worth mentioning that Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August 2020 were declared ghost town days in the entire Baba 1 village by the armed separatists.

II. DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTIES BY SEPARATIST FIGHTERS

In any conflict situation, the protection of civilians and property is the responsibility of the direct parties in the conflict. As separatist armed groups have chosen the military option to make their claims, they have the obligation not to attack the civilian population and their property, whether or not they are sympathetic to their cause.

21. Covid 19 prevention kits, siezed and burnt by separatist fighters in Mbengwi

While the Anglophone crisis was raging on, the global pandemic COVID-19, also came to add insult to injury to the already embittered and suffering people of the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon. Leaders of the Meta clan set up an initiative to raise funds to buy preventive kits to fight COVID 19 in the Meta clan. Funds were raised and COVID 19 preventive kits were bought to be distributed in the entire clan.

On May 13, 2020 a group of separatist fighters, according to eyewitnesses, seized a consignment of COVID 19 kits belonging to the Meta Cultural and Development Association (MECUDA). The incident, they said, took place in Njinibi village. According to community health workers hired by MECUDA to distribute the COVID 19 kits, the separatist fighters also attacked them at Kwen Asah hill near Acha Tugi village. They said the fighters accused them of working with the administration. According to the fighters, the presence of the Member of Parliament and the Divisional Officer on the day of the launching made the MECUDA COVID 19 initiative a government sponsored programme. To make matters worse, some of the kits had the name of the MP printed on them. This made the fighters angry and they obliged health workers to bring all the other items which were still kept at the Council hall. The community health workers, fearing for their lives, went and brought the others items and the separatist fighters set them on fire. This act of arson caused on these COVID 19 items by the separatist fighters sent fear in the minds of many villagers who became scared to use them. This therefore exposed many persons to the deadly pandemic.



22. Destruction of ELECAM office in Babessi, Babessi Sub Division, Ngoketunjia Division, North-West Region

In the night of 16th breaking 17th January 2020, a group of separatist fighters attacked and burnt down the office of ELECTIONS CAMEROON (ELECAM) in Babessi village. These men are said to have arrived to the premises on three (3) motorcycles, speaking Pidgin English and Babessi dialect.

According to eyewitnesses, separatist fighters burnt down the ELECAM office in an attempt to disrupt the upcoming municipal and legislative elections scheduled for 9 February 2020. We never got any government nor ELECAM statement to that effect. The ELECAM Office before the arson had been closed down temporarily due to the insecurity in the area. It should be noted that no government office is still operational in the Babessi Sub Division apart from the military and gendarmes. Even the D.O. of Babessi Sub Division now lives and works only at the Gendarmerie brigade.

23. Burning of a house and confiscation of a corpse in Meya Quarter in Baba 1

On 23rd May 2020 at about 12 pm armed separatist members stormed the compound of late Mami Ngam, burning her house and other valuables. According to persons interviewed, the situation began with the arrival of the corpse of Mami Ngam from Douala. Upon the arrival of the corpse in the village, separatist fighters, refused her to be buried in the village unless the sum of 2 million francs was paid by her family, considering that one of her daughters was a former CPDM deputy Mayor of Babessi. After close to 2 hours of arguments and torture of the driver at the separatist camp, the family was forced to take back the corpse to Bamenda mortuary. The separatists left their camp and proceeded to Mami Ngam's compound where they burnt down her house. Meanwhile, according to family members and witnesses, some of Mami Ngam's relatives who were held captive by the separatists were only released one week after the payment of a ransom

by family members.

They refused to disclose the exact sum that was paid.

Generally, all corpses brought to the said village from other parts of the country are charged ransoms before burial and others corpses like those of uniformed officers (police, gendarmes, etc.) are banned from entering the village according to village sources.

Corroborated information from family, friends and witnesses said the armed separatists were accusing the family of refusing to pay about 2millions francs that they demanded before the corpse was buried in Baba 1. Secondly, one of the daughter of the deceased women was a former deputy mayor of the ruling party, Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM), for Babessi Sub Division.

24. Destruction of dwellings by armed separatists behind presbyterian school Baba 1 NDOP

It happened early morning 24th March 2020. Separatist fighters stormed the said vicinity behind Presbyterian school and went directly to the said house setting it ablaze. This incident occurred in the absence of the occupants of the house as the wife and children had left for the farm. Meanwhile the husband had involuntarily left the village due to persistent threats from the separatist fighters who accused him of disclosing information about their camp to the gendarmes in Babessi during his detention. According to family sources, the owner of the house was arrested on the 18th of January 2020 by gendarmes and army and detained in Babessi gendarmerie brigade and later transferred to Company Brigade in Ndop.

The accusation was because the separatists were attacked during his detention. The separatist fighters promised to kill him if he came back to the village. After his release, he travelled directly out of the village and his house was then set ablaze just a few weeks after.

25. Burning of the house of a CPDM candidate for the municipal election in Ndop

On 28th January 2020, separatist fighters stormed the residence of Anabi Zachari, a CPDM candidate for the 9th February municipal election in Ndop, burning down his residence.

According to his wife, their house was put on fire by separatists because her husband had vehemently refused to obey the boycott of the 2020 Municipal and legislative election. Despite the plea from the wife, she was forcefully sent out of the house and it was set ablaze.

It should be noted that the same building was used as residence and equally hosting the Community Radio Station in Ndop called Stone F.M.

