

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REPORT- CAMEROON: THE ANGLOPHONE CONFLICT – 2016 TO 2024

*A Humanitarian Crisis Unfolds: A Plea for Safety
and Protection for Anglophone Refugees*

This report was commissioned by The
Ambazonian Grassroots Mobilization Initiative
(AGMI) and Written by the Southern
Cameroons Exile Forum (SCEF).

APRIL 2025



©Ambazonian Grassroots Mobilization Initiative (AGMI) - April 2025.

AGMI publications are covered by the Create Commons License allowing for limited use of AGMI publications provided the work is properly credited to AGMI and it is for non-commercial use.

AGMI does not hold the copyright to the content of third party material included in this report. Reproduction or any use of the images/maps/infographics included in this report is prohibited and permission must be sought directly from the copyright holder(s).

Feedback and comments

Please help us to improve and to measure the impact of our publications. We'd be extremely grateful for any comments and feedback as to how the reports have been used in refugee status determination processes, or beyond. Thank you.

Please direct any questions to : **Email** : info@ambagmconnect.org or ambagm2024@gmail.com

Website: <https://ambagmconnect.org/>

Commissioning Note

This report was commissioned by The Ambazonian Grassroots Mobilization Initiative (AGMI) to the Southern Cameroons Exile Forum (SCEF).

To achieve this report, a collective effort of Ambazonian Community representatives in exile reached out to Ambazonia volunteers with expertise to contribute towards developing this report, assembling a team of experts with the following profiles:

- * Human Rights Law Expert: Specializing in international human rights law, to ensure accuracy, compliance with international standards, and thorough documentation of human rights violations.
- * International Humanitarian Law Expert: To assess and document and document violations of international humanitarian law within the context of the Cameroonian crisis.
- * Conflict Resolution Specialist: Experienced in developing strategies for conflict resolution and facilitating dialogue between conflicting parties.
- * Communications and Media Strategist: To ensure effective communication of the report to a wide audience and develop impactful media and public relations strategies.
- * Fundraising and Resource Mobilization Expert: To secure necessary funding for the report's publication, dissemination, and related advocacy efforts.
- * Regional Expert on Cameroon or West and Central Africa: Individuals with deep knowledge of the political, social, and economic context of Cameroon, particularly the Anglophone regions.

We believe that this combined expertise has ensured the report meets international standards and achieves maximum impact, so that the plight of Ambazonians both at home and in exile be paid attention to, as the humanitarian cost to this marginalized people is too much to bear.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents:	8
Abstract:	9
Explanatory Notes:	10
SECTION 1: Executive Summary	12
SECTION 2: Report Methodology	16
Research Design	16
Data Collection Methods	16
Section 3: Introduction	18
Location of Cameroon	20
Section 4: Background of the situation of the Conflict in Cameroon	21
Colonial root of the conflict	21
Section 5: Political Landscape	25
Build up to the conflict	25
Section 6: Historical Human Rights Abuses in Anglophone Cameroon (Before 2016)	34
A. Legal Framework	34
B. Pre-2016 Human Rights Abuses	35
Cases of Human Rights Abuses	36
Section 7: The Anglophone Conflict	37
An Overview	38
The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2016-2017	39
The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2018-2019	42
The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2020-2021	47
The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2022	51
The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2023	54
The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2024-2025	57
Section 8: Human Rights Situation (Push Factors for IDPs and Refugees Creation)	59
A. Cameroon's Military Crackdown on Anglophone Regions	59

Unlawful Killings and Arbitrary Detentions by State Forces	60
Forced Disappearances and Extrajudicial Killings	60
Arbitrary Detentions	61
Imprisonment of Ambazonian Leaders	61
Allegation of Abuse by BIR Soldiers	62
Torture and Ill-Treatment	63
Displacements and Destructions of Property	64
Harsh Prison Conditions	65
Political Detainees	65
Journalists and Media Professionals	66
Ambazonian Activists	66
Restrictions on Freedom of Expression	67
Limitations on Peaceful Assembly and Association	68
Challenges to Academic Freedom	69
Media suppressions and Human Rights Abuses	70
Violence and Harassment Against Journalists	70
Lack of Accountability and De facto Restrictions	71
Challenges Faced by Journalists	72
Fatalities and Investigations	72
Media Censorship and Restrictions	73
Government Crackdown on Social Media	74
Social Media and the Anglophone Conflict	74
International Concerns and Calls to Action	77
Activists and Human Rights Defenders	78
Threats and Violence	79

Judicial Harassment	80
Arbitrary Detentions	80
Mass Detentions and Torture	81
Civil Society Organisation Clampdown	82
Restrictions on Civil Society	87
Due Process and Fair Trial Guarantees	90
Restrictions on Fundamental Rights	91
Treatment on Political Activists and Opposition Members	92
Testimonials from Victims	93
Testimonies from Refugees in Nigeria	93
B. Separatist Fighter’s Suspected Human Rights Violations	94
Unlawful Killings and Violence Against Civilians	96
Arson Attacks	96
Kidnappings	97
Right to education and Child welfare abuses	98
Abuses by Ambazonians Armed Groups	98
Abuses by the Third force in the Conflict	101
SECTION 9: Response to the Conflict	105
Political Measures of the Cameroon government	105
Key Outcomes of the Major National Dialogue	106
Creation of the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism	110
The Silence of the National Assembly	111
Rejection of the Canada Peace Initiative.....	111
Section 10: International Response to the Conflict	115

Response from Neighbouring Countries	120
Nigeria's Response	120
Chad and Central African Republic's Response	120
Equatorial Guinea and Gabon's Response	120
Regional and International Efforts	121
Nigeria's	121
Chad and Central African Republic	121
Equatorial Guinea and Gabon	122
Challenges and Limitations of Neighbouring Countries	122
Humanitarian Strain on Neighbouring Countries	122
Regional and International Efforts: A mixed Record	122
Section 11: Evidences and Testimonies Supporting the Need for Asylum	124
Reports from Human Rights Organisations	125
Food Insecurity/Livelihoods/Poverty	127
Humanitarian Response	128
Poverty and Economic Impact	128
Market Access and Employment	129
Labour and Market Impact	129
Negative coping mechanisms	129
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	130
Humanitarian Access	131
Access to Education	132
Humanitarian Impact	136
Socio-economic Impact	138
Economic Decline	140
Displacements	140

Cameroonian Refugees Abroad	143
Challenges in Nigeria	143
Situation in other African Countries	144
Summary Key Findings	144
Security Situation	145
Human Rights Abuses	146
Section 12: Practical Measures and Solutions	148
Immediate Actions	148
Human Rights Protection	148
Long-term Solutions	148
Section 13: Recommendations for Effective Response	151
Addressing the Needs of Anglophone Cameroonian Refugees	151
International Bodies	151
Governments	151
Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	152
Additional Recommendations	152
Section 14: Urgent Action Needed for Anglophone Cameroonian Asylum Seekers	153
Recognition and Protection	153
Efficient Asylum Procedures	153
Durable Solutions	153
Support for Host Countries	154
Additional Measures	154
Section 15: Conclusion	155
The Armed Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon : A quest for Lasting Peace	155
Appendix A:	157
Appendix B:	177
Appendix C:	181

Appendix D:	183
Endnotes to Appendix:	189
List of Sources:	190

Abstract

This report exposes the devastating reality of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, a socio-political conflict that has ravaged the North and South West Regions since 2016. Despite the government's claims of normalcy, this crisis has inflicted unimaginable suffering, with over 21,000 deaths, 2.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and 700,000 children affected by school closures.

The international community have a moral obligation to act. We urge the Cameroon government and the international community to take immediate action to address the root causes of the conflict, promote inclusive dialogue, transparency, and accountability, and support lasting peace and development.

But most urgently, we issue a compassionate plea to authorities worldwide: open your doors and welcome refugees fleeing the Anglophone region. Provide them with safety, shelter, and asylum. Recognize their suffering and acknowledge their humanity. The people of Anglophone Cameroon are not just statistics; they are mothers, fathers, children, and families who deserve our protection and care.

We cannot turn a blind eye to their plight. We must act with empathy, solidarity, and compassion. The time to act is now.

Explanatory Note

Purpose and Significance

The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the situation in Cameroon from 2016 to 2024, with a specific focus on the region of English-speaking people of the Cameroons. By probing into the political, social, economic, and security challenges faced by the population, the report aims to establish a credible case for granting asylum or migrants protection rights to English speaking people of the Cameroons affected by the conflict.

This report will expose without bias and provide evidence and arguments to the international bodies and organizations, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to recognize the plight of English-speaking people of the Cameroons without bias and take appropriate action to protect their rights and provide protection. It will therefore in essence indicate the situation pre-crisis, intra-crisis, impact and recommendations. Specifically, it will seek to:

- ❖ ***Offer Contextual Understanding of the Crisis:*** It will examine the historical perspective of the crisis thereby providing essential historical facts to the ongoing crisis¹. It will project an understanding to the roots of socio-political tensions, including colonial legacies, governance issues, and ethnic dynamics. It will in its entirety, address the latest developments and changes in the crisis, with an aim to grasp the evolving and mutation of the crisis.
- ❖ ***Contextualize Action Formulation:*** The exhaustive work for the development of this report is also aimed at informing the international body on the reality on the ground in the context of the crisis. It will aid policymakers, both national and international, rely to create informed policies and interventions that will prevent escalation and promote conflict resolution².

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/unfpa-cameroon-situation-report-26-december-2024-humanitarian-crisis-remains-critical-concern>

² <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-28-february-2024>

- ❖ ***Foster Humanitarian Response:*** It will identify the immediate and long-term needs of displaced populations, enabling humanitarian organizations to tailor their responses appropriately³.
- ❖ ***Stimulate Advocacy for Rights:*** It will highlight human rights abuses to mobilize the international community and NGOs to provide more assistance and advocate for the rights of affected populations⁴.
- ❖ ***Offer Assistance and Resources at International Level:*** The report is developed to offer on the ground situational analysis and evidence for assistance programs, advocacy strategies, and resources for persons who have been targeted and have run out of the country due to the ongoing crisis⁵

Disclaimer:

This document is designed to assist in identifying relevant information for Cameroonian asylum seekers. The Country of Origin report provided herein can inform decision-makers assessing asylum applications and appeals. However, please note that:

- This report is not exhaustive, and the absence of information on a particular issue, incident, or violation does not imply it does not exist.
- This document should not be relied upon as the sole evidence in refugee decision-making processes. Instead, it should be used in conjunction with individualized, case-specific research.
- While we strive for accuracy, the authors assume no responsibility for any errors or omissions in this report.

By using this document, users acknowledge understanding of these limitations.

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>

⁴ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>

⁵ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-21-march-2024>

SECTION 1: Executive Summary

This report explains the sufferings of the population and the gross human rights abuses committed to the people of the English-speaking territory of the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon which has emerged as a significant socio-political conflict that escalated since late 2016. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the crisis, exposing its root causes, impacts to the population, and a potential prescription of recommendations to the refugees and IDPs created and resolution.

The immediate spark to the crisis began on 6th October 2016, when the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium⁶, an organization consisting of lawyer and teacher trade unions in the Anglophone regions, carried out a protest against the erosion of Cameroon's bi-jural and bi-educational systems, rooted in the country's French and British colonial legacy⁷. To these peaceful protests, the government responded with disproportionate force, and arrested and jailed some of the protesters whom they accused of terrorism⁸. This generated new protests and violence and enabled advocates of secession to move from the periphery to the centre of the debate, both in Cameroon and in the diaspora.

On the 30th of November 2017, upon returning from a summit abroad, President Paul Biya declared a war on the uprising which later escalated into a war which some persons have termed "a war of independence". Since then, there have encounters mostly propagated by the Cameroon Military also known as "BIR" and reprisals from the groups of forces that propagate for independence that have often led human rights violations against the civilians⁹.

The Norwegian Refugee Council has recorded the conflict in Cameroon to be one of the most overlooked humanitarian crises in the world¹⁰. According to reports by other organisations it has been reported that by 2022, over 6000 people have been killed¹¹, 700,000 have been

⁶ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

⁷ Amin and Takougang 2018; Konings and Nyamnjoh 2019; Pommerolle and Heungoup 2017

⁸ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

⁹ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

¹⁰ Norwegian Refugee Council. (2022). The World's Most Neglected Displacement Crises.

¹¹ International Crisis Group. (2022). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How to Avoid a Wider War.

internally displaced, 77,400 have taken refuge in Nigeria and 417,500 have returned¹². Less than 30% of schools in the North West and South West regions are operational and 700,000 children have been affected by school closure¹³. 2.2 million of the North West and South West regions' population of approximately five million are in need of humanitarian assistance¹⁴.

We believe these figures does not meet the actual situation on the ground. For verification purpose, our team has assembled researchers across all Southern Cameroonian divisions to collect ground-level data on the numbers affected per location. This initiative was prompted by discrepancies in international reports, which have remained stagnant over the years despite continuous reports of military attacks on civilians and unarmed group assaults.

A critical aspect of this crisis involves verifying the true scale of its human impact. Our organization has deployed research teams across all divisions in the Cameroon Anglophone region(a.k.a Southern Cameroons) to collect first hand data on casualties and displacements at the local level. This initiative was necessitated by the apparent stagnation in casualty figures reported by international organizations, despite consistent documentation of ongoing military operations against civilians and attacks by non-state armed groups.

Our forthcoming report, currently in its final verification phase, involves cross-referencing the final two years of field data with incident reports circulating on social media platforms. This rigorous validation process aims to produce numbers that more accurately reflect reality. Preliminary findings already reveal alarming discrepancies as at 2022 when compared to the Norwegian Refugee Council's 2022 estimates. Our data indicates:

- Over 21,000 fatalities (compared to 6,000 reported)¹⁵
- Approximately 1.2 million internally displaced persons¹⁶ (versus 700,000)
- Nearly 280,300 refugees in Nigeria¹⁷ (contrasted with 77,400)

¹² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2022b). Cameroon: Situation Report.

¹³ Assessment Capacities Project. (2021). Cameroon: North-West and South-West Regions - Situation Report.

¹⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2022a). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

¹⁵ Data obtained from our research

¹⁶ Data obtained from our research

¹⁷ Data obtained from our research

These substantial variances underscore the pressing need for an impartial, comprehensive humanitarian assessment mission. Only through establishing accurate metrics can the international community properly gauge the crisis's severity and mobilize appropriate resources to alleviate the suffering and work toward sustainable solutions.

The economy in the English-speaking regions has faltered and caused a significant drop in agricultural production. Thousands of jobs in the agricultural and service sectors have been lost, the regions' GDP has declined by more than 30%, and tax revenues of up to 800,000 USD annually are no longer applicable due to a 90% drop in imports from Nigeria¹⁸. Presently, 3.4 million persons are in need of assistance, 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 170,000 returnees and 489,000 refugees and asylum-seekers¹⁹.

The ongoing conflict in Cameroon has resulted in devastating consequences, including widespread human rights abuses, economic devastation, and a significant humanitarian crisis²⁰. While international attention has been sporadic, the response has largely been characterized by calls for dialogue without significant diplomatic intervention.

The protracted conflict has created a massive refugee and internally displaced persons (IDPs) crisis, with thousands forced to flee their homes in search of safety²¹. These individuals are in urgent need of attention, care, and protection.

As the conflict rages on, it is imperative that concerned stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, and civil society, prioritize the needs of these refugees and IDPs²². When they seek asylum, it is crucial that governments of host countries consider their applications with compassion and understanding.

The report highlights the need for urgent action to address the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Cameroon²³. It calls on:

¹⁸ BTI 2020: 25; Kindzeka 2020; World Bank 2021: 45-49

¹⁹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁰ Human Rights Watch. (2022). Cameroon: Human Rights Crisis in the Anglophone Regions.

²¹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2022). Cameroon Situation.

²² Norwegian Refugee Council. (2022). The World's Most Neglected Displacement Crises.

²³ International Crisis Group. (2022). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How to Avoid a Wider War.

- Governments to provide safe haven and protection to refugees and IDPs fleeing the conflict²⁴.
- International organizations to provide humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education²⁵.
- Civil society to advocate for the rights and dignity of refugees and IDPs²⁶.

To move forward, it is essential that the Cameroon government initiates frank dialogue with all parties to the conflict, exploring ways to address the root causes of the conflict²⁷. The international community should actively engage all stakeholders in the conflict and encourage round-table discussions to settle the conflict peacefully²⁸.

The conflict in Cameroon has created a humanitarian crisis that demands urgent attention²⁹. As refugees and IDPs seek safety and protection, it is imperative that governments, international organizations, and civil society respond with compassion and understanding. A comprehensive solution that addresses the root causes of the conflict and prioritizes the needs of refugees and IDPs is essential for achieving sustainable peace and development.

²⁴ Amnesty International. (2022). Cameroon: Authorities must account for arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances.

²⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2022). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

²⁶ Centre for Human Rights. (2023). Strategies for Peaceful Resolution: Comprehending and Addressing the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon.

²⁷ Konings, P., & Nyamnjoh, F. B. (2019). The Anglophone crisis in Cameroon: A background.

²⁸ Pommerolle, M.-E., & Heungoup, H. D. (2017). Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: How it started.

²⁹ Amin, J. A., & Takougang, J. (2018). The Anglophone problem in Cameroon.

SECTION 2: Report Methodology

Research Design

Mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Report Objectives

1. To examine the impact of the ongoing conflict in Anglophone Cameroon on the local population.
2. To investigate the human rights abuses committed by government forces and Ambazonia Fighters and Government sponsored militias.
3. To assess the effectiveness of international responses to the crisis.

Data Collection Methods

Qualitative Methods

1. In-depth interviews: Conduct interviews with key informants, including:
 - Anglophone Cameroonians affected by the conflict
 - Human rights activists and advocates
 - Government officials and representatives of Ambazonia groups
2. Focus group discussions: Organize focus groups with:
 - Anglophone Cameroonians living in refugee camps or host communities
 - Community leaders and traditional authorities
3. Documentary analysis: Analyze reports, statements, and other documents from:
 - Human rights organizations
 - International organizations (e.g., UNHCR, UNICEF)
 - Government agencies and Ambazonia groups

Quantitative Methods

1. Surveys: Conduct surveys among:
 - Anglophone Cameroonians living in refugee camps or host communities
 - Host community members

2. Statistical analysis: Analyze data from:
 - UNHCR and other international organizations
 - Government agencies and NGOs

Data Analysis

1. Thematic analysis: Identify themes and patterns from qualitative data.
2. Descriptive statistics: Calculate frequencies, means, and standard deviations from quantitative data.
3. Inferential statistics: Conduct regression analysis and other statistical tests to identify relationships between variables.

Research Ethics

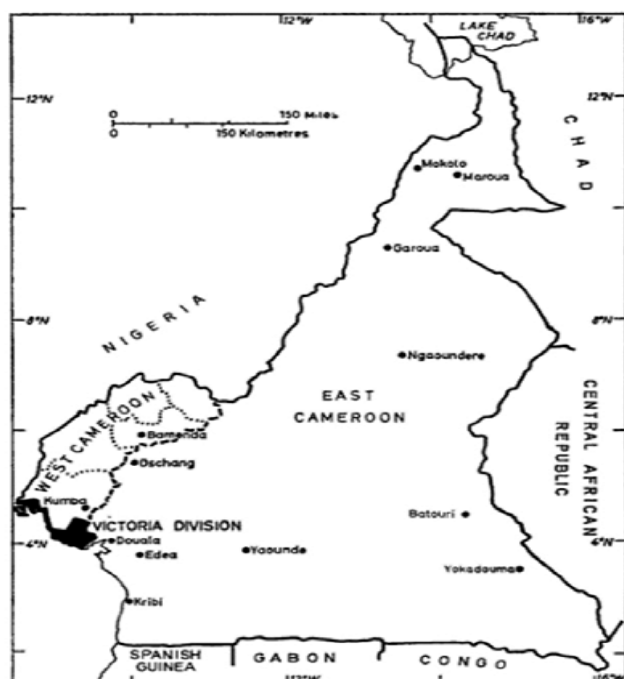
1. Informed consent: Obtain informed consent from all participants.
2. Anonymity and confidentiality: Ensure anonymity and confidentiality for all participants.
3. Risk assessment: Conduct a risk assessment to minimize potential harm to participants.

Research Limitations

1. Access constraints: Limited access to certain areas or populations.
2. Time constraints: Limited time for data collection and analysis.
3. Resource constraints: Limited resources for data collection and analysis.

Section 3: Introduction

This Report is written to explain the sufferings of the population and the gross human rights abuses committed to the people of the English-speaking territory of the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon which has emerged as a significant socio-political conflict that escalated since late 2016. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the crisis, exposing its root causes, impacts to the population, and a potential prescription of recommendations to the refugees and IDPs created and resolution. The Report constitutes the first stage of a pilot research project to investigate the conflict in the anglophone regions of Cameroon. The pilot research is funded by the John Fell Fund, the Global Challenges Research Fund, a Knowledge Exchange Seed Grant, and a University College Visiting Fellowship. The research team intends to develop the pilot into a longer-term research project in order to support efforts to restore sustainable peace in the region.



Map showing boundaries of Federal Republic of Cameroon in 1961, inclusive of West and East Cameroon (Munji 2020).

30

The Report is directed to the stakeholders concerned with assisting refugees and displaced people to respond to the refugees and Internally Displaced Peoples created by the Anglophone conflict. This moral duty arises given that the gravity of the human rights abuses contained in this Report is of universal concern, and particularly because of the contributory role of the former colonial masters,

³⁰ https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-showing-boundaries-of-Federal-Republic-of-Cameroon-in-1961-inclusive-of-West-and_fig1_352878458

and the UN in the creation of the conflict in the colonial context of the anglophone regions of Cameroon.

It is noted that, considering the gravity of the human rights abuses that have been committed during the Anglophone Crisis, the response to date from the international community, including the former colonial masters has been unimpressive.

The Report documents extensive human rights abuses allegedly committed by Cameroonian forces, Cameroon government's sponsored militias and the Ambazonian fighting groups, including multiple extra-judicial killings, frequent incidences of torture, the destruction of property, unfair trials and inhumane and degrading conditions of detention.

This report is a thorough assessment the human rights abuses that have been committed. This report is a product of cross-analysis of three data sources: 1) reports from credible international and non-governmental organisations, 2) credible news media reports, and 3) a collection of video and photographic evidence documented as seen logged in Appendix A

The Report is developed over Ten further sections. It provides background and historical discussion of the Anglophone Problem in Cameroon and the uncomplete decolonisation history, with a focus on the former colonial masters' role in the tensions of the present day. The present conflict cannot be understood without an appreciation of the historical conditions in which it has arisen.

The report also section provides an overview of the human rights landscape in Cameroon before the current conflict, which evidences a pattern of harm committed against anglophone Cameroonians, repeat violations of the rule of law, and state impunity for human rights violations.

It further offers comprehensive analysis of topical issues of the ongoing conflict, drawing attention to patterns of human rights abuses based on a collection of reports by various international organisations, and analysis of primary human rights data. This section also exposes a pervasive lack of accountability by all parties to the conflict and corresponding limitations of the peacebuilding attempts to date. On account of all the material considered, pressing concerns are offered in the recommendations to the refugees' crisis and how they can be achieved.

The Location of Cameroon

Cameroon is located at the junction of West and Central Africa and shares borders with Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. In the southwest it has a coastline to the Atlantic Gulf of Guinea (Encyclopaedia Britannica, updated 31 December 2023, Introduction & Quick Facts)³¹. Today's Cameroon spans 475,440 square kilometres (472,710 square kilometres, 2,730 square kilometres water) and has approximately 30 million inhabitants, according to a CIA World Fact Book estimate of 2023 (CIA, updated 6 Dec 2023). According to an estimate of 2018 by the CIA World Fact Book, 38.3 percent of the population are Roman Catholic, 25.5 percent Protestant, 6.9 percent Christians of other orientation, 24.4 percent Muslim, 2.2 percent animist, 0.5 percent follow other religious belief systems, and 2.2 percent do not associate themselves with any religion³² (CIA, updated 6 Dec 2023).

After independence in 1961, Cameroon's economy prospered, including improvements in agriculture, education, health care and transport. Modest offshore oil deposits were discovered in 1977, accelerating economic growth but also increasing rent-seeking and corruption. In the mid-1980s an economic crisis started. State corruption was rampant. After 2000, several major state-owned enterprises were privatized and competition in the banking and telecom sectors was permitted (Bertelsmann Stiftung, 23 February 2022, p. 5). Currently, the economy of Cameroon is significantly reliant on the global market sales of its products, notably petroleum and cocoa³³ (Encyclopedia Britannica, updated 31 December 2023, Economy).

³¹ Encyclopaedia Britannica, updated 31 December 2023, Introduction & Quick Facts

³² CIA, updated 6 Dec 2023

³³ Encyclopedia Britannica, updated 31 December 2023, Economy

SECTION 4: Background of the Situation of the Conflict in Cameroon

The Colonial Roots of the Conflict

After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles led to the division of Kamerun into two territories. The French-controlled area, known as Cameroun, comprised most of the former German territory. Meanwhile, the British-controlled territory, known as British Cameroons, consisted of Northern Cameroons and Southern Cameroons, including the historic Ambas Bay Protectorate, which bordered Colonial Nigeria.³⁴

The British used indirect rule in Cameroon, allowing local leaders to govern according to their traditions. In 1953, Southern Cameroons asked for and received autonomy, with Buea as capital. They held elections in 1954 and formed a parliament.³⁵

In 1961, the UN held a plebiscite in Cameroon, offering two options: join Nigeria or join Cameroon. Independence wasn't on the table due to British opposition. The results showed Northern Cameroons leaning towards Nigeria, while Southern Cameroons preferred Cameroon, partly due to fears of Nigerian domination.³⁶

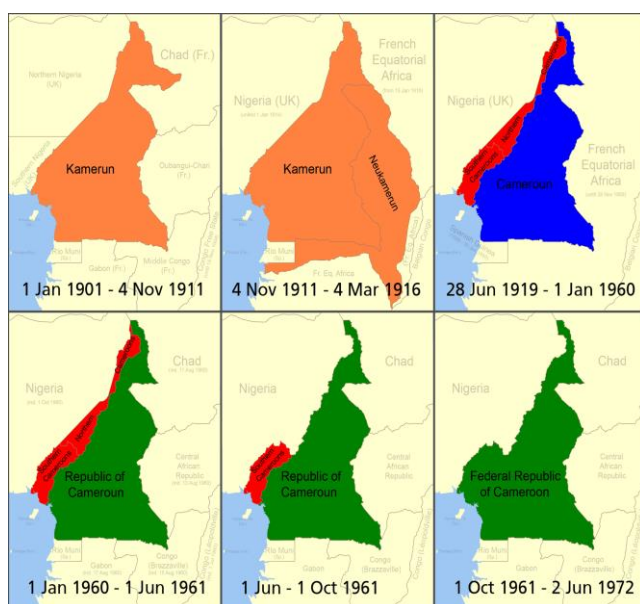
Southern Cameroons joined Cameroon on October 1, 1961, as "West Cameroon," with its own prime minister. However, English-speaking residents felt marginalized by the French-speaking government, which made up 80% of the country.³⁷ President Ahmadou Ahidjo feared that Southern Cameroons would secede, taking its natural resources with it.

³⁴ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

³⁵ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

³⁶ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

³⁷ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19



Map of the Cameroons indicating the various stages of their history

38

In 1972, a unilateral referendum led to a new constitution, replacing the federal state with a unitary state and granting more power to the president. Southern Cameroons lost autonomy and became the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon. Pro-independence groups argued this was unconstitutional, as West Cameroon deputies hadn't approved the changes. They believed Southern Cameroons had been annexed by Cameroon.³⁹

Later, French Cameroun's leadership changed the constitution again, appointing French-speaking Paul Biya as prime minister and Ahidjo's successor.

In March 1985, Fongum Gorji Dinka, a prominent Anglophone lawyer and President of the Cameroon Bar Association, penned a memorandum denouncing the Cameroonian government under Paul Biya as unconstitutional.[6] Dinka boldly declared that the former

38

https://www.google.com/search?q=the+map+of+the+cameroons+before+independence&sca_esv=248c1a1232d6ce85&sxsrf=AHTn8zp7cSk9-Gcaq4CGxE_aV7_pU6vVkw%3A1741526317137&ei=LZXNZ778B8fQhbIP_PK82AE&oeq=The+map+of+the+Cameroons+before&gs_l=pgPWLDgAXABeACQAQGYAbEDoAGKNKoBCDItMjAuMy4xuAEByAEA-AEBmAIQoAKtIMICChAAGLADGNYEGEfCagYQABgHGB7CAGcQABiABBgNwglIEAAYBxgIGB7CAGYQABgNGB7CAGgQABgFGAcYHsICCxAAGIAEGJECGLoFwglFEAAyGATCagYQABgWGB7CAGYQABgIGB7CAGsQABiABBiGAXiKBcICCB AAGIAEGKIEwglFEAAy7wXCAGcQIRigARgKmAMAIAYBkAYIkglIMS4wLjEyLjOgB4qEAQ&scient=gws-wiz-serp#vhid=zGO-8M22o6EdhM&vssid=_nJXNZ8HHEv_MhbIP17C86Aw_67

³⁹ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

Southern Cameroons should break free and become the independent Republic of Ambazonia. His courageous stance came at a steep price - he was imprisoned in January 1986 without trial. Three years later, Dinka managed to escape to Nigeria, where he continued to advocate for the rights of Anglophone Cameroonians.⁴⁰

In 1993, Anglophone groups gathered for the first All Anglophone Conference (AAC1) in Buea, where they issued the "Buea Declaration." This document called for constitutional changes to restore the 1961 federation, seeking greater autonomy for Southern Cameroons.⁴¹

The following year, the second All Anglophone Conference (AAC2) took place in Bamenda, resulting in the "Bamenda Declaration." This statement declared that if the federal state wasn't reinstated within a reasonable timeframe, Southern Cameroons would declare independence.⁴²

The AAC evolved into the Southern Cameroons Peoples Conference (SCPC) and later the Southern Cameroons Peoples Organisation (SCAPO), with the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) serving as its governing body. Younger activists formed the Southern Cameroons Youth League (SCYL) in Buea in 1995.⁴³

The SCNC, led by John Foncha, submitted a petition to the United Nations in 1995, protesting the "annexation" of Southern Cameroons by French Cameroon. A signature referendum was held the same year, with organizers claiming a 99% vote in favor of independence, with 315,000 participants.⁴⁴

The Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) faced significant disruptions from police, particularly during a 1997 raid on a gendarme camp in Bamenda, which resulted in

⁴⁰ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

⁴¹ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

⁴² "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

⁴³ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

⁴⁴ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

approximately 10 deaths and the arrest of 200-300 people, including SCNC supporters and members of the Social Democratic Front.⁴⁵

Trials that followed revealed evidence of torture and forced admissions, leading to a shutdown of SCNC activities. In response, a faction of the SCNC elected Esoka Ndoki Mukete as their new chair in April 1998. Mukete's leadership became more assertive in October 1999, after many accused individuals were found guilty.⁴⁶

On October 1, 1999, militants took over Radio Buea in an attempt to proclaim Southern Cameroons' independence but were thwarted by security forces. The SCNC leadership and many members were arrested, and the organization was officially banned by Cameroonian authorities in 2001. Despite this, a faction of the SCNC declared Ambazonia's independence once again in 2006.⁴⁷

From the historical account above, this report is able to prove complexities carried over into independence from what we suggest as an incomplete decolonisation process, which is examined through the anglophone independence plebiscite by “joining”. Various issues of contention have arisen in relation to this vote because the option of independence, for which many anglophone stakeholders campaigned, was denied to the people. Consequently, the reunification of the anglophone regions to Cameroon has never been fully accepted. Despite vociferous frustrations expressed by anglophone stakeholders since this time, these grievances have yet to be addressed by the Cameroon State and the international community.

⁴⁵ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

⁴⁶ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

⁴⁷ "The Anglophone Problem in Cameroon." *African Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 385, 19

Section 5: Political Landscape

This report explains how the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon has its roots in the country's complex and tumultuous history. The seeds of discord were sown in 1961, when the British Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons merged with the French colony of Cameroon in an annexation move, (described by others as an incomplete decolonization process) creating a bilingual and multicultural nation. However, the promise of equality and shared governance was never fully realized, as the Francophone-dominated government increasingly centralized power and marginalized the Anglophone minority.

Decades of neglect, cultural erasure, and economic disenfranchisement fueled growing resentment among Anglophones, who felt their identity, language, and customs were being systematically erased. The appointment of French-speaking judges, teachers, and administrators in Anglophone regions further exacerbated tensions, as did the government's failure to address the region's economic and infrastructure needs.

By 2016, the simmering tensions had reached a boiling point, as Anglophone lawyers, teachers, and activists took to the streets to demand greater autonomy, linguistic and cultural recognition, and an end to decades of marginalization. The government's heavy-handed response to these protests sparked a cycle of violence, which has since escalated into a full-blown conflict, displacing hundreds of thousands and claiming countless lives.

Build up to the conflict

Cameroon's history is marked by periods of colonial rule, first under Germany and then under France and Britain. The country's borders were established through negotiations between European powers, with little regard for ethnic or linguistic divisions⁴⁸. This legacy of colonialism has had a lasting impact on Cameroon's political and social landscape, contributing to the ongoing struggles of the Anglophone minority.

⁴⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

This complex political landscape has been shaped by decades of marginalization of English-speaking Cameroonians⁴⁹. Upon gaining independence in 1961, the country adopted a federal system, uniting English-speaking West Cameroon and French-speaking East Cameroon. This unification led to the adoption of a constitution that established an indissoluble federal system, comprising the States of West Cameroon and East Cameroon. The federal system was crucial in preserving the country's bicultural and bilingual nature, which was shaped by distinct colonial governance and public administration styles, including different legal and educational systems, and official languages.

However, the 1961 constitution was short-lived, as President Ahidjo dissolved the federal system in 1972 in favour of a centralized unitary state⁵⁰. This move had significant consequences, including the division of West Cameroon into the Northwest and Southwest provinces, which were later renamed regions in 1996. Today, the English-speaking minority in Cameroon accounts for approximately 20% of the country's population, with the majority residing in the Northwest and Southwest regions, as well as major cities like Bafoussam, Douala, and Yaoundé⁵¹.

The Anglophone community's sense of disenfranchisement grew as their language, culture, and common law system were gradually eroded by the dominant Francophone government. Despite English and French being official languages, English was often relegated to secondary status, with French predominating in government, education, and law⁵². This imbalance has contributed to longstanding tensions between the Anglophone and Francophone populations, undermining national unity and fueling demands for greater autonomy or independence.

The English-speaking minority in Cameroon accounts for approximately 20% (five million) of the country's overall population of around 25.5 million (UK Home Office 2020b: 15). They are concentrated in the North West and South West, the two

⁴⁹ <https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon/>
Reasons and scenarios of Ethno-Political Tensions in Cameroon

⁵⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

⁵¹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

⁵² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

Anglophone regions of Cameroon's ten administrative regions; a good number also live in the country's major cities, such as Bafoussam, Douala and Yaoundé⁵³.

Paul Biya's ascension to the presidency in 1982 marked a significant turning point in Cameroon's history⁵⁴. He succeeded Ahmadou Ahidjo in a peaceful transfer of power, a notable exception in Africa's post-colonial landscape.

However, Biya's presidency has been marked by controversy, particularly with regards to his centralization policies and the 1984 name change to the Republic of Cameroon⁵⁵. This move was met with resistance from Anglophone regions, who felt marginalized and excluded from the decision-making process.

The 1980s saw a surge in civil society agitation, mass protests, and international pressure, driving democratic transformations and the establishment of a multi-party system⁵⁶. Nevertheless, the authorities have consistently marginalized and targeted opposition groups.

The 1992 presidential elections, widely regarded as heavily manipulated, saw Biya secure a narrow victory. This pattern of disputed elections continued in 2018, when Biya, then 85 years old, won his seventh term in office, marking 35 years in power.

Biya's prolonged presidency has been characterized by authoritarian tendencies, corruption, and human rights abuses. The country's political landscape remains marked by tension, with opposition groups and civil society facing significant challenges in their efforts to promote democratic governance and accountability⁵⁷

⁵³ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

⁵⁴ www.cameroon-concord.com/politics-2/un-pressures-cameroons-biya-on-leadership-transition-ahead-of-2025-election

⁵⁵ <https://www.cameroon-concord.com/editorial/paul-biya-s-enduring-legacy-a-closer-look-at-his-impact-on-present-day-cameroon-1704569699>

⁵⁶ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]..

⁵⁷ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]..

Cameroon's system of governance is characterized as a presidential republic, where the President holds significant authority in appointing key officials, including the Prime Minister, cabinet members, and regional governors⁵⁸. However, beneath this formal framework lies a more complex reality. According to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Cameroon's political and administrative system under President Paul Biya is marked by authoritarianism, clientelism, and corruption⁵⁹. This authoritarian style of governance prioritizes maintaining power over democratic principles.

Furthermore, Cameroon is currently grappling with a profound domestic crisis, fueled by conflicts in the English-speaking North-West and South-West regions, as well as the Far-North region. These conflicts pose a significant threat to the country's stability, underscoring the need for meaningful reforms and inclusive governance. In practice, Cameroon's government has exhibited a tendency towards centralization, with the President wielding considerable influence over the judiciary, legislature, and regional administrations. The country's electoral system has also faced criticism, with concerns over electoral manipulation and restrictions on political participation⁶⁰.

The 1984 presidential decree that renamed the United Republic of Cameroon to La République du Cameroun marked a significant turning point in the country's history⁶¹. This change reinstated the name French Cameroun had adopted upon gaining independence from France in 1960, prior to its reunification with Southern Cameroons. The decree's impact was far-reaching, leading to increased centralization and subsequently, reduced political and economic autonomy for the former West Cameroon⁶². The consequences of this move were multifaceted, resulting in heightened censorship, corruption, and marginalization of the English-speaking minority. This period also saw the illegal dissolution of the federal system.

⁵⁸ <https://prc.cm/en/the-president/political-vision>

⁵⁹ <https://bti-project.org/en/reports/country-report/CMR>

⁶⁰ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]..

⁶¹ <https://cameroun.cc/the-evolution-and-changes-in-the-cameroon-constitution/>

⁶² https://www.dibussi.com/2006/03/a_rose_by_any_o.html

The longstanding history of political and socio-economic marginalization and discrimination of the Cameroonians of the North West and South West regions has been referred to as Cameroon's "Anglophone problem"⁶³. These factors have contributed significantly to the current Anglophone conflict, which is rooted in the deep-seated grievances of the English-speaking population. The conflict has its origins in the complex history of Cameroon, including the uncomplete decolonisation of the Southern Cameroons by pushing it to join with the Republic of Cameroon. Understanding these historical context and complexities is essential to grasping the nuances of the Anglophone conflict and its ongoing impact on the region.

The introduction of constitutional and structural changes in Cameroon sparked widespread opposition, particularly among the Anglophone population⁶⁴. These changes were perceived as a deliberate attempt to undermine the autonomy and identity of the former West Cameroon. As the country transitioned towards political liberalization in the early 1990s, dissenting voices grew louder.

In response to mounting pressure from civil society, President Paul Biya enacted the Law on Freedom of Association in 1990⁶⁵. This legislation paved the way for a return to multi-party politics, enabling various civil society associations to register and operate legally. The Social Democratic Front (SDF), Cameroon's first major opposition party, emerged in Bamenda in 1990⁶⁶. Notably, the SDF's founding members were largely comprised of Anglophone secessionist activists seeking a legitimate platform for their movement.

However, the SDF's leadership soon found itself torn between appealing to the Anglophone population and garnering support from French-speaking regions. As a result, the party

⁶³ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

⁶⁴ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

⁶⁵ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

⁶⁶ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

endorsed a four-state federation, which ultimately disappointed many Anglophones who had hoped for a return to a two-state federation or independence⁶⁷.

This development led to the formation of the Southwest Elite Association (SWELA) by disillusioned elites from the Southwest region, who felt the SDF was dominated by Northwesterners and French-speaking militants⁶⁸. The emergence of SWELA marked a significant turning point, as restorationists and separatists began to openly advocate for their respective causes.

Restorationists sought to reclaim the status of West Cameroon, while separatists pushed for an independent Southern Cameroon state⁶⁹. These developments underscored the deepening divisions within Cameroon and highlighted the need for inclusive dialogue to address the country's longstanding Anglophone problem⁷⁰.

The evolution of Anglophone interests in Cameroon post-1990s was marked by the emergence of separate organizations representing English-speaking teachers, lawyers, journalists, students, and political groups, notably the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC)⁷¹.

Initially, these associations were active, organizing frequent meetings, rallies, and demonstrations. However, by 1996, momentum had waned. The Southern Cameroons Youth League opted for armed struggle, launching ill-advised attacks on military establishments in March 1997.

The government's response was ruthless and lethal, effectively ending this strategy. Seizing on divisions within the Anglophone community, President Biya's government deployed tactics to undermine the Anglophone problem. The government infiltrated Anglophone groups, such

⁶⁷ <https://www.focusafrica.info/en/cameroon-paul-biya-corrupt-dictator-in-power-for-over-38-years/>

⁶⁸ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

⁶⁹ <https://www.focusafrica.info/en/cameroon-paul-biya-corrupt-dictator-in-power-for-over-38-years/>

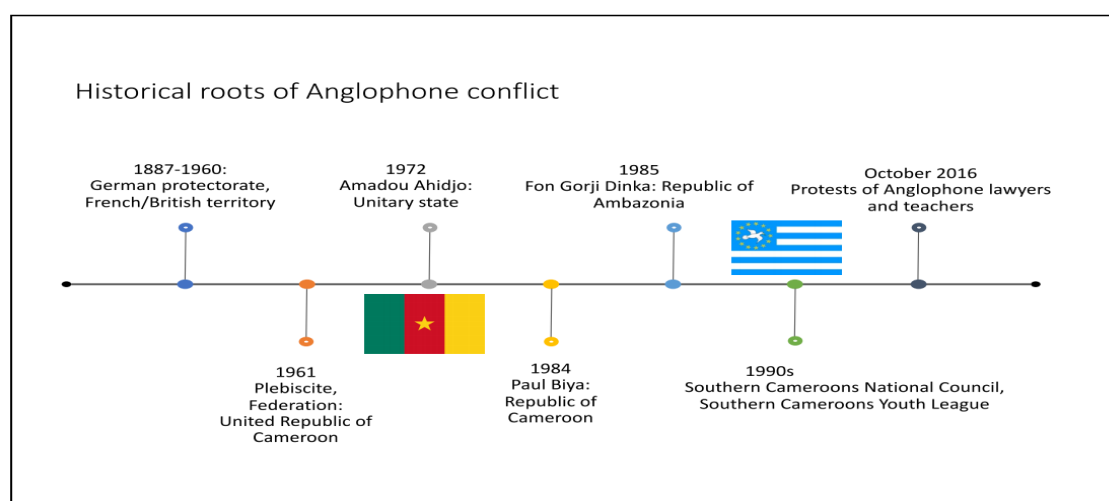
⁷⁰ <https://www.focusafrica.info/en/cameroon-paul-biya-corrupt-dictator-in-power-for-over-38-years/>

⁷¹ <https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Cameroon%27s+Anglophone+Crisis%3A+Analysis+of+the+Political%2C...-a0620328979>

as SWELA, influencing them to adopt pro-government stances. Since 1991, Biya has appointed Northwest and Southwest elites to key positions, including Prime Minister and junior ministerial roles. However, these appointees have largely remained loyal to the regime, doing little to address Anglophone grievances.

A 1996 constitutional reform promised decentralization, but many aspects of the reforms remain unimplemented⁷². Instead, the Biya regime has focused on maintaining Anglophone elite support through lucrative government appointments. In 1997, analysts noted that the government's denial of the Anglophone problem and its reliance on repression could escalate demands past a point of no return a federal system.

Illustration 1: Historical roots of Anglophone conflict



Source: Michaela Pelican, based on Konings & Nyamnjoh 2019

The calls for independence and secession in Anglophone Cameroon gained momentum in the 1990s, driven by economic and political liberalization, as well as the reintroduction of a multiparty system⁷³. During this period, Anglophone elites established associations and

⁷² Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

⁷³ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

pressure groups, such as the All-Anglophone Conference (AAC), to advocate for their interests.

The AAC organized two major meetings in 1993 and 1994, calling for a return to the federal form of state. However, when the government failed to respond to their demands, the Anglophone leadership shifted towards secessionism. They formed the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) and declared October 1, 1996, as the date of independence for Southern Cameroons⁷⁴.

Notably, the AAC and SCNC initially advocated for peaceful negotiations, seeking recognition of Anglophone grievances from international bodies like the United Nations, the African Union, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights⁷⁵.

Anglophone university students also played a significant role in promoting the idea of an independent Southern Cameroons. They formed the Southern Cameroons Youth League (SCYL), which became the militant youth wing of the SCNC. However, unlike the Anglophone elite, the SCYL opted for armed struggle, planning attacks against military and civil establishment⁷⁶s.

This led to violent counteraction from the Cameroonian government, resulting in arrests, killings, and forced exile of SCYL members. Some former SCYL members have resurfaced as key actors in the current Anglophone crisis. The SCYL's leaders, Ayaba Cho Lucas and Ebenezer Akwanga, went on to form other organizations, such as the Ambazonia Governing Council and the African People's Liberation Movement.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

⁷⁵ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

⁷⁶ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

⁷⁷ <https://www.cameroon-concord.com/politics-2/ambazonian-leader-lucas-ayaba-cho-faces-oslo-court-decision>

Judging from the above, this report finds that the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon is a culmination of decades-long marginalization, exclusion, and oppression of the Anglophone minority by the Francophone-dominated government. From 1961 to 2016, the Anglophone community faced systematic erosion of their rights, culture, and identity.

Key factors contributing to the crisis include:

1. Language and cultural suppression: The imposition of French as the dominant language and culture, relegating English to secondary status.
2. Economic marginalization: Disproportionate allocation of resources, infrastructure development, and job opportunities favouring Francophone regions.
3. Political exclusion: Limited representation and participation of Anglophones in government, decision-making processes, and key institutions.
4. Educational and judicial disparities: Inequitable distribution of educational resources, and the imposition of French-language judicial systems in Anglophone regions.

These grievances, compounded by years of neglect and disregard, ultimately led to the outbreak of protests and violence in 2016, marking the beginning of the Anglophone conflict. The crisis has resulted in significant human suffering, displacement, and economic devastation, underscoring the need for inclusive dialogue, reform, and reconciliation to address the root causes of the conflict.

SECTION 6: Historical Human Rights Abuses in Anglophone Cameroon (Before 2016)

In this report, Cameroon's legal framework is outlined in this section, followed by an examination of the human rights abuses perpetrated by the Cameroon State against the Anglophone minority prior to the current conflict. The Cameroon State has consistently disregarded human rights law, refusing to implement and engage with international human rights judgments. This longstanding disregard for the rule of law has created a volatile environment, exacerbating the current conflict.

The Cameroon State's actions have been marked by a persistent disregard for human rights, particularly in relation to the Anglophone minority. This has led to numerous human rights violations, which have been further exacerbated by the State's refusal to engage with international human rights judgments.⁷⁸

A. Legal Framework

Cameroon's Constitution guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms, including:

- Right to Life and Security: Protection from arbitrary deprivation of life, liberty, and security of persons.
- Prohibition of Torture: No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Fair Trial Protections: Ensuring fair trial rights, including equal protection before the law and non-discrimination.
- Prohibition of Arbitrary Arrest: Protection from arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile.