26. Burning of a taxi and shooting of the driver in Muea, Buea by Separatist Fighters

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The taxi burnt at Chief Street Muea by Separatist Fighters

The September 23, 2020, Eyewitnesses and security forces contacted confirmed that a group of separatist fighters moving from Lysoka Junction formed a squadron and were moving on the main road heading up town to Muea. At the junction of Chief Street and the hospital they stopped two taxis. One of the drivers decided to run and was shot as he fled with his vehicle while the other was removed from his car and after receiving some slaps, he was asked to run away while his taxi was set on fire.

Information gotten from the security forces stated that while the first group of separatist fighters were burning the taxis on the highway at Chief Street entrance, another squad had taken up positions around the police station and were shooting at random. The police in return also started shooting, forcing the group to leave and join their friends and they disappeared.

At the time of this report, he remained in critical condition in the hospital.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Anglophone regions are facing atrocities and terror from both armed separatist as well as security forces. Separatist armed groups sow terror through killings and staging gruesome scenes. They film acts of extreme violence and broadcast them on social networks. In this way they terrorise the civilian population. It is unquestionably up to the separatist armed groups to stop the atrocities against the civilian population in general and women in particular, who are thus particularly affected. It is also for regular security forces to change their behaviour while operating in the conflict.

Faced with the upsurge in violence against the population and serious threats to the country's security, the Cameroon government, in general, and the defence and security forces, in particular, have the obligation to protect the population by using all necessary legal means. In this context, the government must respond to atrocities committed by both armed separatists as well as by its own security forces, bearing in mind the ultimate need to safeguard the social fabric and ensure that the people retain their sense of belonging to their homeland. Thus, to maintain its legitimacy among this population, it would be beneficial for the government to act in respect not only of Human Rights but also of international humanitarian law. Failure to do so under these conditions would mean the government itself is harming the very population it is supposed to protect.

If Cameroon wants to put an end to this crisis, it must put the population at the centre of its concerns with a view to regaining its confidence. Respect for fundamental rights is at the heart of this concern. Military and security operations must be conducted in accordance with the principles of international humanitarian law. Measures must be taken to correct bad practices, strengthen the judicial system and speed up procedures.

In order for the government to take significant steps towards resolving this crisis, it must begin by recognising and accepting the magnitude and gravity of the problem, and conduct independent and impartial investigations into the violations and abuses pre-

sented in this report and elsewhere.

This is an opportunity to call on all actors in the conflict to make respect for human dignity a fundamental point of population protection. Human rights violations and abuses only worsen the crisis and reinforce radicalisation on both sides.

Call on both sides to protect humanitarian workers, health workers, rights defenders and journalists

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Cameroonian government and public authorities

- Accept and facilitate intra-Anglophone dialogue (between groups of English-speaking actors). The government of Cameroon has to approve officially and create a conducive atmosphere (security, etc.) for the holding of a conference constituting only of people of the two English speaking regions to dialogue on what is going on.
- Inquiry and report on human rights violation and abuses document in the report
- Ratify the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances
- Conduct rigorous and impartial investigations into the serious allegations presented in this and previous reports, such as the Ngarbuh massacre.
- Open direct bipartisan negotiations with the separatist leaders for a resolute end to this crisis.

To the Ministry of Justice

- Have the public prosecutor's offices publish lists of all persons detained (in prisons, gendarmerie brigade, police stations, military camps) within the context of the Anglophone crisis. This measure will surely enable some families to find their relatives who have been victims of enforced disappearances after mass arrests.
- Order the release of all persons arbitrarily detained.

To the defence and security forces

- Respect fundamental human rights and the principles of international humanitarian law in their operations.
- Understand and protect populations living under the coercion of separatist armed groups
- To ensure that arrests and detentions are carried out in accordance with national and International Human Rights Law.

To separatist armed groups

- Spare the civilian population from armed operations and vengeance

attacks

- Publish the lists of all the people kidnapped and kept in their different camps.

To NGOs and associations

- Raise the awareness among populations and actors in the conflict about respect for human dignity (example: principles of international humanitarian law)
- Raise public awareness on the use of social media.
- Raise people's awareness of tolerance and living together
- Provide permanent and effective assistance to displaced persons within the context of the Anglophone conflict.

To the media

- Support NGOs and contribute to the campaign against the dissemination and sharing of acts of terror and shocking images.

To the people

- Refrain from and avoid taking an active part in hostilities and conflict in general. They must retain their status as civilians to be protected by all parties to the conflict.

To the international community

- Put pressure on the administration and the government to resolve the crisis and publish the findings of investigations into serious human rights violations (Ngarbuh, Wazizi, etc.)

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*Defend human rights where ever they are violated.
Extend them in order to follow up societal evolution
since 1789 and 1948 up to the 21st century.*

Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme Cameroun (NDH-Cameroun) is a non-profit and non-governmental organization whose main mission is to promote, defend and extend human rights everywhere they are violated.

NDH was formed in 1977 and authorized in Cameroon in 1997 under Number 032/RDDA/F35/BAPP, with consultative statuts at the United Nations.

NDH takes care of the various categories of rights, as well as those contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and those inscribed in the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural rights.

Furthermore, NDH promotes, protects, defends, informs and trains people on human rights, on good governance and democracy.

NDH leads since 2003 the Refugees Programme.



Cameroon: **Civilian** **Population** **Targeted in the** **Anglophone Crisis**

**Report on Human
Rights Violations
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