Cameroon is also a party to several international and regional human rights instruments, including:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ratified 1989)
- Convention Against Torture (ratified 1986)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (ratified 1994)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified 1993)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified 1971)

⁷⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2023/06/human-rights-violations-in-cameroons-anglophone-north-west-region/>

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ratified 1984)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ratified 1984)

Additionally, Cameroon is a party to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols adopted in 1977. However, the classification of the Anglophone Crisis as a non-international armed conflict remains unclear, and as such, international human rights law takes precedence over international humanitarian law in this context.⁷⁹

B. Pre-2016 Human Rights Abuses

Cameroon has been plagued by human rights abuses, particularly in the Anglophone regions, with various treaty bodies of the United Nations condemning the ongoing violations.⁸⁰ The Cameroonian State has been accused of perpetrating torture, extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances, and incommunicado detention across the regions.

Key Human Rights Concerns:

- Torture and Ill-Treatment: The UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) and the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) have documented cases of torture perpetrated by Cameroonian Security Forces⁸¹.
- Inequality and Discrimination: The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) has expressed concern over the inequality between English- and French-speaking populations, particularly in the enjoyment of their rights⁸².
- Unfair Trials and Detention: The Human Rights Committee has found violations of the right to liberty, security of person, and freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention⁸³.

⁷⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/07/cameroon-rampant-atrocities-amid-anglophone-regions-must-be-stopped/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2023/06/human-rights-violations-in-camerouns-anglophone-north-west-region/>

⁸¹ Committee Against Torture, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Cameroon (CAT/C/CMR/CO/5) 18 December 2017; Committee Against Torture, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention, Concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/CMR/CO/4) 19 May 2010; Committee Against Torture, Consideration Of Reports Submitted By States Parties Under Article 19 Of The Convention, Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee against Torture (CA T/C/CR/31/6) 11 February 2004.

⁸² Human Rights Committee, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Cameroon (CCPR/C/CMR/CO/5) 30 November 2017.

⁸³ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Concluding observations on the nineteenth to twentyfirst periodic reports of Cameroon (CERD/C/CMR/CO/19-21) 26 September 2014, para [13].

Cases of Human Rights Violations:

- Fongum Gorji-Dinka v Cameroon: The Human Rights Committee found a violation of Mr. Dinka's rights to liberty, security of person, and freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention in 2005.⁸⁴
- Titiahonjo v Cameroon: The Human Rights Committee found a violation of Mr. Titiahonjo's right to life and right to liberty in 2007⁸⁵.
- Thaddeus Bendzeka: The Cameroonian State refused to recognize the judgments of the anglophone courts and refused to acknowledge or engage with Mr. Bendzeka's case.⁸⁶

These cases demonstrate a pattern of human rights violations by the Cameroonian State, particularly against anglophone Cameroonians, and a repeat refusal to engage with national and international judicial authority.

⁸⁴ *Fongum Gorji-Dinka v Cameroon* Communication No 1134/2002, UN Doc CCPR/C/83/D/1134/2002 (2005).

⁸⁵ *Titiahonjo v Cameroon* No 1186/2003, U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/ 91/D/1186/2003 (2007).

⁸⁶ See P. Konings and F. B. Nyamnjoh, (2015). 'Construction and Deconstruction: Anglophones or Autochtones?' in *Anthropology of Africa: Challenges for the 21st Century*, (ed) N. Nkwi, Langaa RPCIG, 2015, at 478-479.

SECTION 7: The Anglophone Conflict

The conflict in Anglophone Cameroon is a complex issue that has been ongoing for years. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the conflict, highlighting the gross human rights abuses perpetrated by both Cameroonian State forces and non-state armed groups, including separatists.⁸⁷

It draws from credible sources such as the United Nations, African Union, and human rights organizations, finds it highly likely that these abuses have occurred. It emphasizes that both state and non-state actors are obligated to respect and protect human rights under international law.

The conflict is fuelled by a strong sense of identity among Anglophone Cameroonians, who feel marginalized and excluded from power. Many supports the Ambazonian cause, which advocates for a separate Anglophone state. However, not all supporters of the Ambazonian cause condone the violent actions of groups like the "Amba boys," who are accused of committing atrocities.

This report also highlights the existence of state-sponsored militias, known as the "Atanga Nji Boys," which allegedly mimic and commit atrocities to discredit the Amba boys (herein as "the third force"). This lack of accountability and repeated denials of responsibility hinder efforts to move forward and find a peaceful resolution⁸⁸.

The conflict is further complicated by the presence of diverse groups, each with their own interests and agendas. The report suggests that representing these groups in discussions will be crucial to restoring peace in the region.

Key Findings:

- Gross Human Rights Abuses: Perpetrated by both Cameroonian State forces and non-state armed groups.
- Lack of Accountability: Repeated denials of responsibility and accusations of false reporting hinder efforts to move forward.
- Diverse Groups: Multiple groups with different interests and agendas need to be represented in discussions to restore peace.

⁸⁷ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

⁸⁸ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

- Identity and Marginalization: Anglophone Cameroonians feel marginalized and excluded from power, fuelling the conflict.

Some of the gross human Rights abuses will be detailed in Appendix A of this report.

An Overview

The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon began in 2016 as a peaceful protest by Anglophone lawyers, teachers, and students against the marginalization of the Anglophone minority by the Francophone-dominated government⁸⁹. The protests were sparked by the appointment of French-speaking judges and teachers in Anglophone courts and schools, which undermined the region's distinctive legal and educational systems⁹⁰.

The government's response to the protests was marked by violence, resulting in the imprisonment of movement leaders and a prolonged internet shutdown in the regions⁹¹. This heavy-handed approach only served to exacerbate the crisis, and the conflict escalated into an armed insurgency in 2017⁹².

The Ambazonia Defence Forces (ADF) emerged as a key separatist group, fighting for independence for the territory they referred to as Southern Cameroons or Ambazonia⁹³. The government responded with military force, leading to significant human suffering, including thousands killed, over half a million displaced, and widespread human rights abuses⁹⁴.

Despite numerous attempts at dialogue, the conflict has continued to escalate, with both the government and separatist groups committing atrocities and human rights abuses⁹⁵. The

⁸⁹ Human Rights Watch. (2017). Cameroon: Events of 2016

⁹⁰ International Crisis Group. (2017). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How to avoid Further Escalation.

⁹¹ Amnesty International. (2017). Cameroon: Internet Shutdown Risks Lives.

⁹² BBC News. (2017). Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: A timeline.

⁹³ The Guardian. (2018). Cameroon's separatist movement: A guide.

⁹⁴ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2020). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁹⁵ Human Rights Watch. (2020). Cameroon: Abuses in 'Anglophone' Regions.

conflict has also had far-reaching consequences, affecting not only the local population but also the regional and international communities⁹⁶.

In 2020, the conflict entered a new phase with the emergence of new separatist groups and the intensification of military operations by the government⁹⁷. The humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate, with reports of widespread human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced displacement⁹⁸.

In 2022, the government launched a major military offensive against separatist strongholds, leading to significant displacement and human suffering⁹⁹. The conflict has continued to simmer, with periodic outbreaks of violence and ongoing human rights abuses¹⁰⁰.

As of 2025, the conflict remains unresolved, with ongoing clashes between government forces and separatist groups¹⁰¹. The humanitarian situation remains dire, with millions affected by the conflict and ongoing human rights abuses¹⁰².

The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2016-2017

The Crisis Unfolds

In October 2016, Anglophone lawyers in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon began a strike to protest the appointment of French-speaking judges and the use of French in courts¹⁰³. The strike was followed by a peaceful demonstration in Bamenda, the capital of the Northwest region, which was violently dispersed by security forces¹⁰⁴.

The protests spread to other towns in the Northwest and Southwest regions, with teachers and students joining the lawyers in demanding greater autonomy and recognition of

⁹⁶ International Crisis Group. (2020). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: A Complex Web of Issues.

⁹⁷ Reuters. (2020). Cameroon's separatist conflict intensifies

⁹⁸ Amnesty International. (2020). Cameroon: Human rights abuses mount in Anglophone regions

⁹⁹ Al Jazeera. (2022). Cameroon's military launches major offensive against separatists.

¹⁰⁰ The New Humanitarian. (2022). Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: A humanitarian emergency.

¹⁰¹ BBC News. (2025). Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: What's behind the conflict?

¹⁰² UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2025). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan

¹⁰³ The Guardian. (2016). Cameroon's English-speaking regions paralysed by strike

¹⁰⁴ Amnesty International. (2016). Cameroon: Security forces must refrain from using excessive force.

Anglophone rights¹⁰⁵. The government responded with force, arresting and detaining protest leaders and imposing a curfew on affected areas¹⁰⁶.

Escalation of the Conflict

In November 2016, the government banned the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium (CACSC), a group that had been coordinating the protests¹⁰⁷. The ban was followed by a wave of arrests and detentions of Anglophone activists and leaders¹⁰⁸.

In December 2016, the government imposed an internet shutdown on the Northwest and Southwest regions, citing "security concerns"¹⁰⁹. The shutdown lasted for several months, further exacerbating the crisis.

The Southern Cameroons Declaration of Independence and the Emergence of Armed Separatist Groups

On 1 October, the Southern Cameroons Ambazonia Consortium United Front (SCACUF)¹¹⁰, an umbrella movement consisting of several independence movements, unilaterally declared the independence of Ambazonia. This declaration was followed by mass demonstrations across the Anglophone regions. The separatists strategically chose this date, as it is the anniversary for the unification of Cameroon and Southern Cameroons. SCACUF would later transform itself into the Interim Government of Ambazonia (IG)¹¹¹. Several months into the war, the IG would reject the idea of an armed struggle, preferring instead a diplomatic campaign and civil disobedience.¹¹²

Later in 2017, armed separatist groups began to emerge in the Northwest and Southwest regions, advocating for independence for the Anglophone regions¹¹³. The groups, including

¹⁰⁵ Al Jazeera. (2016). Cameroon's English-speaking strike enters second day.

¹⁰⁶ Reuters. (2016). Cameroon arrests leaders of English-speaking separatist movement

¹⁰⁷ BBC News. (2016). Cameroon bans Anglophone civil society groups.

¹⁰⁸ Human Rights Watch. (2017). Cameroon: Arrests and Detentions in Anglophone Regions.

¹⁰⁹ Amnesty International. (2017). Cameroon: Internet shutdown in Anglophone regions.

¹¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Cameroons_Ambazonia_Consortium_United_Front

¹¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interim_Government_of_Ambazonia

¹¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis#cite_note-58

¹¹³ The New Humanitarian. (2017). Cameroon's Anglophone separatists.

the Ambazonia Defence Forces (ADF), began to carry out attacks on government forces and infrastructure¹¹⁴.

Government Response

The government responded to the emergence of armed separatist groups with force, by declaring war on the 30th of November 2017, by President Paul Biya, launching a military operation in the Northwest and Southwest regions¹¹⁵. The operation resulted in significant human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced displacement¹¹⁶.

The military operation resulted in significant human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced displacement. According to Human Rights Watch, government forces killed at least 20 civilians in the town of Bali in September 2017¹¹⁷.

The Crackdown on Anglophone Activists

In the aftermath of the declaration of independence, the government launched a crackdown on Anglophone activists and leaders. Several prominent Anglophone activists, including Julius Ayuk Tabe and Felix Agbor Balla, were arrested and detained¹¹⁸.

The Humanitarian Crisis

The conflict resulted in a significant humanitarian crisis, with thousands displaced and many more affected by the violence. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over 150,000 people were displaced in the Northwest and Southwest regions by the end of 2017¹¹⁹.

The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon escalated rapidly in 2016 and 2017, from a peaceful protest movement to an armed conflict. The government's response to the protests, including the use of force and the imposition of an internet shutdown, only served to exacerbate the

¹¹⁴ Reuters. (2017). Cameroon separatists attack military base.

¹¹⁵ Al Jazeera. (2017). Cameroon launches military operation in Anglophone regions.

¹¹⁶ Human Rights Watch. (2017). Cameroon: Military Abuses in Anglophone Regions

¹¹⁷ Human Rights Watch. (2017). Cameroon: Abuses in 'Anglophone' Regions.

¹¹⁸ Amnesty International. (2018). Cameroon: Human rights abuses in Anglophone regions.

¹¹⁹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2017). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

crisis. The emergence of armed separatist groups in 2017 marked a significant turning point in the conflict, which has continued to simmer to this day.

The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2018-2019

The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon continued to escalate in 2018 and 2019, with ongoing clashes between government forces and separatist groups, and a deepening humanitarian crisis. The conflict, which began in 2016 as a peaceful protest movement, had by 2018 become a full-blown armed conflict¹²⁰.

The separatists suffered a major setback at the beginning of 2018. On 5 January, members of the IG were detained by Nigerian authorities¹²¹, which proceeded to hand them over to Cameroon. A total of 69 leaders and activists were extradited to Cameroon and subsequently arrested, including President Sisiku Julius Ayuk Tabe¹²². Since most of the individuals had submitted asylum claims, the deportation immediately became controversial, as it possibly violated the Nigerian constitution. They spent 10 months at a gendarme headquarters, before being transferred to a maximum security prison in Yaoundé¹²³. Samuel Ikome Sako was announced as Acting President on 4 February, replacing Sisiku Ayuk Tabe for the time being.¹²⁴

Escalation of Violence

In 2018, the conflict escalated significantly, with increased attacks by government forces on the separatist groups and civilians who were believed to be shielding the separatists. The Ambazonia Defence Forces (ADF) and other separatist groups carried out numerous attacks on government forces, including the killing of several soldiers in the town of Bali in February 2018.

The government responded to the attacks with force, launching military operations in the Northwest and Southwest regions. The military operations resulted in significant human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced displacement.

¹²⁰ International Crisis Group. (2018). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How to Avoid a Further Escalation.

¹²¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

¹²² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisiku_Julius_Ayuk_Tabe

¹²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

¹²⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

The Kidnapping of Students and Teachers

By October, the conflict had spread to most of Southern Cameroons. The ADF alone had clashed with the army 83 times¹²⁵, separatist militias were now active in 12 divisions, and attacks were now more lethal. According to an International Crisis Group analyst, by October the war had reached a stalemate, with the army being unable to defeat the separatists, while the separatists were not militarily strong enough to expel the army¹²⁶. Others described the separatists as severely outgunned and on the verge of defeat, mostly due to their lack of access to proper weapons¹²⁷.

On 7 October, the day of the Cameroonian presidential election¹²⁸, there were clashes all over Southern Cameroons with both sides blaming the other; the Cameroonian government claimed that separatists moved to prevent what they considered a foreign election to take place in the Anglophone regions¹²⁹, while the separatists blamed the government for instigating the violence¹³⁰. This resulted in a very low turnout, as "more than 90 percent of residents" fled violence in some localities; and in many cases no officials showed up to man the polling stations. In Bamenda, at least 20 separatist fighters moved around openly to prevent people from voting. Two separatists were killed by government troops while attacking a polling station¹³¹. Following the election, two people from Kumba were murdered for having voted.

On 17 October, SDF President John Fru Ndi's house in Bamenda was set on fire by armed men¹³².

¹²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

¹²⁶ International Crisis Group. (2019). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: A Complex Web of Issues

¹²⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

¹²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroonian_presidential_election,_2018

¹²⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

¹³⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

¹³¹ Cameroon:Two persons killed for voting in Kumba Archived 12 October 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Journal du Cameroun, 12 October 2018. Accessed 12 October 2018.

¹³² Cameroon:Fru Ndi's residence goes up in flames Archived 20 October 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Journal du Cameroun, 18 October 2018. Accessed 19 October 2018.

On 23 October, the Cameroonian Army launched simultaneous attacks on seven or more separatist camps in the Northwest Region, initiating battles that continued for more than 24 hours. At least 30 separatists were killed, as well as an unknown number of Cameroonian soldiers¹³³.

In the beginning of November, 79 students and four staff members were kidnapped from a school in Nkwen, near Bamenda¹³⁴. All 79 students were released without ransom three days later. The Ambazonia Self-Defence Council claimed that they not only had nothing to do with the kidnappings, but had also sent its own fighters to try to locate the children¹³⁵. November also saw several major confrontations.

On 11 November, according to the separatists, 13 Cameroonian soldiers and two separatists were killed when separatists carried out a successful ambush¹³⁶. The next day, Cameroonian soldiers ambushed and killed at least 13 suspected separatists in Donga-Mantung, and another 25 near Nkambé the next day¹³⁷.

On 22 November, around 40 unarmed civilians and some few Ambazonian fighters were killed in Bali by government soldiers, who then set their corpses on fire. With no trace of bullet wounds on any of the bodies, unconfirmed reports alleged the use of chemicals by the soldiers¹³⁸.

On 28 November, separatists blocked the Buea-Kumba Highway¹³⁹. The month also saw the first major spillover into other parts of Cameroon;

¹³³ Fighting between Cameroon military, separatists kills 'many' Archived 25 October 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Washington Post, 25 October 2018. Accessed 25 October 2018.

¹³⁴ Separatists kidnap 78 pupils in Cameroon's restive northwest Archived 5 November 2018 at the Wayback Machine, WSFA 12 News, 5 November 2018. Accessed 5 November 2018.

¹³⁵ Kidnapped children in Cameroon released without ransom Archived 8 November 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Deutsche Welle, 7 November 2018. Accessed 8 November 2018.

¹³⁶ At least 15 killed in Cameroon in clashes between army, separatists Archived 14 November 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Reuters, 13 November 2018. Accessed 14 November 2018.

¹³⁷ Cameroon soldiers kill 13 separatist fighters in Binka Archived 13 November 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Journal du Cameroun, 13 November 2018. Accessed 13 November 2018.

¹³⁸ Soldiers Use 'Chemicals' to Kill Fighters, Civilians in Bali Archived 28 December 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Cameroon News Agency, 25 November 2018. Accessed 28 December 2018.

¹³⁹ Cameroon: Traffic paralysed on Buea-Kumba road after heavy gunshots Archived 4 December 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Journal du Cameroun, 3 December 2018. Accessed 3 December 2018.

On 29 November, at least 30 people were kidnapped by ten unidentified gunmen in Bangourain, West Region, and transported with canoes across the Lake Bamendjing reservoir¹⁴⁰. A month later, two suspected separatists were lynched by the villagers¹⁴¹, and the Cameroonian Army launched an offensive nearby.

Bangourain was attacked once more on 22 December, prompting the separatists to accuse the government of carrying out a false flag operation to incite Cameroonian Francophones¹⁴².

December saw more burning of houses by government soldiers in Romajia, Kikiakom and Ekona¹⁴³. On 15 December, at least five separatists were summarily executed, possibly by fellow separatists¹⁴⁴. On 21 December, ADF General Ivo Mbah¹⁴⁵ was killed during a military raid in Kumba¹⁴⁶.

The Major National Dialogue

In September 2019, the government convened a Major National Dialogue¹⁴⁷, which brought together representatives from various sectors of Cameroonian society to discuss the Anglophone crisis. However, the dialogue was widely criticized for failing to address the root causes of the conflict and for not including representatives from separatist groups¹⁴⁸.

¹⁴⁰ At least 30 persons kidnapped in Cameroon's West region Archived 29 November 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Journal du Cameroun, 29 November 2018. Accessed 29 November 2018.

¹⁴¹ Soldiers VS Ambazonia Fighters : The Struggle to Break The Bangolan Wall Archived 28 December 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Cameroon News Agency, 28 December 2018. Accessed 28 December 2018

¹⁴² The Bangourain Attack: A Long Walk Towards Peace, Shaming The Devil Archived 27 December 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Cameroon News Agency, 26 December 2018. Accessed 26 December 2018.

¹⁴³ The Onslaught In Kumbo Continues-Analysis of Radio Evangelum Archived 9 December 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Cameroon News Agency, 7 December 2018. Accessed 7 December 2018.

¹⁴⁴ Cameroon: infighting from 'Ambazonia armed groups' leaves at least 5 dead Archived 17 December 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Journal du Cameroun, 16 December 2018. Accessed 16 December 2018.

¹⁴⁵ **Ivo Mbah** (died 21 December 2018) was an Ambazonian general who fought in the Anglophone Crisis. Reportedly one of the first separatists to go to war against Cameroonian authorities, he fought for more than a year before he was killed in combat with the Cameroonian Armed Forces

¹⁴⁶ Cameroon: 'Ambazonia General' killed in Kumba Archived 21 December 2018 at the Wayback Machine, Journal du Cameroun, 21 December 2018. Accessed 21 December 2018.

¹⁴⁷ The **Major National Dialogue** (French: *Grand dialogue national*) is the official name of a dialogue between the Government of Cameroon and various opposition parties, aimed at resolving the Anglophone Crisis. The event took place between September 30 and October 4, 2019

¹⁴⁸ BBC News. (2019). Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: A timeline

Anglophone Cameroonians like renown former diplomat, Dr Nfor N Susungi (*as seen in Appendix D, wrote a letter to the government of Cameroon, denouncing his participation*), and Separatists were quick to reject the initiative, citing the recent life sentences handed to the separatist leaders, while opposition parties in Cameroon showed interest in the initiative and started submitting proposals¹⁴⁹.

Meanwhile, the war continued; on 20 September, separatist fighters launched a failed attack on a hotel in Bamenda where several government officials were staying¹⁵⁰.

While the Major National Dialogue was happening, a significant number of Anglophones celebrated Ambazonia's third independence day on 1 October.

The Humanitarian Crisis

The conflict resulted in a significant humanitarian crisis, with thousands displaced and many more affected by the violence. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over 430,000 people were displaced in the Northwest and Southwest regions by the end of 2018¹⁵¹.

The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon continued to escalate in 2018 and 2019, with ongoing clashes between government forces and separatist groups, and a deepening humanitarian crisis. The conflict has resulted in significant human rights abuses, displacement, and a humanitarian crisis. As of 2019, the conflict showed no signs of abating, with both sides dug in and determined to achieve their goals.

The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2020-2021

¹⁴⁹ Cameroon: Matomba submits pre-dialogue proposals to PM Dion Ngute, Journal du Cameroun, 20 September 2019. Accessed 23 September 2019

¹⁵⁰ Cameroon's security forces repel separatists' attack on gov't officials, XinhuaNet, 21 September 2019. Accessed 21 September 2019.

¹⁵¹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2018). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

In 2020, the conflict escalated significantly, with increased attacks on both sides. Separatist forces started the new year by declaring a five-day lockdown for February, intended to prevent the upcoming parliamentary election from taking place in the Anglophone regions¹⁵².

Clashes took place in Buea and Muyuka, where separatists burned down the office of the Divisional Officer¹⁵³.

On 6 January, after failing to listen to demands from fellow separatists not to terrorize civilians, separatist commander "General Divine" was assassinated by his own men¹⁵⁴. Following instances of popular uprisings against the separatists in Balikumbat and Babungo, the ADF ordered its fighters to take action against anyone caught terrorizing civilians¹⁵⁵. January also saw what was possibly the most serious instance of separatist infighting to date; the Southern Cameroons Restoration Forces¹⁵⁶ (loyal to the IG) abducted 40 fighters from the Ambazonia Defence Forces, six of whom were subsequently murdered¹⁵⁷. "General Chacha", the separatist commander responsible for the abduction, was captured and summarily executed by Cameroonian soldiers a week later¹⁵⁸.

A parliamentary election was held in February, and was marked by unprecedented escalation on both sides. Hundreds of additional troops were deployed to combat separatist attempts to sabotage the election, while the separatists abducted 120 politicians within the two weeks preceding the election. Efforts by the Cameroonian government to prevent a repeat of the debacle surrounding the 2018 presidential election ultimately failed, as the turnout in the Anglophone regions was very low. The Ambazonians, who claimed that 98 percent of the population boycotted the election, hailed this as a great victory¹⁵⁹. The results in 11

¹⁵² Cameroon/2020 twin polls: Separatists announce five-day lockdown in Anglophone regions, *Journal du Cameroun*, 3 January 2019. Accessed 3 January 2019

¹⁵³ Cameroon: Suspected Ambazonia boys set ablaze Muyuka's D.O's office, *Journal du Cameroun*, 3 January 2019. Accessed 3 January 2019.

¹⁵⁴ Cameroon:'Ambazonia General' killed by peers in SW Region, *Journal du Cameroun*, 6 January 2020. Accessed 6 January 2020

¹⁵⁵ Cameroon Anglophone Villagers Attack Separatist Camps Over Abuse, *Voice of America*, 8 January 2020. Accessed 8 January 2020

¹⁵⁶ The **Southern Cameroons Restoration Forces**, also known as **Southern Cameroons Defence Forces** (SCDF) an Ambazonian separatist militia.

¹⁵⁷ Cameroon's Anglophone Separatists Turn to Infighting, *Voice of America*, 22 January 2020. Accessed 23 January 2020

¹⁵⁸ Cameroon: Dreaded Ambazonia General killed in Bui, *Journal du Cameroun*, 27 January 2020. Accessed 27 January 2020.

¹⁵⁹ Low Turnout Frustrates Election In North West, South West Regions, *Cameroon News Agency*, 9 February 2020. Accessed 11 February 2020

constituencies were later nullified due to separatist activities, triggering a partial re-election in March. The results were largely the same, with a marginal turnout and clashes taking place throughout the day¹⁶⁰.

Less than a week after the February election, Cameroonian soldiers and armed Fulani carried out the Ngarbuh massacre¹⁶¹, killing at least 23 civilians in Ntumbo, Northwest Region and drawing international condemnation¹⁶². The government initially denied soldiers were involved in the attack, but in March, following international pressure, President Biya established a commission of inquiry into the killings¹⁶³.

On 7 March, around 20 separatist fighters carried out attacks on a police station and gendarmerie in Galim, West Region¹⁶⁴, killing two gendarmes, two police officers and four civilians. This was the third separatist attack in West Region. The next day, an improvised explosive device killed one soldier and injured four soldiers, two police officers and one civilian in Bamenda¹⁶⁵. Cameroon subsequently carried out an offensive in Ngo-Ketunjia, where it claimed to have destroyed 10 separatist camps and killed at least 20 fighters, including some of those who had participated in the Galim raid¹⁶⁶.

In April, the government admitted their security forces bear some responsibility for the killings and announced the arrest of two soldiers and a gendarme.

Violence and Attacks on Healthcare Facilities and Workers

¹⁶⁰ Cameroon's Anglophone regions hit by violence during partial legislative polls, The Africa Report, 26 March 2020. Accessed 27 March 2020.

¹⁶¹ The **Ngarbuh massacre** took place in northwestern Cameroon on 14 February 2020 during the Anglophone Crisis, and resulted in the murder of 21 civilians, including 13 children, by Cameroonian soldiers and armed Fulani militia.

¹⁶² Cameroon: UN wants punishment for perpetrators of Ngarbuh killings, Journal du Cameroun, 18 February 2020. Accessed 18 February 2020.

¹⁶³ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁶⁴ Anglophone separatists kill five soldiers, four civilians in west Cameroon, TRT World, 9 March 2020. Accessed 9 March 2020.

¹⁶⁵ Cameroon: Women's Day explosion leaves soldier dead, others injured in Bamenda, Journal du Cameroun, 9 March 2020. Accessed 9 March 2020.

¹⁶⁶ 20 separatists killed in military offensive in Cameroon's troubled Anglophone region, Trend News Agency, 22 March 2020. Accessed 22 March 2020.

On June 10, a grenade attack on the district hospital in Bali, North-West region, resulted in the tragic death of a cardiac patient and injured at least four others¹⁶⁷. The attack occurred amidst clashes between government soldiers and separatist groups.

In a disturbing escalation of violence, security forces damaged a health facility in the North-West region on June 30¹⁶⁸. Furthermore, on July 6, seven health workers were arbitrarily arrested in the South-West region, accused of collaborating with separatists¹⁶⁹.

These incidents highlight the alarming disregard for the safety and neutrality of healthcare facilities and workers in the conflict-affected regions of Cameroon.

Atrocities Committed by Separatist Fighters

Separatist fighters in Cameroon have been responsible for a plethora of heinous abuses between 2020 and 2021, including:

- Killings and Torture: Separatist fighters have killed and tortured numerous civilians, including women and children.
- Assaults and Kidnappings: They have assaulted and kidnapped hundreds of people, often demanding ransom payments for their release.
- Attacks on Humanitarian Workers and Teachers: Separatist fighters have targeted humanitarian workers and teachers, preventing them from carrying out their critical work.
- Disruption of Education: They have attacked schools and students, depriving children of access to education and forcing many to stay out of school.
- Targeting of Civilians: Separatist fighters have killed at least six civilians since mid-May, including a teacher and a community health worker.

In the lead-up to the regional elections in February, armed separatists launched a campaign of intimidation and violence, targeting anyone who dared to participate in the electoral process. This included candidates, election officials, activists, and ordinary citizens. Over 100

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁶⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁶⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

people were kidnapped, and property was destroyed, with ransoms paid for the release of some captives.¹⁷⁰

On January 30, separatists kidnapped a 19-year-old secondary school student in Buea, South-West region, and chopped her finger off with a machete for going to school¹⁷¹. The girl was released three days later following a ransom payment.

Separatists killed at least six civilians since mid-May, including on May 17 a teacher working at the University of Bameda in the North-West region.¹⁷²

On July 6, separatists killed a community health staff working for Doctors Without Borders in the South-West region after accusing him of collaborating with the military¹⁷³.

In a horrific incident in August, separatist fighters in Muyuka, South-West region, brutally beat a 35-year-old woman, capturing the gruesome act on video as she desperately begged for her life. The disturbing footage was subsequently shared on social media, and in a tragic conclusion, the fighters took the woman's life, accusing her of collaborating with the government.¹⁷⁴

The climate of fear and insecurity generated by these attacks had a profound impact on voter participation in the Anglophone regions. Many people were too afraid to cast their ballots, resulting in low turnout. The separatists' actions were a blatant attempt to disrupt the democratic process and assert their control over the region.

Armed separatists persisted in their destructive campaign against education, targeting schools, students, and teachers throughout the Anglophone regions. The devastating impact of these attacks is evident in the alarming statistics: according to the United Nations, a

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁷¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁷² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁷³ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

staggering 81% of children in the North-West and South-West regions were denied access to education during the 2019-2020 academic year¹⁷⁵.

This surge in violence was part of a broader pattern of human rights abuses committed by armed separatists in Cameroon's Anglophone regions. These abuses have included killings, torture, and kidnappings, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals.

The COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in 2020 and 2021. The government imposed lockdowns and other restrictions to slow the spread of the virus, but these measures had a devastating impact on the economy and on vulnerable populations.

The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon continued to escalate in 2020 and 2021, with ongoing clashes between government forces and separatist groups, and a deepening humanitarian crisis. The conflict has resulted in significant human rights abuses, displacement, and a humanitarian crisis. As of 2021, the conflict showed no signs of abating, with both sides dug in and determined to achieve their goals.

The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2022

In 2022, the conflict continued to escalate, with ongoing clashes between government forces and separatist groups, resulting in significant human suffering, displacement, and economic devastation. The conflict was characterized by widespread violence, including attacks on civilians, schools, and healthcare facilities, as well as the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. The conflict has also had significant regional and international implications, with concerns over the potential for further destabilization and humanitarian crises in the region. This introduction provides a brief overview of the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon in 2022, highlighting the key issues, actors, and humanitarian concerns that define this complex and multifaceted crisis.

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/>

During this period, Cameroon's government forces committed abuses while responding to separatist attacks with excessive force, often targeting civilians in the Anglophone regions. This led to numerous human rights abuses, including killings, lootings, and harassment of innocent civilians¹⁷⁶.

Some notable incidents include:

- Mautu Village Massacre: On January 10, army soldiers killed at least nine civilians, including a woman and a child, in Mautu village, South-West region. The soldiers also looted homes and threatened residents.¹⁷⁷
- Gom Village Incident: On June 8, two soldiers broke into the house of the local traditional authority in Gom village, North-West region, harassing eight people, including a 72-year-old man who was beaten¹⁷⁸. They also killed a 60-year-old woman who failed to provide information about a separatist fighter.
- Mbuluf Village Security Operation: On June 9, soldiers from the regular army and the elite Rapid Intervention Battalion killed a 58-year-old man and raped a 53-year-old woman during a security operation in Mbuluf village, North-West region. They also looted and damaged at least 33 shops and homes¹⁷⁹.
- Killing of Caroluise Enondiale: On October 14, a gendarme shot and killed a 4-year-old girl on her way to school in Buea, South-West region. An angry mob responded by lynching the gendarme¹⁸⁰.
- University of Buea Attack: On November 10, an improvised explosive device was thrown onto the roof of a lecture hall at the University of Buea, South-West region, wounding at least 11 students. Authorities blamed separatist fighters, but no one claimed responsibility for the attack¹⁸¹.

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁷⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁷⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁷⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

On another hand, Separatist Fighters' in their campaign to attack government forces also committed atrocities on civilians and institutions they believed stood on their way with devastating consequences.¹⁸²

Attacks on Education

- Over 700,000 students were forced out of school as of March 2021, according to the United Nations.
- On January 9, separatist fighters killed a high school principal in Eyumojock, South-West region, and wounded another principal in Tinto.¹⁸³
- A female public-school teacher was shot and injured by separatist fighters in Bamenda, North-West region, on January 12¹⁸⁴.

Targeting of Civilians

- Three tribal chiefs were killed in Essoh Attah village, South-West region, on February 13.
- A medical doctor was kidnapped in Bali, North-West region, on February 27, and released after a ransom payment¹⁸⁵.
- A 12-year-old boy was killed and a 16-year-old boy was wounded in an attack on a religious center in Mamfe, South-West region, on June 6¹⁸⁶.
- Fuh Max Dang, a physics teacher, was killed in Kumba, South-West region, on July 1¹⁸⁷.

Kidnappings and Ransom Demands

- Julius Agbortoko, a Catholic priest, was kidnapped in the South-West region on August 29, with separatist fighters demanding a 20 million CFA (around US \$34,000) ransom for his release¹⁸⁸.

¹⁸² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸³ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

¹⁸⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2023

As of 2023, it was reported that at least 6000 civilians had been killed by both government forces and armed separatist fighters since late 2016 in the North-West and South-West regions, as armed separatist groups seek independence for the country's minority Anglophone regions.

Abuses by Government Forces

On January 1–2, following President Paul Biya's announcement in his New Years' speech that the Cameroonian military was crushing the Ambazonian rebellion, separatists moved to enforce local lockdowns. The Cameroon Armed Forces announced that it had deployed scores of troops to Oku, Kumbo and Jakiri, Northwest Region, and claimed to have killed 11 separatists. The Ambazonia Defence Forces (ADF) announced that the separatists had expanded their territorial grip and that the war would continue¹⁸⁹.

Human Rights Abuses in Cameroon's North-West Region

In April 2023, a series of disturbing incidents occurred in Cameroon's North-West region, highlighting the ongoing human rights crisis in the area. On April 24, soldiers from the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) stopped and severely beat a group of 30 to 40 motorbike riders who were part of a funeral convoy in Ndop. The soldiers detained the riders, suspecting them of being separatist fighters, and up to 17 of those detained are presumed to have been forcibly disappeared, with their whereabouts still unknown as of September.¹⁹⁰

The violence continued in June, with soldiers from the 53rd Motorized Infantry Battalion (BIM) killing nine people, including four women and an 18-month-old girl, in Missong

¹⁸⁹ Cameroon Separatists Enforce Curfew After President Says Troops Crushing Rebellion". Voice of America. 3 January 2023. Retrieved 3 January 2023.

¹⁹⁰ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

village¹⁹¹. This attack was part of a reprisal operation against a community suspected of harbouring separatist fighters.

In Chomba, soldiers conducted a military operation on June 8, burning a home and looting the local health centre. A woman and her 11-year-old foster child were arrested and held for 24 days at the BIR barracks in Bafut¹⁹².

From June 9 to 11, security forces in Belo killed one man, injured another, and burned at least 12 homes, destroying a community health centre and looting at least 10 shops¹⁹³. These incidents are a stark reminder of the human rights abuses perpetrated by security forces in Cameroon's North-West region.

Escalating Violence by Separatist Fighters in Cameroon 2023

As earlier mentioned, Separatist Fighters' in their campaign to attack government forces also committed atrocities on civilians and institutions they believed stood on their way with devastating consequences

Attacks on Students and Schools

- On June 12, separatist fighters assaulted, threatened, and humiliated a group of 11 students walking to Bokova high school in Buea, South-West region. One student was shot in the leg, and their school materials were seized or destroyed¹⁹⁴.

¹⁹¹ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

¹⁹² <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

¹⁹³ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

¹⁹⁴ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

- On January 19, separatist fighters attacked a government high school in Weh, North-West region, abducting five teachers and injuring two students. The teachers were released after a ransom payment¹⁹⁵.

Disruptions and Attacks on Civilians

- On January 12, separatist fighters carried out a series of attacks in Buea, South-West region, killing two people, including a taxi driver, and injuring another ¹⁹⁶.

- On January 13, separatist fighters attacked a rubber estate plantation in Tiko, South-West region, abducting nine workers and setting a tractor ablaze. The workers were released after a ransom payment¹⁹⁷.

- On April 5, separatist fighters stormed the campus of Bamenda University, North-West region, causing panic and injuring at least five people¹⁹⁸.

- On April 28, separatist fighters attacked a taxi and bus station in Mamfe, South-West region, burning five cars and killing three men¹⁹⁹.

- On May 30, suspected separatist fighters kidnapped and killed a retired teacher and ruling party member in Jakiri, North-West region ²⁰⁰.

- On June 10, suspected separatist fighters burned down the district hospital in Mamfe, South-West region, depriving 85,000 people of access to healthcare²⁰¹.

¹⁹⁵ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

¹⁹⁶ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

¹⁹⁷ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

¹⁹⁸ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

¹⁹⁹ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

²⁰⁰ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

²⁰¹ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

Attacks on Religious Institutions

- On September 16, armed militants attacked and set fire to St. Mary's Church in Nchang, diocese of Mamfe, and kidnapped nine people, including five priests. The nine abducted individuals were released on October 23 ²⁰².

The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon: 2024/2025

The English-speaking North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon have been plagued by violence for six consecutive years. Despite President Paul Biya's claims in January that many armed separatist groups had surrendered, the situation remains dire. As of mid-2023, over 638,000 people were internally displaced, and at least 1.7 million required humanitarian aid.²⁰³

The conflict has taken a devastating toll on education, with armed separatists enforcing a boycott since 2017. Schools, students, and education professionals have been repeatedly attacked, perpetuating a cycle of fear and disruption. This pattern of violence continued in 2023 into 2024, with assaults on school infrastructure and staff recorded throughout the year²⁰⁴.

Cameroon Government's Security Forces Extremes On Civilians

In response to separatist attacks, state forces conducted counter-insurgency operations that frequently failed to safeguard civilians or, in some cases, directly targeted them. Incidents like the one near Bamenda, North-West region, in July, suggest that victims may have been fleeing combat zones when they were killed²⁰⁵.

Abusive Army Raids and Killings

²⁰² <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

²⁰³ <https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/cameroon/>

²⁰⁴ <https://hrlrc.org/2022/08/12/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-human-rights-watch-in-a-recent-report-indicts-defence-and-security-forces-for-killing-at-least-10-civilians-and-destroying-properties-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-re/>

²⁰⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/cameroon>

There are concerns that abusive army raids and killings of civilians were carried out against individuals suspected of being separatists or in retaliation for attacks on army positions²⁰⁶. These actions may have contributed to the growing number of civilian casualties and exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the region.

Escalation by Separatist Fighters in Cameroon 2024/2025

Separatist groups in Cameroon threatened and killed election officials and candidates, disrupting the country's electoral process. They also abducted and tortured civilians, including a member of parliament and over 30 women. Attacks on civilians, schools, and villages continued throughout the year, with the UN reporting that over 2,200 schools remain closed due to separatist threats and attacks²⁰⁷.

²⁰⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/cameroon>

²⁰⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/cameroon>

SECTION 8: Human Rights Situation (Push Factors for IDPs and Refugees Creation)

In this section, this report explains summarily how factions of the Cameroonian State forces, the separatist groups and the “third force”, have committed human rights abuses that created IDPs and Refugees in the region.

There are numerous reports from human rights organisations and the press that allege that Cameroonian security forces, in particular, the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), have engaged in a systematic campaign of terror against anglophone communities. The most prominent example of this is the tactic of targeted property destruction in which security forces have reportedly burned down hundreds of structures such as homes, businesses and local government buildings.²⁰⁸

This crisis has driven many to flee, resulting in a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. This report aims to raise awareness and advocate for compassionate treatment of refugees from this region who have sought safety in other parts of the world.

A: Cameroon's Military Crackdown on Anglophone Regions

The Anglophone regions of Cameroon, comprising the North West and South West Regions, have been embroiled in a devastating conflict since 2016²⁰⁹. The crisis, sparked by peaceful protests against the erosion of Anglophone rights and cultural identity, has escalated into a full-blown humanitarian emergency²¹⁰. At the heart of this crisis lies the Cameroon government's military response, marked by egregious human rights abuses and atrocities committed against civilians²¹¹.

²⁰⁸ Siobhan O’Grady ‘Divided by Language: Cameroon’s Crackdown on its English-Speaking Minority is fuelling a secessionist Movement.’ (The Washing Post, February 5th 2019) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/cameroon-anglophone-crisis/> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

²⁰⁹ Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Anglophone Regions Grappling with Violence" (2020)

²¹⁰ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Human Rights Crisis in Anglophone Regions" (2020)

²¹¹ International Crisis Group, "Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How the Government Can Facilitate Dialogue" (2020)

Unlawful Killings and Arbitrary Detention by State Forces

The situation in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions has been dire since the separatist movement proclaimed independence in 2017. Civilians are caught in the middle, facing atrocities from both government soldiers and armed separatists.

Forced Disappearances and Extrajudicial Killings:

Reports from human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have documented widespread forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings by Cameroon's military²¹². Since 2016, over 1,000 people have been forcibly disappeared, with many believed to be detained in secret facilities²¹³. The military has also been responsible for the extrajudicial killing of at least 6000 civilians, including women, children, and the elderly²¹⁴.

The situation in Cameroon's Anglophone regions is dire, with reports of arbitrary and unlawful killings, excessive use of force, torture, and destruction of property committed by both government forces and armed separatists. In 2022, the Cameroonian army acknowledged responsibility for the deaths of nine individuals in Misong, North-West region, describing their actions as "inappropriate" and "clearly disproportionate".²¹⁵

Another incident occurred on June 9, 2022, when government forces killed at least two unarmed civilians during a reconnaissance operation in Belo, Northwest Region. This event was reported by the US Department of State and corroborated by the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRNA).

Key Human Rights Abuses:

- Unlawful Killings: Cameroonian defense and security forces have been implicated in unlawful killings, as documented by Amnesty International's July 2023 report.
- Restrictions on Freedom: The report highlights restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and association in the region.

²¹² Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Human Rights Crisis in Anglophone Regions" (2020)

²¹³ Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Security Forces Abduct, Torture Civilians" (2019)

²¹⁴ International Crisis Group, "Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How the Government Can Facilitate Dialogue" (2020)

²¹⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/cameroon>

The international community has condemned these atrocities, with organizations like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International calling for accountability and urgent action to address the human rights crisis in Cameroon's Anglophone regions.²¹⁶

Arbitrary Detention

Arbitrary detention continues to be a significant concern in Cameroon, with reports of individuals being held without charge for extended periods. The police, gendarmes, Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), and other authorities have been implicated in these arrests.

Cases of Arbitrary Detention:

- Motorbike Riders Detention: On April 24, 2022, 30 to 40 motorbike riders were detained by BIR soldiers on suspicion of collaborating with separatists. Despite appearing in court twice, they hadn't been formally charged as of December 2022.²¹⁷
- Avenir Jeune de l'Ouest (AJO) Members: In April 2018, five members of AJO, an association promoting LGBTIQ rights, were arrested and detained on charges of "homosexuality" under the Cameroon Penal Code.
- Detention of Dr. Punjom Njefi Yves: On July 16, 2022, Dr. Yves, the chief medical officer of Bafut district hospital, was detained by army members on suspicion of aiding separatists. He was taken to an undisclosed location and later found to be at a BIR camp in Bamenda.

These cases highlight the need for urgent action to address arbitrary detention and ensure that all individuals are treated fairly and humanely in Cameroon.

Imprisonment of Ambazonia Leaders

The imprisonment of Ambazonia leaders, including Julius Sisiku Ayuk Tabe, has been a contentious issue. In 2019, the Yaoundé Military Tribunal sentenced ten Ambazonian leaders to life imprisonment, which was later confirmed by the Court of Appeals in September 2021.²¹⁸

²¹⁶ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/07/cameroon-rampant-atrocities-amid-anglophone-regions-must-be-stopped/>

²¹⁷ <https://www.fidh.org/en/region/Africa/cameroon/15830-cameroon-arbitrary-detention-judicial-harassment-and-ill-treatments>

²¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambazonian_leadership_crisis

However, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has declared their imprisonment to be arbitrary. As seen in Appendix C, in his description in his “Irrelevant Parody of Justice” note, Barrister Charles Taku, who doubles as a traditional Chief from Cameroon, is an International lawyer of many years at the International Criminal Court of Justice, described the arrest and detention as “the militarization of justice, civil and political rights in African through inter-state terror”²¹⁹. This development has complicated the peace process in the Anglophone region, with many viewing the sentencing as a barrier to negotiations.²²⁰

The situation is further complicated by the fact that Ayuk Tabe and his cohorts were arrested in Nigeria in January 2018 and later transferred to Cameroon, a move that has been condemned by human rights activists. The Abuja High Court even ruled that their extradition was illegal, but the Nigerian and Cameroonian governments have yet to respond to the court ruling.

As of December 2022, the Ambazonian leaders remain imprisoned, with their situation highlighting the challenges faced by the Anglophone minority in Cameroon.

Allegations of Abuse by BIR Soldiers

Allegations of abuse by BIR soldiers, particularly Ewome Eboko John, also known as "Moja Moja," have been widespread. Moja Moja, a former member of the Cameroon Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), was accused of arresting civilians in the South-West Region, accusing them of being separatists, and subjecting them to harsh treatment to extract confessions.²²¹

Moja Moja's actions were deemed a liability to the BIR, leading to his dismissal and reassignment to the infantry.²²² His notoriety stemmed from targeting individuals from the Northwest region of Cameroon under the pretext of combating separatists.

²¹⁹ Appendix C of this report

²²⁰ <https://theowp.org/cameroon-military-court-sentences-anglophone-separatist-leaders-to-life-imprisonment/>

²²¹ <https://www.cameroon-concord.com/cameroon/former-bir-member-moja-moja-arrested-following-allegations-of-coup-plot>

²²² <https://jadecameroun.com/2022/11/24/moja-mojas-unrestricted-rights-abuses-xenophobia-is-govts-silence-inaction-complicity-disregard-for-rule-of-law/>

Abuse Allegations:

- Torture and Harsh Treatment: Moja Moja was accused of parading his tortured victims along the streets of Buea, branding them as separatists.²²³
- Unlawful Arrests: Civilians were arrested and accused of being separatists, with some being subjected to harsh treatment to extract confessions.

These allegations highlight the need for accountability and investigation into the actions of Moja Moja and other BIR soldiers accused of abuse.

Abuses by Government Soldiers

- Burnings and Lootings: Homes are set alight after being doused in petrol, and properties are looted. In one incident, security forces destroyed and looted at least 33 homes, shops, and a traditional leader's palace in the North-West region.²²⁴
- Rape and Sexual Violence: Women and girls are raped in retaliation for separatist attacks. A 53-year-old woman was raped by soldiers in front of her husband and children²²⁵.
- Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions: Civilians are arrested and detained without charge. In one case, a 58-year-old man was arrested and later found dead with a bullet wound to the head²²⁶.

Torture and Ill-Treatment:

Torture and ill-treatment of detainees have become rampant in Cameroon's military facilities.²²⁷ Survivors have reported being subjected to beatings, electric shocks, and other forms of cruel treatment²²⁸. Many have been forced to confess to crimes they did not commit, while others have been denied medical attention, leading to severe health complications²²⁹.

²²³

²²⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/cameroon-new-abuses-both-sides>

²²⁵ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation

²²⁶ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation

²²⁷ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Torture and Ill-Treatment in Military Facilities" (2020)

²²⁸ Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Security Forces Abuse Detainees" (2019)

²²⁹ International Committee of the Red Cross, "Cameroon: ICRC Concerned About Treatment of Detainees" (2020)

Displacement and Destruction of Property:

The conflict has resulted in the displacement of over 638.000 people, with many forced to flee their homes due to military attacks²³⁰. Entire villages have been razed to the ground, leaving civilians without access to basic necessities like food, water, and shelter²³¹. The destruction of property, including homes, schools, and healthcare facilities, has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis²³².

Statistics:

- Over 21,000 people killed since 2016²³³
- 1.2 million internally displaced persons²³⁴
- Nearly 280,300 refugees in Nigeria²³⁵
- 417,500 returnees²³⁶
- 2.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance²³⁷
- 700,000 children affected by school closures²³⁸
- Burning of over 450 villages and communities²³⁹
- 30% decline in the regions' GDP²⁴⁰

The atrocities committed by Cameroon's military in the Anglophone regions are a stark reminder of the urgent need for accountability and justice²⁴¹. The international community must take immediate action to pressure the Cameroon government to cease its military

²³⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Cameroon: Humanitarian Situation Report" (2022)

²³¹ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Devastating Impact of Conflict in Anglophone Regions" (2020)

²³² Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Security Forces Abuse, Destroy Property" (2019)

²³³ Data obtained from our research

²³⁴ Data obtained from our research

²³⁵ Data obtained from our research

²³⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Cameroon: Humanitarian Situation Report" (2022)

²³⁷ OCHA, "Cameroon: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview" (2022)

²³⁸ UNICEF, "Cameroon: Children Affected by Conflict" (2022)

²³⁹ OCHA, "Cameroon: 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview" (2022)

²⁴⁰ World Bank, "Cameroon Overview" (2022)

²⁴¹ International Crisis Group, "Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How the Government Can Facilitate Dialogue" (2020)

crackdown and engage in inclusive dialogue with Anglophone leaders²⁴². The people of Cameroon deserve peace, justice, and respect for their human rights.

Cameroon's Harsh Prison Conditions: A Blot on Human Rights

Cameroon's prison system has long been criticized for its harsh conditions, overcrowding, and mistreatment of detainees²⁴³. The situation has worsened in recent years, particularly for political detainees, journalists, and Ambazonian activists²⁴⁴. This report sheds light on the dire prison conditions in Cameroon, highlighting the statistics of those detained and the urgent need for reform²⁴⁵.

This report issues a heartfelt appeal for refugees from this region, now residing in other parts of the world, to be protected from forced repatriation to Cameroon, where they may face inhumane detention conditions and further persecution.

Overcrowding and Poor Conditions:

Cameroon's prisons are notoriously overcrowded, with an estimated 30,000 inmates crammed into facilities designed for 10,000²⁴⁶. The resulting conditions are squalid, with inadequate access to sanitation, food, and medical care²⁴⁷. Detainees are often forced to share cramped cells with limited ventilation, leading to the spread of diseases²⁴⁸.

Political Detainees:

Since the Anglophone crisis began in 2016, hundreds of political detainees have been arrested and detained without trial²⁴⁹. Many are held incommunicado, denied access to lawyers, family members, and medical care²⁵⁰. According to human rights organizations, over 1,000 people

²⁴² European Union, "EU Statement on the Situation in Cameroon" (2020)

²⁴³ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Prison Conditions Remain Harsh" (2020)

²⁴⁴ Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Abuses Against Political Detainees" (2019)

²⁴⁵ International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), "Cameroon: The Prison Situation is a Human Rights Crisis" (2020)

²⁴⁶ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), "Cameroon: Overcrowding in Prisons" (2019)

²⁴⁷ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Prison Conditions Remain Harsh" (2020)

²⁴⁸ Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Abuses in Prison" (2018)

²⁴⁹ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Arrests and Detentions in Anglophone Regions" (2020)

²⁵⁰ Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Abuses Against Political Detainees" (2019)

are currently detained for their perceived support of the Ambazonian independence movement²⁵¹.

Journalists and Media Professionals:

Cameroon has a poor record of press freedom, with journalists and media professionals frequently targeted for their work²⁵². Since 2016, at least 10 journalists have been arrested and detained, often on charges of "propagating false information" or "threatening national security."²⁵³ Many have been held in harsh conditions, denied bail, and subjected to physical and psychological abuse²⁵⁴.

Ambazonian Activists:

Ambazonian activists, who advocate for the independence of the Anglophone regions, have been particularly targeted by the authorities²⁵⁵. Many have been arrested, detained, and tortured for their perceived involvement in the separatist movement²⁵⁶. According to reports, over 500 Ambazonian activists are currently detained in Cameroon's prisons²⁵⁷.

Statistics:

- Over 1,000 political detainees held without trial²⁵⁸
- At least 10 journalists arrested and detained since 2016²⁵⁹
- Over 3000 Ambazonian activists detained²⁶⁰
- 30,000 inmates held in overcrowded prisons
- 10,000 prisoners held in conditions that violate international human rights standards²⁶¹

²⁵¹ Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA), "Cameroon: The Situation of Political Detainees" (2022)

²⁵² Reporters Without Borders, "Cameroon: Press Freedom Index" (2022)

²⁵³ Committee to Protect Journalists, "Cameroon: Journalists Arrested and Detained" (2020)

²⁵⁴ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Journalists and Media Professionals Under Attack" (2019)

²⁵⁵ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Ambazonian Activists Detained and Tortured" (2020)

²⁵⁶ Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Abuses Against Ambazonian Activists" (2019)

²⁵⁷ Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA), "Cameroon: The Situation of Ambazonian Activists" (2022)

²⁵⁸ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), "Cameroon: Overcrowding in Prisons" (2019)

²⁵⁹ Committee to Protect Journalists, "Cameroon: Journalists Arrested and Detained" (2020)

²⁶⁰ World Prison Brief, "Cameroon: Prison Population" (2022)

²⁶¹ International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), "Cameroon: Prison Conditions" (2020)

Cameroon's harsh prison conditions are a stark reminder of the country's poor human rights record²⁶². The detention of political opponents, journalists, and Ambazonian activists without trial or due process is a clear violation of international human rights standards²⁶³. The international community must pressure the Cameroonian government to reform its prison system, release all political detainees, and respect the rights of its citizens²⁶⁴.

Restrictions on Freedom of Expression in Cameroon

Cameroon has a concerning record of restricting freedom of expression. The government has consistently denied individuals and organizations the ability to criticize or express dissenting views, imposing restrictions on symbolic expressions and hindering discussions on certain political matters.²⁶⁵

Restrictions on Free Speech

- The government has banned opposition coalitions, describing them as "clandestine movements".
- Authorities have arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals, including artists and opposition leaders, for expressing dissenting views.
- The government has shut down the internet in regions of Cameroon, restricting access to information and freedom of expression.²⁶⁶

International Concerns

- The US Department of State and Freedom House have highlighted significant restrictions on freedom of expression in Cameroon in their 2021 and 2022 annual human rights reports.²⁶⁷
- The United Nations has condemned measures to intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or dissemination of information online, including internet shutdowns.

²⁶² Human Rights Watch, "Cameroon: Events of 2022" (2023)

²⁶³ Amnesty International, "Cameroon: Human Rights in Cameroon" (2022)

²⁶⁴ European Union, "EU Statement on the Situation in Cameroon" (2020)

²⁶⁵ <https://www.mediadefence.org/ereader/publications/introductory-modules-on-digital-rights-and-freedom-of-expression-online/module-3-access-to-the-internet/limitation-of-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>

²⁶⁶ <https://cm.usembassy.gov/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices-cameroon/>

²⁶⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/23/decreed-cameroon-unjustifiably-censors-free-speech>

Overall, the restrictions on freedom of expression in Cameroon are a significant concern, and the international community is calling for the government to respect the rights of its citizens to express themselves freely.

Reprisals and Suppression of Discourse

Reprisals against critics of the government are indeed common in Cameroon, and laws requiring permits for public protests have been used to stifle free speech.²⁶⁸ This has created a culture of fear, where Cameroonians hesitate to discuss sensitive topics, such as the potential return to a federal system granting more autonomy to Anglophone regions.

Restrictions on Freedom of Expression

- Laws and Regulations: The government has used laws requiring permits for public protests to suppress discourse and limit freedom of assembly.
- Armed Separatist Groups: In the South-West and North-West Regions, armed separatist groups have inhibited freedom of expression, including for the press.
- Fear of Reprisals: Cameroonians tend to avoid discussing sensitive political issues due to fear of reprisals, including arrest, detention, and violence.

The situation is further complicated by the presence of armed separatist groups in the Anglophone regions, which has led to a decline in freedom of expression and assembly. The government's response to the crisis has also been criticized for its heavy-handedness and disregard for human rights.

Limitations on Peaceful Assembly and Association

The Cameroonian government's restrictions on peaceful assembly and association are indeed concerning. The government has limited permits for gatherings and used force to suppress unapproved assemblies, creating an uneven playing field where pro-government groups can demonstrate freely, while anti-government events are prohibited and dispersed.²⁶⁹

²⁶⁸ www.refworld.org/docid/5ad85797a.html

²⁶⁹ <https://www.rightofassembly.info/country/cameroon>

This disparity is particularly evident in the treatment of the opposition Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM), whose events have been forcefully dispersed. The government's actions undermine the fundamental rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, enshrined in international human rights law.²⁷⁰

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has also expressed concerns about Cameroon's human rights record, including the right to peaceful assembly.²⁷¹ Furthermore, the US Department of State's 2022 Human Rights Report highlights serious restrictions on freedom of movement, association, and peaceful assembly in Cameroon.

In a democratic society, the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association are essential for citizens to express their opinions, participate in the political process, and hold those in power accountable.

Challenges to Academic Freedom

Academic freedom in Cameroon is facing significant challenges, despite not being legally restricted²⁷². The presence of state security informants on university campuses has created a culture of fear, where academics risk repercussions for:

- Criticizing the government
- Discussing its political opponents

The crisis in the Anglophone regions has further exacerbated these challenges, with:

- Separatists enforcing a school boycott
- Carrying out violence against teachers and students²⁷³

This has resulted in a restrictive academic environment, where freedom of expression and inquiry are compromised. The impact on education and research is significant, with long-term consequences for the country's development.

²⁷⁰ https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/415610_CAMEROON-2022-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf

²⁷¹ <https://freeassemblyandassociation.net/guiding-principles/>

²⁷² Scholars at Risk. (2022). Cameroon: Academic Freedom under Threat.

²⁷³ Human Rights Watch. (2022). Cameroon: Separatist Abuses in Anglophone Regions.

Media Suppression and Human Rights Abuses

The Cameroonian government's suppression of media coverage and restriction of access to the Anglophone regions have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis. Key concerns include:

- Media Suppression: The government has restricted media coverage of the crisis, limiting the flow of information and hindering transparency²⁷⁴.
- Restrictions on Access: Authorities have barred journalists, non-governmental organizations, and international observers from accessing the North-West and South-West regions²⁷⁵.
- Human Rights Abuses: Both government forces and armed separatist groups have been implicated in human rights abuses, including:
 - Unlawful killings
 - Abductions
 - Attacks on civilians²⁷⁶

These abuses have been extensively documented by human rights organizations, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. The international community has condemned these actions and called for accountability.

Violence and Harassment Against Journalists in Cameroon

Violence and harassment against journalists in Cameroon are alarming concerns. The US Department of State has documented cases of journalists being arrested, detained, physically assaulted, and intimidated by police, gendarmes, and other government agents.²⁷⁷

This trend is part of a broader pattern of media suppression in Cameroon. Journalists have been arbitrarily arrested and detained, with some facing terrorism charges under new anti-terrorism laws. The government's hostility towards the media has created a climate of fear, making it difficult for journalists to report on sensitive topics.

²⁷⁴ Committee to Protect Journalists. (2022). Cameroon: Government restricts access to Anglophone regions.

²⁷⁵ Committee to Protect Journalists. (2022). Cameroon: Government restricts access to Anglophone regions.

²⁷⁶ Amnesty International. (2022). Cameroon: Human rights in the Anglophone regions.

²⁷⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/05/africa-media-freedom-seriously-threatened/>

The situation is exacerbated by the conflict in the Anglophone regions, where separatist groups have also targeted journalists. The media landscape in Cameroon is increasingly restricted, with journalists facing threats, harassment, and violence from both government forces and separatist groups.

A notable incident occurred on May 26, 2022, in Bamenda, where six armed separatists attempted to kidnap BBC correspondent Frederic Takang, seizing his belongings²⁷⁸.

Takang's experience highlights the risks faced by journalists in Cameroon, particularly in the North-West region. Separatist fighters have barred journalists from accessing areas under their control, severely limiting the ability of journalists to report on the situation.

As a result, fewer than 10 journalists are currently working from Bamenda, the capital of the North-West region. This not only undermines the public's right to information but also perpetuates the culture of impunity and silence.

Lack of Accountability and De Facto Restrictions

The lack of accountability for attacks on journalists in Cameroon has led to de facto restrictions on their work. The state's failure to investigate or prosecute these attacks has created a culture of impunity, emboldening perpetrators to continue their attacks²⁷⁹.

This lack of accountability, combined with restrictions imposed by separatist groups in the North-West and South-West regions, has severely limited press freedom. Journalists face personal security concerns and restrictions imposed by separatists, making it difficult for them to operate in these regions²⁸⁰.

²⁷⁸ News. (2022). Cameroon separatists attempt to kidnap BBC correspondent.

²⁷⁹ Reporters Without Borders. (2022). Cameroon: Press freedom in peril.

²⁸⁰ Reporters Without Borders. (2022). Cameroon: Press freedom in peril.

The resulting self-censorship and restrictions on the flow of information undermine the public's right to information and hinder the ability of journalists to hold those in power accountable²⁸¹.

Challenges Faced by Journalists

Journalists in Cameroon, particularly in the North West and South West regions, face numerous challenges that have garnered significant attention from Reporters sans Frontières (RSF). The authorities and separatists have compromised press freedom, exposing journalists to severe dangers, including murder, kidnapping, and arbitrary arrest.²⁸²

Some alarming statistics highlight the gravity of the situation:

- Arrests and Detentions: At least 13 journalists were arrested or detained in Cameroon in 2022, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).
- Press Freedom Ranking: Cameroon ranks 118th out of 180 countries in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index, published by RSF.
- Violence Against Journalists: The USDOS reports that there were over 100 cases of violence against journalists in Cameroon between 2016 and 2022.
- Anti-Terrorism Law: The Cameroonian government has been criticized for its use of the 2014 Anti-Terrorism Law to silence journalists and opposition voices.

These challenges have created a hostile environment for journalists, making it difficult for them to perform their duties without fear of reprisal. The situation is further complicated by the presence of separatist groups, which have also targeted journalists.²⁸³

Fatalities and Investigations

The tragic killing of journalist Anye Nde Nsoh in Bamenda in May 2023 underscores the dangers faced by journalists in Cameroon²⁸⁴. Despite initial promises of an investigation, progress stalled, and the Anglophone separatists ultimately claimed responsibility.

²⁸¹ Committee to Protect Journalists. (2022). Cameroon: Journalists face restrictions and attacks.

²⁸² <https://www.mediadefence.org/news/anglophone-journalists-in-cameroon-continue-to-face-state-repression/>

²⁸³ <https://safetyofjournalists.org/academic-research/journalism-in-cameroon-a-high-risk-and-dangerous-profession>

²⁸⁴ Cameroon Post, May 16, 2023

This incident emphasizes the urgent need for:

1. Increased protection for journalists: Ensuring the safety and security of journalists, particularly in conflict zones, is crucial.
2. Accountability for violence against journalists: Prompt and thorough investigations, followed by appropriate prosecutions, are necessary to break the cycle of impunity.

The international community, including organizations like the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF), must continue to advocate for the protection of journalists and press freedom in Cameroon.

Media Censorship and Restrictions

Media censorship and restrictions are significant challenges faced by journalists in Cameroon. In September 2023, the Governor of the South-West Region suspended a newspaper indefinitely, citing alleged violations of professional norms.²⁸⁵ This incident highlights the government's restrictive media policies, which have been widely criticized.

Censorship and Self-Censorship

Journalists in Cameroon often engage in self-censorship, suppressing news and submitting to restrictions for fear of being brought before the courts or physically attacked.²⁸⁶ The government has also been known to censor media outlets, with the National Communication Council (NCC) suspending newspapers and radio stations for perceived violations.

Restrictive Laws and Decrees

In July 2024, a decree was issued in Cameroon, banning anyone who "dangerously insults" state institutions or officials from staying in the Mfoundi division, where the capital Yaoundé is situated.²⁸⁷ This decree has been criticized for stifling opposition and dissent ahead of the 2025 presidential elections.

²⁸⁵ <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/528267-CAMEROON-2023-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>

²⁸⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/23/decreed-cameroon-unjustifiably-censors-free-speech>

²⁸⁷ <https://www.irex.org/sites/default/files/pdf/media-sustainability-index-africa-2012-cameroon.pdf>

Government Crackdown on the Social Media

Social media platforms have become a battleground for competing narratives, with both separatist and government supporters using these channels to disseminate propaganda, recruit fighters, and incite violence. Online activism has helped to radicalize some individuals to take up arms, while also perpetuating a cycle of hate speech, misinformation, and incitement.

This phenomenon has created a complex and volatile situation, where the boundaries between online and offline activism have become increasingly blurred. As a result, the conflict has become more entrenched, with both sides digging in and refusing to compromise. This section explores the role of the Cameroon Anglophone diaspora and social media in the escalation and the other media used by the government of Cameroon. All these have led to the push factor in the creation of refugees and IDPs in the region.

Social Media and the Anglophone Conflict

Social media has played a significant role in fuelling the conflict, with diaspora groups using platforms to galvanize support for armed separatists²⁸⁸. Campaigns such as "Adopt a Freedom Fighter" and "Feed the Nchang Shoe Boys²⁸⁹" have been used to solicit financial donations. However, the spread of misinformation and hate speech on social media has also contributed to the escalation of violence.

The Cameroonian government's recognition of the internet and social media's influence led to a series of restrictive measures, including a three-month internet shutdown in January 2017²⁹⁰. This initial shutdown was followed by intermittent throttling and temporary shutdowns, resulting in over 230 days without internet access within a 14-month period²⁹¹.

²⁸⁸ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁸⁹ A campaign called "Feed the Nchang Shoe Boys" is used by separatist groups to solicit financial donations. The term refers to a group of fighters involved in the conflict

²⁹⁰ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁹¹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

This prolonged disruption earned Cameroon the distinction of having one of the longest internet shutdowns in Africa, alongside Chad²⁹².

The internet and social media have become a battleground for political rivalries, particularly between President Biya and opposition candidate Kamto²⁹³. Kamto draws significant support from the Bamiléké ethnic group in the West region, both within Cameroon and in the diaspora. However, these online exchanges have taken a concerning turn, with the spread of misinformation and extreme speech potentially fueling ethnic tensions and violence²⁹⁴.

In response to the rise of extreme speech, the Cameroonian government introduced a law in December 2019, criminalizing inflammatory language against ethnic groups²⁹⁵. This legislation complements the existing cybersecurity laws from 2010. Nevertheless, concerns have been raised about the impartial and effective application of this law, as well as the government's capacity to regulate social media. These recent measures underscore the significant role of social media and the Anglophone and Francophone diaspora in shaping national politics and conflict dynamics²⁹⁶. Furthermore, extreme speech circulated on social media has been identified as a key factor in the Mbororo case, as explored by Pelican and her co-authors²⁹⁷.

The Anglophone Diaspora and Social-Media Strategy in the Conflict

The Anglophone separatist movement in Cameroon initially faced significant challenges, including a lack of funding, foreign support, and arms, as well as limited grassroots support²⁹⁸. Despite these obstacles, the movement's online presence played a crucial role in its growth, with most of the fighting and activism taking place on the internet rather than on the ground²⁹⁹. However, the movement soon transcended the virtual space, producing offshoots on the ground and leading to an intricate connection between online and offline warfare.

²⁹² Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁹³ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁹⁴ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁹⁵ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁹⁶ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁹⁷ Pelican and co-authors

²⁹⁸ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

²⁹⁹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

The diaspora community of Anglophone Cameroonians living abroad has been instrumental in supporting the separatist movement, providing financial resources, coordinating communication, and lobbying for international political support³⁰⁰. Diasporic separatist leaders have established various communication platforms, including satellite TV channels, websites, and social media networks, to report on the crisis, inform public opinion, and guide militant interventions³⁰¹. Some larger militias have leaders based abroad, with whom they communicate via social media³⁰². While some militias initially relied on funding from the Anglophone diaspora, they have since resorted to coercing financial support from the civilian population and engaging in kidnapping for ransom³⁰³, achieving relative autonomy from their leadership abroad. Despite this, Cameroonians in the diaspora remain heavily involved in the conflict, with repeated charges of gun smuggling and conspiracy against diaspora Cameroonians in the US³⁰⁴.

The role of media in the Cameroonian conflict has been multifaceted, serving as a crucial tool for both the government and separatist forces to disseminate information, shape public opinion, and mobilize support.

Government Media Strategy

The Cameroonian government relies heavily on traditional mass media, including television, radio, and newspapers, to promote its narrative and downplay the conflict³⁰⁵. The government's control over the public media sector is a deliberate attempt to frame public opinion and suppress dissenting voices.

Separatist Forces' Media Strategy

In contrast, the Anglophone opposition has leveraged internet-based communication channels, such as satellite TV and social media platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp,

³⁰⁰ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

³⁰¹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

³⁰² Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

³⁰³ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

³⁰⁴ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

³⁰⁵ <https://waccglobal.org/media-and-conflict-in-cameroon-today/>

Twitter, and YouTube³⁰⁶. These platforms have enabled the separatists to disseminate information, organize protests, and solicit financial support from the diaspora³⁰⁷.

International Concerns and Calls to Action

The international community has expressed significant concern over the deteriorating media landscape in Cameroon³⁰⁸. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has documented numerous cases of violence, harassment, and censorship against journalists in Cameroon.

International Calls to Action

The CPJ, along with other organizations, has urged the Cameroonian government to take concrete steps to:

1. Protect journalists: Ensure the safety and security of journalists, particularly in conflict zones.
2. Investigate attacks: Promptly and thoroughly investigate attacks on journalists and hold perpetrators accountable.
3. Repeal restrictive laws: Reform or repeal laws that restrict freedom of expression and the press.
4. Promote media independence: Encourage a free and independent press, free from censorship and government interference.

The international community, including organizations like the United Nations, the African Union, and human rights groups, must continue to advocate for press freedom and the protection of journalists in Cameroon.

³⁰⁶ The Anglophone opposition in Cameroon has effectively utilized internet-based communication channels to further their cause. This includes leveraging satellite TV and various social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and YouTube.¹ These platforms have proven instrumental in enabling the separatists to:

- Disseminate information: Share updates and news about the conflict and their movement.
- Organize protests: Coordinate and mobilize supporters for demonstrations and rallies.
- Solicit financial support: Reach out to the diaspora community for funding and resources.

By harnessing the power of digital communication, the separatist forces have managed to amplify their message, garner support, and maintain a strong online presence.

³⁰⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

³⁰⁸ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

Activists/Human Rights Defenders

The situation for human rights defenders in Cameroon has become alarmingly precarious, especially since the socio-political crisis erupted in the Anglophone regions. They face:

Escalating Risks

1. Intimidation and attacks: Human rights defenders are increasingly vulnerable to intimidation and attacks, both physical and online.
2. Judicial harassment: Activists are often subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, and prosecution on trumped-up charges.
3. Excessive force and repression: Security forces have used excessive force to repress peaceful demonstrations, further restricting the space for civic engagement.

Impact on Human Rights

1. Restrictions on freedom of assembly: The government's repressive tactics have severely limited the ability of citizens to exercise their right to peaceful assembly.
2. Chilling effect on dissent: The persecution of human rights defenders has created a climate of fear, deterring others from speaking out against human rights abuses.
3. Erosion of trust: The government's actions have undermined trust in institutions, exacerbating the crisis and making it harder to find a peaceful resolution.

Here are some examples of lawyers and human rights activists being attacked or harassed by government forces in Cameroon related to the Anglophone conflict:

Lawyers

1. Agbor Balla: A prominent human rights lawyer, Agbor Balla was arrested in January 2017 and charged with terrorism and inciting civil unrest. He was later released but continues to face harassment.³⁰⁹

³⁰⁹ Front Line Defenders. (2017). Cameroon: Arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights lawyer Agbor Balla..

2. Felix Agbor Nkongho: A lawyer and human rights activist, Felix Agbor Nkongho was arrested in 2017 and charged with terrorism and inciting civil unrest. He was later released but fled the country due to continued harassment³¹⁰.

Human Rights Activists

1. Mancho Bibixy: A human rights activist and radio journalist, Mancho Bibixy was arrested in 2017 and charged with terrorism and inciting civil unrest. He was later released but continues to face harassment³¹¹.

2. Fontem Neba: A human rights activist, Fontem Neba was arrested in 2018 and charged with terrorism and inciting civil unrest. He was later released but continues to face harassment³¹².

Organizations

1. Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRNA): The CHRNA has reported several incidents of harassment and intimidation by government forces, including the arrest of its staff members³¹³.

2. Human Rights Watch: Human Rights Watch has documented several cases of human rights abuses, including the harassment and intimidation of human rights activists and lawyers, by government forces in Cameroon.

These examples illustrate the risks faced by lawyers and human rights activists in Cameroon who are advocating for human rights and justice in the context of the Anglophone conflict.

Threats and Violence

Human rights defenders, activists, academics, lawyers, and journalists who criticize the atrocities in the Anglophone regions' armed conflict face threats to their lives, arbitrary arrests, and legal intimidation. In July 2022, Amnesty International called on Cameroonian

³¹⁰ Human Rights Watch. (2017). Cameroon: Free Human Rights Defenders.

³¹¹ Amnesty International. (2017). Cameroon: Human rights defenders arrested and charged with terrorism.

³¹² Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRNA). (2018). Cameroon: CHRNA condemns the arrest and detention of human rights activist Fontem Neba.

³¹³ International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). (2018). Cameroon: FIDH condemns the harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders.

authorities to ensure the safety of human rights defenders, highlighting reports of activists facing death threats while documenting abuses in the North-West and South-West regions³¹⁴.

Judicial Harassment

Judicial harassment is a tactic used to silence human rights defenders in Cameroon, particularly those involved in the Anglophone conflict. Here are some examples:

- Members of the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUA): Faced judicial harassment based on a complaint lodged by a local influential landowner.³¹⁵
- Anglophone leaders: Were arrested and charged with terrorism and inciting civil unrest in 2017, including Agbor Balla and Felix Agbor Nkongho.
- Mancho Bibixy: A journalist and human rights activist, was arrested and charged with terrorism and inciting civil unrest in 2017.
- Fontem Neba: A human rights activist, faced judicial harassment and was arrested multiple times for his work documenting human rights abuses in the Anglophone regions.

These examples illustrate the government's use of judicial harassment to silence critics and human rights defenders in the Anglophone conflict.

Arbitrary Detention

Abdul Karim Ali, a prominent human rights defender in Cameroon, was arrested on August 11, 2022, without a warrant or formal charges. He was detained in the North-West region for six months, with his detention being extended multiple times.³¹⁶

Ali's arrest was reportedly linked to a video he posted on social media, denouncing the use of torture by a Cameroonian military officer in the south-west region.³¹⁷ He was repeatedly interrogated about the video and his activism for peace.

³¹⁴ Amnesty International. (2022). Cameroon: Authorities must investigate attacks on opposition party members.

³¹⁵ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

³¹⁶ <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/arbitrary-arrest-and-continued-detention-human-rights-defender-abdul-karim-ali>

³¹⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/activist-held-arbitrarily-200-days>

During his detention, Ali was held in inhumane conditions, including being kept in a six-square-meter cell without windows, toilet, or mattress, and being deprived of food and water for several days.³¹⁸

Ali's case is not isolated, as many human rights defenders and activists in Cameroon face arbitrary detention, harassment, and intimidation. Amnesty International and other human rights organizations have called for Ali's release and for the Cameroonian authorities to respect his right to freedom of expression.³¹⁹

Mass Detention and Torture

Mass detention and torture are alarming issues in Cameroon, particularly in the Anglophone regions. As of January 2022, Amnesty International reported that over 100 people from these regions and the opposition MRC were imprisoned for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Some of these individuals faced torture and other ill-treatment.³²⁰

A group of nearly 50 people were sentenced by military courts on December 27, 2021, for "insurrection," "rebellion," and "endangering state security." At least 107 supporters and members of the MRC remained in detention as of January 15, 2022.

Reports and Statistics:

- The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders reported multiple violations of human rights defenders' rights and freedoms across Africa, including in Cameroon.
- The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) expressed concerns over the situation of human rights defenders in Cameroon.

The Cameroonian government's actions have been widely criticized by human rights organizations. The use of torture and incommunicado detention is a clear violation of international human rights law.

³¹⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/activist-held-arbitrarily-200-days>

³¹⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/12/cameroon-amnesty-international-urges-release-of-abdul-karim-ali-a-peace-activist-detained-without-charge-for-more-than-four-months/>

³²⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/06/cameroon-routine-torture-incommunicado-detention>

Civil Society Organisations Clampdown

This report will provide brief historical facts on how the government of Cameroon has been habitual in clamping down on CSOs before getting into the CSOs restrictions in this conflict.

The postcolonial era in Cameroon can be divided into two distinct periods: the first Republic under President Amadou Ahidjo (1960-1982) and the second Republic under President Paul Biya (1982-present)³²¹. During Ahidjo's era, the concept of civil society was referred to as the "voluntary sector," comprising mainly religious denominations and agricultural work parties³²². These organizations were encouraged and supported by the state to provide economic and socio-cultural services. However, political parties and civic organizations were consolidated into a single party structure, the Cameroon National Union, forming a centralized one-party state. As a result, the role of civil society in Cameroon's first Republic was limited to socio-cultural and minor economic issues. This trend continued into the second Republic until the 1990s, when political pluralism was formally adopted in 1990³²³.

Key characteristics of civil society during these periods include:

- Restrictive political environment: Civil society organizations were restricted from participating in political activities, and political parties were forced into a single-party structure³²⁴.
- Limited economic role: Civil society organizations were mainly involved in minor economic activities, such as agricultural work parties³²⁵.
- Socio-cultural focus: Civil society organizations played a significant role in providing socio-cultural services, such as education and healthcare³²⁶.

³²¹ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

³²² James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³²³ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³²⁴ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³²⁵ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³²⁶ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

The adoption of political pluralism in 1990 marked a significant shift in the role of civil society in Cameroon, paving the way for greater political participation and activism. The post-1990 period marked a significant turning point in Cameroon's voluntary sector. As noted by Ngam Nkwi, religious groups and associations became increasingly vibrant and vocal, expanding their focus beyond socio-cultural and economic issues to advocate for political change³²⁷. This shift was characterized by "civilian group militancy" for freedom, justice, and good governance, as individuals, students, and organizations sought to address the country's economic, social, and political challenges. In response to growing pressure, the government enacted Law No. 90/053 on freedom of association in December 1990, repealing the 1967 labor code. This milestone legislation ushered in a new era for civil society in Cameroon, with over 3,000 associations emerging in the country³²⁸.

These associations comprise both registered and non-registered groups, including:

- Registered Associations: NGOs, trade unions, cooperative movements, common initiative groups, private media, churches, professional associations, development associations, student associations, and feminist organizations.
- Non-Registered Groups: Separatist movements, religious fundamentalist groups, ethnic movements, and secret societies.
- Collectively, these civil society organizations (CSOs) engage in various aspects of life in Cameroon, spanning:
 - Social: Advocating for human rights, social justice, and community development.
 - Religious: Promoting interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and cooperation.
 - Cultural: Preserving and promoting Cameroon's rich cultural heritage.
 - Economic: Supporting economic development, entrepreneurship, and job creation.
 - Political: Advocating for good governance, democracy, and political participation.

³²⁷ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³²⁸ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

Overall, the post-1990 period has seen a significant transformation in Cameroon's voluntary sector, with CSOs playing an increasingly important role in shaping the country's social, economic, and political landscape.

Cameroon's civic space has undergone significant transformations since the 1990s. Initially, the country experienced a surge in civil society organizations (CSOs) following the introduction of Law No. 90/053 on Freedom of Association in December 1990³²⁹. This legislation granted individuals and groups the right to create associations, promoting a sense of optimism and freedom. However, this optimism was short-lived. The government's attitude towards CSOs shifted to one of caution and repression, as noted by Nyambo (2008)³³⁰. While Law No. 90/053 granted rights and freedoms, it also imposed restrictions, such as prohibiting CSOs from receiving subventions, gifts, or donations, except for public utility associations³³¹. The state's wide-ranging powers to dissolve CSOs deemed threatening to national security, integrity, and unity have further limited the civic space. This has resulted in a restrictive environment for CSOs, particularly those involved in discussions on the form of the state, a contentious issue in the ongoing Cameroon 'Anglophone' crisis. The government's crackdown on CSOs has been evident in various instances. For example, on January 17, 2017, the Ministry of Territorial Administration banned the activities of the Southern Cameroon National Council (SCNC) and the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium (CACSC)³³². The government arrested and imprisoned CACSC leaders, forcing others to flee the country. These actions have contributed to a shrinking civic space in Cameroon, characterized by sustained military crackdowns on protests and demonstrations. The country's CSOs continue to face significant challenges in operating within this restrictive environment.

Despite the resurgence of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Cameroon in the early 1990s, the civic space has remained limited, particularly for organizations engaging in political

³²⁹ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³³⁰ Nyambo (2008)

³³¹ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³³² James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

activities. The registration of numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) did not translate to increased freedom, as the government has continued to restrict civic space, especially since the escalation of the Anglophone crisis in 2016³³³. The clampdown on CSO activities has been severe, with the banning of the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium (CACSC) in January 2017 being a notable example. The government's perception of any conflict resolution efforts as a threat to its interests or even terrorism has further stifled civic space. This limitation was evident in the government's obstruction of the Anglophone General Conference initiative led by religious leaders in 2018

Key Restrictions on Civic Space:

- **Banning of CSOs:** The government has banned several CSOs, including the CACSC, limiting their ability to operate.
- **Restrictions on Funding:** CSOs face challenges in accessing funding, as the government has imposed restrictions on donations and grants.
- **Intimidation and Harassment:** CSO leaders and activists have faced intimidation, harassment, and arrest, creating a climate of fear.

Despite these challenges, local CSOs in the Anglophone regions have continued to respond to the conflict and its adverse effects on local populations, demonstrating resilience and determination³³⁴.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in conflict situations, contributing to peacebuilding and conflict resolution in various ways. Key areas of contribution include:

1. **Mediation and Facilitation of Dialogue:** CSOs facilitate communication and negotiation between conflicting parties, promoting peaceful resolution.
2. **Information and Citizen Education:** CSOs disseminate information, educate citizens, and raise awareness about conflict issues, promoting informed decision-making.

³³³ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³³⁴ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

3. Participation in Local Security Governance: CSOs engage citizens in local security governance, fostering community-led initiatives and early warning mechanisms.
4. Advancement of Positive Societal Values: CSOs promote positive values, such as tolerance, inclusivity, and social cohesion, to counter conflict-driven narratives.
5. Organization of Associations for Economic and Social Development: CSOs support economic and social development initiatives, addressing underlying conflict drivers.

Despite the challenges posed by the banning of the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium (CACSC) in January 2017, many CSOs in the Anglophone regions have continued to engage in peaceful conflict resolution efforts³³⁵. This report examines the role of CSOs in five interrelated areas:

1. Humanitarian Relief: Providing essential services and support to affected communities.
2. Peace Campaigns: Organizing initiatives to promote peace, tolerance, and social cohesion.
3. Documentation of Human Rights Violations: Recording and reporting human rights abuses to promote accountability.
4. Trauma Healing: Supporting survivors of conflict-related trauma through counselling and psychosocial services.
5. Peace Education: Promoting peace education and conflict resolution skills among communities.

Challenges faced by CSOs

Cameroon's civil society organizations (CSOs) have faced significant challenges, even before the escalation of conflict between security forces and the Ambaznia fighters³³⁶. Since the mass protests in 2016, CSOs have encountered various obstacles, including:

- **Restrictions on Access to Income:** Limitations on funding have hindered CSOs' ability to operate effectively.

³³⁵ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³³⁶ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

- **Intimidation and Physical Attacks:** CSOs have faced threats, intimidation, and physical attacks, creating a hostile environment for their work.
- **Administrative Restrictions and Manipulation:** CSOs have encountered administrative hurdles, including manipulation of regulations, which have limited their ability to function.
- **Security Threats and Attacks:** CSOs have faced security threats and attacks on their properties and personnel, further restricting their activities.
- **Financial Challenges:** Insufficient funding has posed significant challenges for CSOs, affecting their sustainability and effectiveness.

Additionally, CSO representatives have identified internal challenges within the NGO sector, including³³⁷:

- **Limited Capacity:** CSOs often lack the necessary resources, training, and equipment to effectively monitor and evaluate their projects.
- **Access to Information:** CSOs face difficulties in accessing reliable information, hindering their ability to make informed decisions and hold authorities accountable.

These challenges have persisted and intensified over time, underscoring the need for support and empowerment of CSOs in Cameroon³³⁸.

Restrictions on Civil Society

The impact of civil society in Cameroon is weak, with many NGOs dependent on foreign aid and some coopted by the government. Anglophone activists face harassment, violence, and arrests. The government has placed restrictions on the activities of international NGOs, including medical operations like Doctors Without Borders.

Statistics and Reports

- At least 13 journalists were arrested or detained in Cameroon in 2022, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)³³⁹.

³³⁷ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³³⁸ James Kiven Kewir, et al. (2021) "Shrinking Civic Space and the Role of Civil Society in Resolution of Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon"

³³⁹ Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). (2022). Cameroon

- Cameroon ranks 118th out of 180 countries in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters sans frontières (RSF)³⁴⁰.
- The USDOS reports that there were over 100 cases of violence against journalists in Cameroon between 2016 and 2022³⁴¹.
- Freedom House reports that the Cameroonian government has restricted the activities of international NGOs, including medical operations like Doctors Without Borders³⁴².

These reports and statistics highlight the challenges faced by civil society, journalists, and human rights defenders in Cameroon, including:

- Restrictions on freedom of expression and association
- Harassment, violence, and arrests of Anglophone activists
- Restrictions on international NGOs, including medical operations
- Limited space for civil society to operate independently

Examples of documented incidents

The situation for human rights defenders in Cameroon has become increasingly dire, particularly since the onset of the socio-political crisis in the Anglophone regions.

Death Threats and Intimidation

Felix Agbor Nkongho, a human rights lawyer and advocate for the Anglophone minority in Cameroon, faced death threats in November 2021. He received multiple threats on social media and via WhatsApp, with one message calling for his killing should he be seen in the cities of Buea or Kumba.³⁴³

Similarly, Akem Kelvin Nkwain, a human rights officer at the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRDA), received death threats in June 2022. He was threatened via phone calls and messages containing images of violence from the Fako Mountain Lions armed group.

³⁴⁰ Reporters sans frontières (RSF). (2022). 2022 World Press Freedom Index.

³⁴¹ US Department of State (USDOS). (2022). 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cameroon.

³⁴² Freedom House. (2022). Freedom in the World 2022: Cameroon.

³⁴³ <https://www.omct.org/en/resources/urgent-interventions/cameroon-death-threats-against-felix-agbor-nkongho>

These incidents are part of a larger pattern of intimidation and harassment against human rights defenders in Cameroon, particularly those advocating for the rights of the Anglophone minority. The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders has condemned these threats and called on the Cameroonian authorities to guarantee the physical integrity and psychological well-being of Felix Agbor Nkongho and all human rights defenders in Cameroon.

International Concerns

Human rights organizations have expressed concerns about the restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom in Cameroon. The US Department of State's 2023 Human Rights Report highlighted substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, as well as restrictions on freedom of movement.³⁴⁴

Statistics and Reports

Here are some key statistics and reports on the crisis in Cameroon:

- Refugee Crisis: Nearly 280,300 Anglophone Cameroonian refugees have fled to Nigeria due to the conflict.³⁴⁵
- Violence Against Education: At least 13 violent incidents against educational establishments were reported in the North-West and South-West regions between January and July 2022.
- Arbitrary Detention: The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has stated that the detention of anglophone journalist Thomas Awah Junior was arbitrary³⁴⁶.
- Press Freedom: Freedom House reports that Cameroon's press freedom score is 44/100, indicating a "partly free" press environment.
- Human Rights Abuses: Human Rights Watch reported that government forces and armed separatist groups committed human rights abuses, including unlawful killings, across Cameroon's Anglophone regions and in the Far North region in 2022.³⁴⁷

³⁴⁴ <https://cpj.org/2024/10/cameroon-ratchets-up-media-censorship-ahead-of-2025-election/>

³⁴⁵ Raw Data from our research

³⁴⁶ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

³⁴⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/cameroon>

- Displacement: As of August 2022, from our study, 1,2 million people were internally displaced, and at least 2 million people needed humanitarian aid in the North-West and South-West regions.

Due Process and Fair Trial Guarantees

The situation in Cameroon is indeed alarming, with widespread reports of arbitrary arrests, detentions, and trials before military tribunals, all of which violate international human rights standards.³⁴⁸ Hundreds of people have been held and prosecuted without judicial review, leading to prolonged imprisonment.

Key Concerns:

- Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions: Individuals accused of having connections with Ambazonia armed groups have been arrested and detained without due process. This is a clear violation of their right to a fair trial.
- Military Tribunals: Trials have been held before military tribunals, which should only have jurisdiction over military offenses, not civilian cases. This lack of distinction between military and civilian cases undermines the rule of law and perpetuates human rights abuses.
- Lack of Transparency and Impunity: The government's investigations into atrocities committed by Ambazonia armed and security forces lack transparency, leading to fears of impunity and denying victims justice. This lack of accountability perpetuates a culture of violence and undermines trust in the government.

These actions undermine the fundamental right to a fair trial, which includes the presumption of innocence, equality of arms, and the right to an independent and impartial tribunal. The international community must urge the Cameroonian government to uphold these rights and ensure that all individuals are treated fairly and humanely.

The 2022 Human Rights Watch annual report sheds light on Cameroon's ongoing struggle for justice and accountability, highlighting several disturbing cases. One notable example is the trial of three security force members implicated in the deaths of 21 civilians in Ngarbuh village,

³⁴⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/07/cameroon-rampant-atrocities-amid-anglophone-regions-must-be-stopped/>

North-West region. Despite eight court hearings between January and August 2022, the trial has been dragging on for 21 months with no arrests or charges against senior officers potentially responsible.³⁴⁹

Another incident in June 2022 saw an army spokesperson acknowledge the military's role in killing nine individuals in Missong village, North-West region. Although four soldiers were arrested, and an investigation was initiated, there has been no progress as of September 2022. Furthermore, in September 2022, the Ministry of Defense admitted responsibility for the deaths of two civilians in Momo division, North-West region, stating that members of the Defence and Security Forces acted in violation of instructions.

These incidents underscore the need for greater accountability and transparency within Cameroon's security forces. The lack of progress in these investigations and trials poses significant challenges for victims' families and the broader community seeking justice. Effective security sector governance, including oversight and accountability mechanisms, is crucial to preventing human rights abuses and promoting transparency.³⁵⁰

Restrictions on Fundamental Rights

- Freedom of Expression: Journalists and media outlets face censorship, harassment, and violence, with the government using anti-terrorism laws to silence critics and restrict independent reporting.³⁵¹
- Freedom of Assembly: Protests and public gatherings are often met with excessive force by security forces, resulting in arrests, injuries, and even deaths.
- Freedom of Association: Civil society organizations and opposition groups operate under significant constraints, with the government imposing restrictions on their activities, limiting their ability to organize and advocate for change.

International Response

³⁴⁹ <https://archive.thinkprogress.org/us-cuts-military-aid-cameroon-human-rights-032f7fa4a6ef/>

³⁵⁰ <https://africacenter.org/publication/asb42en-oversight-accountability-security-sector-governance/>

³⁵¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/cameroon>

The international community has expressed concern over Cameroon's human rights record, with the United Nations and other organizations calling on the government to respect the rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association. In its 2022 report, Human Rights Watch noted that Cameroon's government has failed to investigate and prosecute security forces responsible for human rights abuses, creating a culture of impunity.³⁵²

Treatment of Political Activists and Opposition Members

The treatment of political activists and opposition members in Cameroon is indeed a pressing concern. The government has been accused of targeting individuals and groups perceived as threats to its authority, resulting in severe repression. Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions are common, with many political activists and opposition members being arrested and detained without due process. Some are held incommunicado, while others face torture and ill-treatment while in custody.³⁵³

For instance, in September 2020, Cameroonian security forces arrested hundreds of people, mainly opposition party members and supporters, during peaceful protests across the country. Harassment and Intimidation are also widespread, with activists and opposition members being subjected to harassment, threats, and violence. Security forces and pro-government groups have been implicated in these actions.

The judiciary is often used as a tool to persecute political opponents, with trials frequently marred by irregularities and sentences being harsh, aimed at deterring dissent. In October 2020, the communications minister in Cameroon dismissed a statement by UN human rights experts calling for the release of opposition leader Maurice Kamto and others arrested during peaceful protests, labeling it "partial and biased".

International organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, have condemned these actions and called for an end to the violence

³⁵² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cameroons-human-rights-record-be-examined-universal-periodic-review>

³⁵³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/08/27/cameroon-disappeared-activist-resurfaces-marks-torture>

and repression. The Denis Hurley Peace Institute has also advocated for dialogue rather than military solutions to address the crisis.

More recently, in August 2024, social media activist Ramon Cotta was forcibly disappeared and apparently tortured by Cameroonian authorities.³⁵⁴ His lawyers reported that he was held incommunicado, subjected to severe beatings, and suffered serious eye issues due to exposure to bright lights.

Testimonials from Victims

The personal stories of Cameroonian refugees and asylum seekers reveal the immense challenges they face and their remarkable resilience. Two case studies, Esther's and Pierre's, highlight the dangers of deportation and the need for robust protection mechanisms.

Case Studies

Esther's Story

Esther (not her real names to protect her identity), a Cameroonian woman, was deported from the United States in October 2020³⁵⁵. Upon her return, she was arrested, detained, raped, and tortured by Cameroonian authorities. Her experience underscores the risks faced by deported asylum seekers and the importance of ensuring their safety.

Pierre's Story

Pierre (not his real names to protect him identity), another Cameroonian asylum seeker, was deported from the United States in 2020³⁵⁶. He was detained and tortured by the Cameroonian military upon his return. His story emphasizes the risks of refoulement and the need for adherence to international protection standards.

Testimonies from Refugees in Nigeria

Many Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria have shared their struggles with:

³⁵⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/19/cameroon-opposition-leaders-supporters-detained>

³⁵⁵ Human Rights Watch. (2020). "They're Killing Us": Abuses Against Civilians in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions."

³⁵⁶ Human Rights Watch. (2020). "They're Killing Us": Abuses Against Civilians in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions.

1. **Inadequate living conditions:** Refugees face challenges in accessing basic necessities like shelter, water, and sanitation³⁵⁷.
2. **Food insecurity:** Refugees often struggle to access nutritious food, leading to malnutrition and related health issues³⁵⁸.
3. **Limited access to education and healthcare:** Refugees face barriers in accessing quality education and healthcare services³⁵⁹.

Despite these challenges, refugees remain hopeful and resilient, relying on community support and international assistance.

Conclusion

The experiences of Cameroonian refugees and asylum seekers underscore the urgent need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts to protect and support them. International cooperation, adherence to legal frameworks, and the provision of adequate resources are essential to address their needs and uphold their rights.

B : Separatists Fighter's Suspected Human Rights violations – A Push factor for Refugees and IDPs

The Ambazonian fighters in Cameroon, commonly referred to as "Amba boys," have a distinctly different perspective on the conflict. They perceive themselves as freedom fighters, dedicated to defending the territory and population of an independent Ambazonia against the perceived intrusion of the Francophone-dominated government, which they derogatorily refer to as "la République"³⁶⁰.

The separatist movement draws its support primarily from disillusioned Anglophone youths, many of whom have suffered personal losses due to violent military interventions³⁶¹. These individuals feel marginalized and disenfranchised by the Biya regime and are disillusioned

³⁵⁷ <https://libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/rwanda-extends-agreement-receive-african-refugees-stranded-libya>

³⁵⁸ <https://libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/rwanda-extends-agreement-receive-african-refugees-stranded-libya>

³⁵⁹ <https://libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/rwanda-extends-agreement-receive-african-refugees-stranded-libya>

³⁶⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

³⁶¹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

with the lack of opportunities in the formal labour market, which is dominated by Francophones.

Despite their significant presence in the conflict, the organizational structures of the separatist forces remain somewhat opaque. However, researchers such as Willis and independent journalist Emmanuel Freudenthal have provided some insight into their operations³⁶². Freudenthal's firsthand account of spending a week with the Ambazonia Defense Force (ADF) in 2018 offers a unique perspective on the movement's dynamics.

The International Crisis Group reported that in 2019, there were seven major armed militias in Cameroon, with an estimated 2,000 to 4,000 combatants, alongside 20 smaller groups operating locally³⁶³. These militias employed various strategies to disrupt the government's control, including:

- **Targeting Symbols of the State:** Closing government schools, which they viewed as symbols of the Francophone state.
- **Disrupting Public Life:** Imposing lockdowns to disrupt daily activities.
- **Attacking State Agents:** Targeting state agents and combating security forces.
- **Punishing Collaborators:** Punishing individuals suspected of collaborating with the government, referred to as "blacklegs."
- **Kidnapping for Ransom:** Engaging in kidnapping for ransom, targeting traditional rulers, middle-class Anglophones, and Mbororo graziers.

These developments have transformed the Anglophone conflict into a "market of violence," where separatist leaders act as warlords, using violence to sustain themselves economically³⁶⁴. Notably, separatist militias have been responsible for several atrocities, including attacks on schools, such as the Kumba school massacre in October 2020, which resulted in the deaths of seven students and injured 13 others.

³⁶² Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

³⁶³ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

³⁶⁴ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

Unlawful killings and violence against civilians

Throughout the conflict, human rights organizations and international media have corroborated that certain separatist groups have been responsible for attacking both military and civilian targets. Moreover, credible reports indicate that extremist secessionist elements have committed murders of civilians, specifically targeting those suspected of collaborating with the government, violating separatist-imposed strikes or school closures, or speaking out against separatist policies or actions.³⁶⁵

Separatist fighters have employed a disturbing tactic: targeting teachers and schools. Apparently, one strategy of these extremist groups is to forcibly shut down local schools, aiming to prevent Anglophone children from learning French. Multiple militia groups have decreed that schools must remain closed, enforcing this edict through violence and intimidation.

Amnesty International documented that between February 2017 and May 2018, at least 42 schools in the Anglophone regions were attacked by extremist separatists. The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa has noted that such attacks have become a routine tactic to enforce the separatist-imposed education boycott.³⁶⁶

Secessionist fighters have extended their attacks beyond schools, targeting both government and locally owned businesses. They demand strict adherence to boycotts and strikes, coercing businesses in certain areas to shut down. Human Rights Watch documented that in 2018, these extremists used machetes to assault government workers and local businessmen who defied the boycott.³⁶⁷

Arson Attack

³⁶⁵ Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa 'Cameroon's Unfolding Catastrophe: Evidence of Human Rights Violations and Crimes against Humanity.' (June 3rd 2019)
<https://chrda.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/06/Camerootons-Unfolding-Catastrophe-CHRNA-RWCHR-2019.pdf>
 (Last Accessed October 16th 2019) p.35-37.

³⁶⁶ Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017)
<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

³⁶⁷ Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017)
<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

Separatist fighters have frequently targeted schools perceived to be breaking the boycott with arson attacks aimed at preventing them from being used to educate students.³⁶⁸ Amnesty International has gathered data that suggested that between February 2017 and May 2018, 36 schools were targeted by arson attack³⁶⁹

Kidnappings

Since the onset of the armed conflict in 2017, kidnapping has been a recurring tactic employed by secessionist militias. According to Human Rights Watch, which compiled media reports, at least 350 people have been kidnapped and held for ransom by separatist militias since October 2018. Alarming, many of the victims were school children.³⁷⁰

Kidnapping appears to be used by some as a means to coerce local communities into complying with the secessionist-led education boycott, specifically to keep schools closed. In November 2018, secessionist militants kidnapped at least 79 students and several staff members in Bamenda. This incident was followed by another in February 2019, where alleged secessionist militants abducted 170 students in Kumbo³⁷¹.

The kidnappings are not confined to students and educators. Fighting groups have also reportedly targeted and abducted employees of state-owned businesses and foreign workers, expanding the scope of their kidnapping campaign³⁷².

In addition to the kidnappings, numerous reports have surfaced indicating that militant elements often subject their captives to further abuse, including verbal mistreatment, physical assault, theft, and torture while in detention³⁷³.

³⁶⁸ Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017) <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

³⁶⁹ Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017) <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

³⁷⁰ Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017) <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

³⁷¹ Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017) <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

³⁷² Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017) <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

³⁷³ Amnesty International 'A turn for the worse: Violence and Human rights abuses in Cameroon.' (2017) <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR1784812018ENGLISH.PDF> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

Right to education and child welfare abuses by Separatist fighters

Separatist Fighters' attacks on schools and teachers have been a disturbing aspect of the conflict. Some analysts suggest that this tactic is deliberately designed to escalate tensions, aiming to coerce the government into withdrawing from the conflict while simultaneously intimidating and pressuring local communities into supporting extremist ideologies.³⁷⁴

The campaign against education has severely impacted children in the conflict zone. According to UNICEF, the militia-backed ban on education has resulted in school closures affecting approximately 700,000 children in the Anglophone regions³⁷⁵. Furthermore, the report estimates that over 80% of schools in these regions have been forced to close due to the conflict. Alarming, the increased vulnerability of children has led to reports of secessionist militias recruiting child soldiers, primarily from among boys who are out of school due to the widespread closures³⁷⁶.

Abuses by Ambazonia Armed Groups

- Abductions and Ransom Demands: People are kidnapped and held for ransom to fund separatist operations. In one incident, separatist fighters kidnapped four humanitarian workers and held them overnight³⁷⁷.
- Killings and Cattle Rustling: Those accused of collaborating with the government or not complying with separatist rules are killed, and cattle are stolen. A physics teacher was shot dead in front of his children for refusing to stop teaching.

The conflict has resulted in significant displacement, with over 160,000 refugees in Nigeria and thousands more internally displaced. The international community has urged the Cameroonian government to engage in dialogue with separatist leaders and to investigate the atrocities committed by both sides.

³⁷⁴ Human Rights Watch '“These Killings can be stopped” Government and Separatists human rights abuses in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions.' (2018)

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/cameroon0718_web2.pdf (Last Accessed October 16th 2019)

³⁷⁵ United Nations News 'Over 80 per cent of schools in anglophone Cameroon shut down, as conflict worsens.' (21st June 2019) <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1041071> (Last Accessed 16th October 2019).

³⁷⁶ U.S. Department of State 'Cameroon 2018 Human Rights Report.' (March 18th 2019)

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Cameroon-2018.pdf> (Last Accessed October 16th 2019).

³⁷⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/cameroon-new-abuses-both-sides>

Alleged abuses by government forces against civilians in Cameroon's North-West and South-West Regions have been ongoing since 2021. Reports from the UN Security Council have consistently documented human rights violations, including killings, arbitrary arrests, detentions, and property destruction.

Key Findings:

- **Abuses by Separatist Groups:** Anglophone separatists have also been accused of extorting, kidnapping, and killing civilians, as well as preventing children from attending school³⁷⁸.
- **Intensified Crackdowns:** State security forces have intensified crackdowns on anyone suspected of being a separatist fighter or having links with them, leading to further human rights abuses³⁷⁹.

The international community has been urged to take action, with calls for an independent investigation into the atrocities and for the Cameroonian government to engage in dialogue with separatist leaders.

- **Killings and Abductions:** Armed groups allegedly targeted individuals suspected of cooperating with state security forces, leading to killings and abductions.
- **Forced Lockdowns:** Amazonian armed-groups imposed lockdowns, restricting movement and access to basic services.
- **Destruction of Property:** There were reports of property destruction, including the burning of vehicles.

The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRNA) also reported that Ambazonia armed groups escalated their attacks against individuals believed to be cooperating with state security forces between July and September 2023.

Examples of incidents

The Anglophone crisis in Cameroon has been marked by numerous incidents of violence and human rights abuses. Here are some examples:

³⁷⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/cameroon-new-abuses-both-sides>

³⁷⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/cameroon-new-abuses-both-sides>

1. **Attack on Prison Officials:** On April 12, 2022, an armed separatist group attacked a vehicle in Takija Kikaikelaki, near Kumbo in the North-West Region, killing four prison officials³⁸⁰.
2. **Bus Ambush:** On September 6, 2022, suspected separatists fired on a public bus from Douala in the Muyuka subdivision of the South-West Region, killing six passengers³⁸¹.
3. **Abduction and Forced Recruitment:** On January 13, 2022, armed separatists abducted 10 workers from the Cameroon Development Corporation Likomba rubber estate in Tiko, South-West Region³⁸². The captors handed weapons to the workers, urging them to join in fighting the military, and the workers remained in captivity for several weeks.
4. **Ambush on Divisional Officer:** In March 2022, suspected separatists ambushed and killed Timothee Aboloa, the divisional officer of Ekondo-Titi in the South-West Region, detonating at least four improvised explosive devices (IEDs) before opening fire on the vehicle, resulting in the death of the officer and at least six others³⁸³.
5. **Decapitation of Police Officers:** In June 2022, armed separatists ambushed and decapitated two police officers in Mbuene, a village in the North-West Region, in a counterattack following a defense forces operation in search of separatist fighters in the same village³⁸⁴.

These incidents demonstrate the complexity and brutality of the conflict in Cameroon's Anglophone regions.

Conclusion

In the submissions in this report above, the situation in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon has led to a devastating humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of children denied their right to education and exposed to unimaginable violence. The conflict has resulted in widespread human rights abuses, including kidnappings, torture, and forced recruitment of child soldiers.

³⁸⁰ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation

³⁸¹ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation

³⁸² ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation

³⁸³ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation

³⁸⁴ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation

As a result, many have been forced to flee their homes, seeking safety and protection in other countries. These refugees, scattered across the globe, deserve compassion, dignity, and protection from their host countries.

It is imperative that governments around the world recognize the gravity of this crisis and provide a safe haven for those fleeing persecution and violence. This includes ensuring access to basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare, as well as psychological support to address the trauma they have endured.

Moreover, host countries must ensure that refugees are treated with dignity and respect, and that their rights are protected under international law. This includes the right to seek asylum, the right to education, and the right to be free from discrimination and persecution.

As a global community, it is a moral obligation to act with compassion and solidarity towards those who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and violence. The international community must work in collaboration to provide protection, support, and hope to these refugees, and to help them rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

Abuses of the Third Force in the Conflict – Push factor for Refugees creation

Reports have emerged from local news sources and humanitarian activists on the ground, albeit mostly anonymously, suggesting that elements within the Cameroonian government have created or sponsored armed groups to masquerade as Ambazonian fighters.³⁸⁵ This tactic appears to be part of a broader counter-insurgency strategy aimed at undermining the legitimacy of Ambazonian fighting groups. For instance, an article by Cameroon Cord reported on the "Atanga Nji Boys"³⁸⁶ killing a Thermal Centre worker in Bamenda. Similarly, other sources have documented cases of government-sponsored militias committing atrocities,

³⁸⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

³⁸⁶ The "Atanga Nji Boys" are an armed group allegedly sponsored by the Cameroonian government, specifically linked to the country's Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji.¹ They have been accused of committing atrocities and human rights abuses, often disguising themselves as Ambazonian separatist fighters to undermine the legitimacy of the separatist movement. This tactic is reportedly part of a broader counter-insurgency strategy employed by the Cameroonian government to quell dissent and opposition in the Anglophone regions.

making it challenging to distinguish their actions from those of the Ambazonian fighters.³⁸⁷ This phenomenon is not new, as the Cameroonian government has historically employed similar tactics to quell dissent and opposition. The use of proxy militias has significant humanitarian and human rights implications, contributing to escalating violence, human rights abuses, and displacement.

The following section will delve into the dynamics of this counter-insurgency strategy, its implications, and the necessary steps for the international community to address the crisis in Cameroon. The government of Cameroon responded to the emergence of legitimate Ambazonian fighting groups by developing a counter-insurgency strategy. This involved creating proxy militias designed to mimic the activities of Ambazonian fighters, with the intention of discrediting and undermining their efforts. These government-sponsored militias have been implicated in numerous atrocities, making it challenging to distinguish their actions from those of the Ambazonian fighters. This tactic is consistent with a broader pattern of government-sponsored proxy violence, which has been documented in various conflict zones. By creating and supporting these militias, the government of Cameroon aims to:

- 1) Undermine the legitimacy of Ambazonian fighting groups, portraying them as responsible for human rights abuses and atrocities committed by the proxy militias.
- 2) Create confusion and uncertainty, making it difficult for external actors, including humanitarian organizations and international observers, to accurately attribute responsibility for human rights abuses.
- 3) Divide and weaken the Ambazonian movement, fostering infighting and mistrust among different factions.

The use of proxy militias by the government of Cameroon has significant humanitarian and human rights implications. It has contributed to:

- 1) Escalating violence, as these militias often engage in indiscriminate attacks against civilians and rival groups.
- 2) Human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances.

³⁸⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

- 3) Displacement and humanitarian crises, as civilians are forced to flee their homes due to the violence and instability created by these militias.

The international community must be aware of these dynamics and take a nuanced approach to addressing the crisis in Cameroon. This includes:

- 1) Supporting independent investigations into human rights abuses and atrocities committed by all parties involved.
- 2) Promoting inclusive dialogue, engaging with representatives from all factions and communities to address the root causes of the conflict.
- 3) Providing humanitarian assistance, prioritizing the needs of civilians affected by the conflict and ensuring that aid is delivered in a neutral and impartial manner.

Conclusion

As this report reflect on the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon, it's essential to acknowledge the immense human suffering and injustice that has been perpetrated against innocent civilians³⁸⁸. The use of proxy militias by the government has created a complex web of violence, confusion, and fear, making it challenging to distinguish between the actions of Ambazonian fighters and those of government-sponsored militias. It's heartbreaking to think of the countless lives lost, families displaced, and communities torn apart by this conflict. The international community must recognize the urgency of this situation and take decisive action to address the root causes of the conflict.

This report urges the prioritization of the protection of human rights, the promotion of inclusive dialogue, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict. It's crucial that independent investigation is supported into human rights abuses and atrocities committed by all parties involved, ensuring that those responsible are held accountable. Ultimately, the world must remember that the people of Cameroon are not mere statistics or news headlines; they are human beings deserving of dignity, respect, and compassion.

^{388 388} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

This report serves as an urgent and empathetic appeal to countries hosting refugees displaced by the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon, urging them to provide a safe haven and welcoming environment. Furthermore, it issues a call to action to the international community to investigate this crisis, address its underlying causes, and work towards a lasting and sustainable resolution.

SECTION 9: Response to the Conflict

Political measures of the Cameroonian government

In this section, we'll examine the government of Cameroon's superficial attempts to address the Anglophone conflict, which ultimately failed due to underlying ulterior motives. The government's responses have been mere window dressing, aimed at appeasing international observers rather than genuinely resolving the conflict. Despite these efforts, the crisis persists, fuelled by the government's hidden agendas and lack of commitment to meaningful reform.³⁸⁹

The Cameroonian government's attempt to address the growing grievances in the North-West region in 2016 was met with disappointment. Emissaries sent to Bamenda, the principal city in the region, were perceived as condescending and dictatorial, rather than engaging in respectful and meaningful dialogue with local leaders. This approach not only failed to address the core issues but also widened the rift between the government and the Anglophone community³⁹⁰.

The consortium representing Anglophone interests was particularly disheartened by the government's attitude, which signalled a lack of seriousness in addressing their concerns³⁹¹. This sentiment was expressed by a senior citizen in Bamenda during a symposium on the government's efforts to end the crisis. The citizen's remarks highlighted the need for a more inclusive and respectful approach to conflict resolution³⁹².

The Major National Dialogue, initiated by the Cameroonian government in October 2019, was a pivotal political measure aimed at addressing the country's Anglophone crisis. However, critics argue that such state-organized dialogues often serve symbolic purposes, rarely yielding significant political change. The five-day dialogue brought together more than 400

³⁸⁹ <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

³⁹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Cameroon

³⁹¹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

³⁹² Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

participants, representing various stakeholders, including political parties, civil society, and traditional authorities. Despite the notable absence of key opposition politicians and separatist leaders, the working groups formulated recommendations that were compiled into an extensive report. The dialogue's effectiveness has been questioned, with many arguing that it failed to address the core issues driving the conflict. The absence of President Biya and key Ambazonian leaders has been cited as a major limitation. Furthermore, the dialogue's focus on decentralization, rather than federalism or Anglophone independence, has been criticized. Civil society organizations played a crucial role in the dialogue, but their efforts have been hindered by shrinking civic space, administrative restrictions, and security threats. Despite these challenges, they continue to contribute to conflict resolution through humanitarian relief, human rights documentation, and peace campaigns.

Key Outcomes of the Major National Dialogue

Special Status for Anglophone Regions: The dialogue proposed a special status for the Northwest and Southwest regions, granting them additional autonomy³⁹³.

Decentralization: The dialogue focused on decentralization, rather than federalism or Anglophone independence³⁹⁴.

Reconstruction and Reintegration: The dialogue proposed measures for reconstruction and reintegration of ex-combatants³⁹⁵.

Challenges and Limitations

- **Lack of Inclusive Representation:** Key opposition politicians and separatist leaders were absent from the dialogue.
- **Limited Focus:** The dialogue's focus on decentralization has been criticized for not addressing the core issues driving the conflict.

³⁹³ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

³⁹⁴ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

³⁹⁵ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

- Shrinking Civic Space: Civil society organizations face significant challenges, including administrative restrictions and security threats.

The Cameroonian government's national dialogue, initiated in 2019, fell short of its touted inclusivity. Despite inviting some separatist leaders based abroad, they declined to participate due to legitimate security concerns³⁹⁶. Their apprehensions stemmed from the 2018 arrests of several separatist leaders in Abuja, Nigeria, who were then repatriated to Cameroon, tried in a military court, and handed life sentences on terrorism charges. Furthermore, relatives of separatist leaders faced arbitrary arrests and detention, exacerbating security concerns.

The dialogue also excluded key stakeholders, including revered separatist leaders abducted from Nigeria, who were detained in Yaoundé where the negotiations took place³⁹⁷. The exclusive nature and poor organization of the dialogue led several credible international and local stakeholders to boycott the meeting. Notwithstanding the ongoing conflict, the government claims the dialogue was successful, attributing the delay in implementing resolutions to a matter of time. The government has also demonstrated reluctance towards international intervention, maintaining that the issue is purely internal.

“In 2018, the government organized a National Dialogue aimed at finding a lasting solution to the crisis. While this initiative was a step in the right direction, its execution was flawed. The dialogue was marred by the inclusion of numerous Francophones who were perceived to be dictating their conceptions to the Anglophones, rather than facilitating a balanced and fair exchange of ideas. This imbalance undermined the very purpose of the dialogue, which was to address the grievances of the Anglophone regions. Instead of fostering mutual understanding and compromise, the dialogue

³⁹⁶ Jude Mutah, (2022) “Global Responses to Cameroon’s Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World’s Most Neglected Conflict”

³⁹⁷ Jude Mutah, (2022) “Global Responses to Cameroon’s Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World’s Most Neglected Conflict”

became another platform for the government to impose its views, further alienating the Anglophone population” M.D.N.³⁹⁸

Key Concerns and Shortcomings

- **Lack of Inclusivity:** The national dialogue excluded key stakeholders, including revered separatist leaders.
- **Security Concerns:** Separatist leaders' legitimate fears of arrest and detention hindered their participation.
- **Poor Organization:** The dialogue's exclusive nature and poor organization led to boycotts by credible stakeholders.
- **Government's Reluctance towards International Intervention:** The government's stance on the issue being purely internal may hinder efforts to resolve the conflict.

The Major National Dialogue, convened by President Paul Biya in 2019, failed to yield the anticipated political change and reduction in violence within the Anglophone regions of Cameroon³⁹⁹. Instead, the dialogue's outcomes were largely viewed as the long-overdue implementation of legal provisions established during the 1990s democratization process. For instance, the December 2019 laws on decentralization and bilingualism have their roots in the 1996 Constitution.

³⁹⁸ The Major National Dialogue was a five-day conference initiated by President Paul Biya in 2019 to address the Cameroon Anglophone Conflict. The dialogue aimed to bring together various stakeholders, including politicians, civil society organizations, and traditional leaders, to discuss issues related to the conflict.

The conference, which took place from September 30 to October 4, 2019, focused on several key areas, including:

- Decentralization and Special Status: The dialogue proposed granting special status to the Anglophone regions, with more autonomy and decision-making power.
- Reconstruction and Reintegration: The government announced plans to rebuild infrastructure and reintegrate former separatist fighters into society.
- Human Rights and Justice: The dialogue touched on issues of human rights abuses and the need for accountability and justice.

However, the dialogue was criticized for its lack of inclusivity, as some separatist leaders were not invited or chose to boycott the talks due to security concerns. Despite these limitations, the Major National Dialogue marked an important step in acknowledging the Anglophone crisis and attempting to find a peaceful resolution.

³⁹⁹ Jude Mutah, (2022) “Global Responses to Cameroon’s Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World’s Most Neglected Conflict”

Although the new decentralization law grants special status to the North West and South West regions, recognizing their linguistic and historical heritage, Anglophones have criticized the law as inadequate⁴⁰⁰. It does not provide for political self-determination, instead perpetuating the concentration of decision-making power within the Francophone-dominated political elite.

Furthermore, despite President Biya's pledge to invest in the development of the Anglophone regions and allocate a portion of the national budget to a joint decentralization fund, military intervention intensified in the aftermath of the Major National Dialogue⁴⁰¹. The 2018 National Dialogue, aimed at resolving the crisis, was also marred by flaws in its execution. The dominance of Francophone participants, perceived as imposing their views rather than facilitating a balanced exchange, undermined the dialogue's purpose. This imbalance hindered mutual understanding and compromise, further alienating the Anglophone population⁴⁰².

Key Concerns and Criticisms

- **Inadequate Representation:** The dominance of Francophone participants and the exclusion of key Anglophone stakeholders.
- **Lack of Political Will:** The government's failure to address the root causes of the crisis and implement meaningful reforms.
- **Insufficient Decentralization:** The new decentralization law's failure to provide for political self-determination and its perpetuation of Francophone dominance.
- **Escalating Military Intervention:** The intensification of military intervention in the Anglophone regions despite the dialogue's purported aim of promoting peace and stability.

⁴⁰⁰ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

⁴⁰¹ Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

⁴⁰² Michaela Pelican, The Anglophone conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background

Creation of a National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism

The Cameroonian government established the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism in January 2017, in response to the early stages of the Anglophone crisis⁴⁰³. The commission's primary objectives include ensuring the publication of laws, decrees, and regulations in both French and English, as well as facilitating debates on legal and institutional reforms that take into account regional specificities. Cameroon's legal system is bifurcated, with English Common Law applicable in the two English-speaking regions and French Civil Law in operation in the eight Francophone regions⁴⁰⁴.

Despite the commission's efforts, its ability to alleviate tensions and address the concerns of the Anglophone communities has been limited. However, a significant outcome of the Grand National Dialogue was the adoption of a law on bilingualism by the National Assembly in December 2019⁴⁰⁵. This law promotes the use and recognition of English and French as Cameroon's two official languages.

Key Objectives of the National Commission

- **Promotion of Bilingualism:** Ensuring the publication of laws, decrees, and regulations in both French and English⁴⁰⁶.
- **Regional Specificities:** Facilitating debates on legal and institutional reforms that take into account regional specificities⁴⁰⁷.
- **Multiculturalism:** Promoting and preserving Cameroon's cultural diversity.

⁴⁰³https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Commission_for_the_Promotion_of_Bilingualism_and_Multiculturalism

⁴⁰⁴ World Bank Group (2021) "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts".

⁴⁰⁵ World Bank Group (2021) "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts".

⁴⁰⁶https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Commission_for_the_Promotion_of_Bilingualism_and_Multiculturalism

⁴⁰⁷https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Commission_for_the_Promotion_of_Bilingualism_and_Multiculturalism

Despite the commission's efforts, the Anglophone crisis persists, highlighting the need for continued dialogue and reform or real measures to address the crisis⁴⁰⁸.

The Silence of the National Assembly

The Cameroonian government's stance on the North-West and South-West crisis is marked by a notable omission: the consistent exclusion of this critical issue from the National Assembly's agenda. Despite the crisis's severity and far-reaching implications, it has not received the legislative attention it warrants⁴⁰⁹. This omission is indicative of a broader reluctance to confront the crisis directly, suggesting a desire to downplay or sideline its significance. The lack of parliamentary debate and action on this matter highlights the government's unwillingness to engage in a transparent and democratic process to resolve the crisis⁴¹⁰.

The crisis in the North-West and South-West regions has resulted in a complex and protracted humanitarian situation, with reports of violence, displacement, and human rights abuses⁴¹¹. The international community has taken notice, with some countries introducing bills to suspend military assistance to Cameroon until the government addresses the crisis. In light of these developments, the Cameroonian government's continued omission of the crisis from the National Assembly's agenda is concerning⁴¹². It underscores the need for increased transparency, accountability, and democratic engagement to address the crisis effectively.

Rejection of Canada Peace Initiative

⁴⁰⁸

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Commission_for_the_Promotion_of_Bilingualism_and_Multiculturalism

⁴⁰⁹ World Bank Group (2021) "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts".

⁴¹⁰ World Bank Group (2021) "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts".

⁴¹¹ World Bank Group (2021) "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts".

⁴¹² World Bank Group (2021) "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts".

The Anglophone crisis in Cameroon has become increasingly complex, with a lucrative "war economy" emerging, characterized by kidnapping and extortion of civilians⁴¹³. This has reduced the incentive for a negotiated settlement, as reported by The New Humanitarian (TNH) on July 19, 2022. The situation has significantly deteriorated since 2019, according to Raoul Sumo Tayo's statement in October 2022.

Deep divisions within the separatist movement and the government's refusal to engage with external mediators have resulted in a stalemate in negotiation processes. Cameroon's government views the Anglophone conflict as an internal affair, as stated by TNH on June 1, 2021. Despite international pressure to find a solution, initiatives by Canada, France, the United States, the Vatican, and a Swiss-based NGO have been unsuccessful, as reported by TNH on March 29, 2021.

The International Crisis Group noted that President Paul Biya ignored a Swiss offer to facilitate talks in 2019, instead organizing a national conference without inviting influential separatist leaders⁴¹⁴. Although there have been some attempts at dialogue, including low-level consultations with Anglophone leaders in the diaspora, a lasting resolution remains elusive.

Key Challenges and Developments

Deepening Conflict: The Anglophone crisis has significantly deteriorated since 2019.

Lack of Inclusive Dialogue: The government's refusal to engage with external mediators and separatist leaders has hindered negotiation processes.

International Pressure: Despite international efforts to find a solution, initiatives have been unsuccessful.

Emerging War Economy: The lucrative "war economy" has reduced the incentive for a negotiated settlement.

Hopes for a peaceful resolution to the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon were briefly raised on January 20, 2023, when Canada's Foreign Minister, Mélanie Joly, announced a breakthrough

⁴¹³ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴¹⁴ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

in secret "pre-talks" between Canada and Cameroon⁴¹⁵. The agreement aimed to initiate a peace process in the Anglophone regions, with Anglophone leaders confirming their commitment to the process in a joint statement. However, the optimism was short-lived. Just three days later, the Cameroonian government rejected Canada's peace initiative, denying any involvement in the negotiation process. This sudden reversal sparked a fresh wave of violence in the North-West and South-West regions, as separatist militias launched a new campaign of attacks.

In response, Cameroon's defense ministry escalated its military efforts, recruiting new soldiers, intensifying special forces' patrols, and attacking separatist positions⁴¹⁶. This escalation has further complicated the already fragile situation, underscoring the need for a genuine commitment to peace talks. The rejection of Canada's peace initiative is particularly concerning, given the significant progress made in the pre-talks phase. The process had brought together key stakeholders, including Anglophone leaders and civil society organizations, to discuss critical issues such as confidence-building measures, security sector reform, and transitional justice. To move forward, it is essential for the Cameroonian government to reconsider its stance and engage in meaningful negotiations with the Anglophone separatist leaders. The international community, including Canada, should continue to support and facilitate the peace process, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability.

The Canada peace initiative, aimed at resolving the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, showed promise in February 2023. According to the International Crisis Group, the initiative had already yielded positive results, gaining support from Anglophone faith leaders, civil society, and women's groups⁴¹⁷. Notably, the facilitation brought together four major separatist groups, with a fifth committing to the peace process, demonstrating a unified front for negotiations. However, by March 2023, the initiative had stalled, with the parties involved

⁴¹⁵ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴¹⁶ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴¹⁷ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (2024) "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

maintaining public silence on the status of talks. This followed the Cameroonian government's rejection of the idea, casting uncertainty over the peace process

Key benefits of the Canada-facilitated initiative included:

Unity Among Separatist Groups: The facilitation persuaded rival separatist movements to form a unified bloc, offering a clear counterpart for negotiations with the Cameroonian government.

Support from Faith Leaders and Civil Society: Anglophone faith leaders, civil society, and women's groups expressed support for the prospective Canada talks, indicating a willingness to engage in the peace process.

Building on Previous Efforts: The initiative drew on earlier efforts by Swiss facilitators, demonstrating a commitment to finding a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

SECTION 10: International Response to the Conflict

This section examines the international community's response to the Anglophone conflict, highlighting their expressed concerns and commitments to finding a resolution. Despite numerous statements, condemnations, and efforts to intervene, however, the conflict remains unresolved, underscoring the gap between rhetoric and effective action.

The Cameroon Anglophone crisis has been marked by a lack of international intervention, despite Ambazonias' belief that third-party mediated discussions are necessary to resolve the conflict. The global response to the crisis has been inadequate, with the Norwegian Refugee Council designating it as the most neglected crisis worldwide due to insufficient funding, media attention, and political neglect⁴¹⁸. Notwithstanding the overall weak international response, the West, particularly the United States, has been at the forefront of addressing the crisis. The US has issued at least five statements since 2016, condemning the violence and human rights abuses perpetrated by both government security forces and armed separatist groups. In addition, the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs has released bipartisan resolutions urging the conflicting parties to engage in dialogue and seek peaceful solutions to their differences⁴¹⁹. A 2021 resolution, in particular, prompted Western capitals, including Ottawa, London, and Berlin, to condemn the violence and call for dialogue among the disputants.

Key international responses to the crisis include:

US Statements and Resolutions: The US has issued multiple statements and resolutions condemning the violence and urging dialogue.

Western Capitals' Engagement: Ottawa, London, and Berlin have begun to address the crisis, condemning the violence and calling for dialogue.

⁴¹⁸ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴¹⁹ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

Norwegian Refugee Council's Designation: The council has designated the crisis as the most neglected worldwide, highlighting the need for increased attention and support.

International Community's Inadequate Response: Despite some international engagement, the overall response to the crisis remains inadequate, with insufficient funding, media attention, and political neglect.

The United States and Cameroon have maintained diplomatic relations since Cameroon gained independence from France in 1960. Cameroon plays a vital role in maintaining stability in the Central African subregion and is a key partner in combating terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin, particularly against Boko Haram. The US has provided significant security assistance to Cameroon, but this support was partially withdrawn in 2019 due to human rights concerns. In 2020, Cameroon lost its eligibility for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a bilateral investment treaty that facilitated trade between the two nations since 1989⁴²⁰. AGOA was crucial for Cameroon's exports to the US. Recently, the US designated Cameroon for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), effective from June 2022 for 18 months⁴²¹. This allows eligible Cameroonian citizens to remain and work in the US until the situation in Cameroon stabilizes.

France's involvement in the Cameroon conflict is complex and multifaceted. As a critical stakeholder, France has sought to maintain a low profile since the conflict's onset⁴²². However, some argue that France has supported the government's repressive response for strategic, political, and economic reasons. France's influence in its former African colonies remains significant. The country maintains strategic military advisors in the defense ministries of these nations and benefits substantially from their rich mineral and natural resources⁴²³.

Notably, France still collects colonial taxes from its former colonies, including Cameroon. The Anglophone regions of Cameroon possess most of the country's natural and mineral resources⁴²⁴. Consequently, Anglophone secession from French Cameroon would likely end

⁴²⁰ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴²¹ <https://www.tanner-law.com/articles/immigration/cameroon-designated-for-temporary-protected-status/>

⁴²² <https://blogs.law.ox.ac.uk/cameroon/blog/2021/03/causes-anglophone-conflict-cameroon>

⁴²³ <https://blogs.law.ox.ac.uk/cameroon/blog/2021/03/causes-anglophone-conflict-cameroon>

⁴²⁴ <https://behorizon.org/french-in-africa-post-colonial/>

these benefits, a prospect France may find unpalatable. In the worst-case scenario, France may privately support decentralization, delegating key decision-making and management from the central government to local administrative authorities.

Despite this, France has publicly called for a political solution and encouraged the Anglophone Conference, which the Cameroon government refused to grant in 2018⁴²⁵. French President Emmanuel Macron visited Cameroon in April 2022 and held talks with President Biya, focusing on broader regional issues. While France is expected to play a more significant role in resolving the conflict, its actions have so far been limited.

Switzerland, renowned for its neutrality in global affairs, has been engaged in a mediation process to resolve the Cameroon conflict. In collaboration with the Humanitarian Dialogue, a Swiss NGO, the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs has conducted multiple meetings with Cameroon's separatist leaders since 2019⁴²⁶. Swiss officials have also visited Cameroon, meeting with government officials and civil society actors to gain a deeper understanding of the conflict's dynamics.

In March 2019, the Swiss president traveled to Cameroon, proposing an initiative to mediate the conflict through an inclusive negotiation process. Although President Biya's reaction was ambiguous, the United Nations and the United States expressed support for the Swiss-led process⁴²⁷. However, the Cameroon government only implicitly committed to the initiative. Recently, President Biya officially suspended Cameroon's participation in the Swiss mediation effort, citing distrust. Instead, he invited Switzerland and other stakeholders to support Cameroon in implementing the resolutions of the 2019 National Dialogue. Consequently, the Swiss government has ended its efforts to find a sustainable solution to the six-year conflict.

⁴²⁵ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴²⁶ "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴²⁷ "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

Despite this, the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue and the Swiss Foreign Ministry continue to engage with various separatist groups, preparing for future dialogue with the Cameroon Republic. This ongoing commitment underscores Switzerland's dedication to promoting peaceful conflict resolution, even in the face of challenges and setbacks⁴²⁸.

Multilateral efforts to address the Cameroon Anglophone crisis have been ineffective thus far. In 2017, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres engaged with President Biya in Cameroon, urging both parties to facilitate humanitarian access and engage in inclusive dialogue⁴²⁹. The UN has also offered to mediate the conflict. However, the crisis has yet to garner sufficient support to be featured on the UN Security Council's agenda.

Despite this, the conflict was discussed at a 2017 UN Security Council meeting, where Western nations, including the United States and the United Kingdom, called for dialogue, investigations into human rights abuses, and humanitarian access⁴³⁰. Nevertheless, the UN's response to the crisis has been criticized for being lukewarm and inadequate. The international community's inability to effectively address the crisis is concerning, given the devastating impact on civilians. The conflict has resulted in significant humanitarian needs, with thousands displaced and many more affected by the violence. A more robust and coordinated international response is necessary to bring an end to the crisis and promote lasting peace and stability in Cameroon⁴³¹.

The European Union plays a vital role in Cameroon, serving as a significant partner in trade, humanitarian aid, and development⁴³². However, its influence in addressing major internal political issues, such as the Anglophone crisis, is limited. Despite this, the EU has considered

⁴²⁸ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴²⁹ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴³⁰ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴³¹ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴³² <https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

reassessing its development and humanitarian aid to Cameroon if the government fails to take concrete steps to end the conflict.

In 2019, the EU voted on a resolution demanding the release of political prisoners, including Maurice Kamto, the leader of a prominent opposition party⁴³³. The resolution also urged both parties to engage in dialogue to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Furthermore, EU officials have issued statements advocating for proportionate use of force and punitive measures against perpetrators of violence, particularly those responsible for violence against civilians⁴³⁴. These efforts demonstrate the EU's commitment to promoting a peaceful resolution to the Anglophone crisis, despite its limited political influence in the region.

International civil society organizations have played a crucial role in addressing the Cameroon Anglophone crisis, complementing the efforts of multilateral institutions⁴³⁵.

Key Players and Initiatives

Human Rights Watch and International Crisis Group: These human rights organizations have conducted in-depth research and provided policy recommendations to the Cameroonian government, international policymakers, and other stakeholders to help resolve the conflict.

United States Institute of Peace: This organization has undertaken a thorough conflict analysis, visited Cameroon to engage with separatist leaders and government officials, and offered policy recommendations to the US government and other stakeholders.

National Endowment for Democracy: This US-based private foundation has provided grants to local civil society actors, enabling them to explore ways to end the conflict.

⁴³³ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴³⁴ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

⁴³⁵ Jude Mutah, (2022) "Global Responses to Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: The Inadequate International Efforts to End the World's Most Neglected Conflict"

Response from Neighbouring Countries

Neighboring countries have played a significant role in addressing the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, with varying degrees of success. Here's a breakdown of their responses:

Nigeria's Response

Nigeria has been a primary destination for refugees fleeing the conflict, with nearly 280,300 Anglophone Cameroonian refugees seeking shelter in the country. The Nigerian government, in collaboration with international organizations like the UNHCR, has provided support and shelter to these refugees⁴³⁶. However, Nigeria's extradition of several Amazonian separatist leaders to Cameroon in 2018 was widely criticized by human rights organizations and strained relations between the separatist groups and the Nigerian government.

Chad and Central African Republic's Response

Both Chad and the Central African Republic have expressed concerns about the conflict's spillover effects, particularly in terms of security and stability in their border regions⁴³⁷. To mitigate these risks, they have cooperated with Cameroon on security measures to prevent the conflict from spreading across their borders.

Equatorial Guinea and Gabon's Response

Equatorial Guinea and Gabon have engaged in diplomatic efforts to encourage dialogue and peaceful resolution of the conflict⁴³⁸. They have participated in regional meetings and discussions aimed at addressing the crisis, demonstrating their commitment to finding a peaceful solution.

⁴³⁶ . Raw Data from our research

⁴³⁷ . <https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-global-response/>

⁴³⁸ . <https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-global-response/>

Regional and International Efforts

The African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) have also been involved in efforts to resolve the conflict⁴³⁹. However, their responses have been criticized for being inadequate and ineffective.

In conclusion, while neighboring countries have taken steps to address the Anglophone crisis, their efforts have been limited, and the conflict remains unresolved. A more comprehensive and coordinated regional and international response is necessary to bring an end to the crisis and promote lasting peace and stability in Cameroon

Neighboring countries have played various roles in addressing the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, with mixed results. Here are some key aspects:

Nigeria:

Refugee Support: Nigeria has been a primary destination for refugees fleeing the conflict. As of recent reports, over 280,300 Cameroonian refugees are in Nigeria⁴⁴⁰. The Nigerian government, along with international organizations like the UNHCR, has provided support and shelter to these refugees.

Extradition of Separatist Leaders: In 2018, Nigeria extradited several leaders of the Ambazonian separatist movement to Cameroon, which was a controversial move and criticized by human rights organizations⁴⁴¹. This action strained relations between the separatist groups and the Nigerian government.

Chad and Central African Republic

Security Concerns: Both Chad and the Central African Republic have been concerned about the spillover effects of the conflict, particularly in terms of security and stability in their border

⁴³⁹ . <https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-global-response/>

⁴⁴⁰ . <https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-global-response/>

⁴⁴¹ . <https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-global-response/>

regions⁴⁴². These countries cooperated with Cameroon on security measures to prevent the conflict from spreading across their borders.

Equatorial Guinea and Gabon

Diplomatic Efforts: Equatorial Guinea and Gabon have engaged in diplomatic efforts to encourage dialogue and peaceful resolution of the conflict⁴⁴³. They have participated in regional meetings and discussions aimed at addressing the crisis.

Challenges and Limitations of Neighboring Countries' Involvement

Despite the efforts of neighboring countries, their influence on the Cameroon Anglophone crisis has been limited. The complexity of the conflict, coupled with internal political dynamics in Cameroon, has hindered external actors' ability to effect significant change.

Humanitarian Strain on Neighboring Countries

The influx of refugees has placed a substantial strain on the resources of neighboring countries, particularly Nigeria. As of 2022, Nigeria hosts nearly 280,300 Cameroonian refugees, according to the UNHCR⁴⁴⁴. This has exacerbated Nigeria's existing humanitarian challenges, including:

- Managing internal conflicts, such as the Boko Haram insurgency⁴⁴⁵
- Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition⁴⁴⁶
- Providing shelter and essential services to refugees⁴⁴⁷

Regional and International Efforts: A Mixed Record

While neighboring countries have provided humanitarian support, engaged in diplomatic efforts, and addressed security concerns, their impact has been constrained by various challenges. These include:

⁴⁴² <https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-global-response/>

⁴⁴³ Raw Data from our research

⁴⁴⁴ Raw Data from our research

⁴⁴⁵ International Crisis Group. (2022). Nigeria: The Boko Haram Insurgency.

⁴⁴⁶ World Food Programme. (2022). Nigeria: Food Security and Nutrition.

⁴⁴⁷ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2022). Cameroon Situation.

- Limited leverage: Neighboring countries have limited influence over the Cameroonian government and separatist groups, hindering their ability to broker a peaceful resolution⁴⁴⁸.

- Complexity of the conflict: The conflict is rooted in deep-seated historical and cultural grievances, making it difficult for regional and international actors to navigate and find a lasting solution⁴⁴⁹.

- Insufficient coordination and resources: Regional and international actors have struggled to coordinate their efforts and allocate sufficient resources to address the crisis effectively⁴⁵⁰.

⁴⁴⁸ International Crisis Group. (2022). Cameroon: A New Era of Diplomacy.

⁴⁴⁹ Human Rights Watch. (2022). Cameroon: A Crisis Born of History.

⁴⁵⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2022). Cameroon Humanitarian Response Plan

SECTION 11: Evidence and Testimonies Supporting the Need for Asylum

The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon is a pressing concern, with five main issues driving the conflict. These are evidences supporting the need for seeking asylum:

Key Concerns

- Escalation of Violence: The crisis has its roots in the colonial era, with divisions between British and French Allied Forces intensifying over the decades. The current state of violence is alarming, with evidence suggesting increasing levels of violence, human rights abuses, and resistance. Photographic evidence continues to emerge, indicating the ongoing nature of the conflict.⁴⁵¹
- Complexity of Issues: The conflict is fuelled by deeper complexities, including historical grievances, religious tensions, inter-ethnic group tensions, and land tensions. The simplistic lens of francophone versus anglophone does not capture the full scope of the issue. Various factions of anglophone resistance, organized vigilante community action, and the Cameroon State are all involved, making a sustainable solution challenging to achieve.
- Inadequacy of the 2019 Dialogue: The various dialogues initiated by the government has been criticized for being an elite-driven process, neglecting the views and experiences of the wider Anglophone community. Despite the dialogue, human rights abuses continue, and there is a lack of group-level initiatives with affected communities.⁴⁵²
- Lack of Accountability: Cameroon has a history of gross human rights violations, with a pervasive culture of impunity. The government and armed separatist groups have not been held accountable for their actions, and international human rights rulings have been rejected.⁴⁵³

⁴⁵¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

⁴⁵² <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/07/cameroon-rampant-atrocities-amid-anglophone-regions-must-be-stopped/>

⁴⁵³ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

-Insufficient Remedies: For victims of human rights abuses since 2016, there is little evidence of remedial measures taken by the Cameroon State. This includes equal and effective access to justice, adequate reparation for harm suffered, and reparation mechanisms.

-Implications for Regional Stability: The unresolved Anglophone Crisis may exacerbate other conflicts in the Sahel region, including the fight against Boko Haram. This could lead to further deterioration of security and stability in the region.

The international community's response has not always acknowledged these complexities, and failure to address historical grievances risks fuelling further discontent. A nuanced understanding of the issues is necessary to find a lasting solution. Meanwhile, before a solution is found, it is necessary for the Cameroonians, especially those from the North West and South West regions, seeking asylum, should be granted the protection they deserve to alleviate their conditions.

Reports from Human Rights Organizations

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have extensively documented human rights abuses in the Anglophone regions, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and sexual violence⁴⁵⁴. This is evidence that the people of that region needs international protection.

The UNHCR has reported on the dire conditions faced by Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria and other countries, emphasizing the need for continued international support and protection⁴⁵⁵.

Testimonies from Refugees

Esther, a Southern Cameroonian refugee, was deported from the United States and subsequently tortured and raped by Cameroonian authorities⁴⁵⁶. Her story highlights the

⁴⁵⁴ Amnesty International. (2020). Cameroon: Human Rights in the Anglophone Regions.

⁴⁵⁵ UNHCR. (2021). Cameroon Situation: Regional Update.

⁴⁵⁶ Human Rights Watch. (2020). "They're Killing Us": Abuses Against Civilians in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions

grave risks faced by those who are returned to Cameroon. Numerous personal accounts from Southern Cameroonian refugees underscore the severity of the persecution, including experiences of violence, torture, and displacement.

International Response

1. International Protection: The systematic nature of human rights abuses in Cameroon highlights the urgent need for international protection for Southern Cameroonian refugees.
2. Continued Support: The UNHCR's reports emphasize the need for continued international support and protection for Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria and other countries.

Impact of the Crisis

The ongoing crisis in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions has had a devastating impact on the population.

Humanitarian Crisis

- At least 21.000 people killed: Human Rights Watch reported this estimate in 2022⁴⁵⁷.
- Hundreds of villages razed: The military's counterinsurgency campaign has resulted in widespread destruction.
- 1.2 million people displaced: By 2020, an estimated 1.2 million people had been displaced due to the conflict (UN OCHA, 2021a)⁴⁵⁸.
- 70,000 registered refugees in Nigeria: Many Cameroonians have sought refuge in neighboring Nigeria.
- Million in need of humanitarian assistance: The UN OCHA reported this estimate in 2021.

Human Rights Abuses

1. Gross human rights violations: Both warring parties have been accused of committing atrocities, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and unlawful imprisonment.

⁴⁵⁷ Human Rights Watch. (2022). Cameroon: New Wave of Violence

⁴⁵⁸ UN OCHA. (2021a). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

2. Security forces responsible for majority of atrocities: Evidence suggests that government forces have caused ten times as many civilian deaths as separatist armed groups (World Bank, 2021)⁴⁵⁹.

3. Rape and sexual violence: These crimes have increased dramatically, with perpetrators acting with impunity (Crawford et al., 2022)⁴⁶⁰.

Impact on Education and Civilians

- School closures: The conflict has caused educational disruption for hundreds of thousands of children for years (CHRNA, 2021)⁴⁶¹.

- Kidnappings and extortion: Armed separatist groups have been accused of kidnapping civilians and extorting money from them.

- Beatings and killings: Separatist groups have also been accused of beating teachers and students for non-compliance with the school boycott, as well as killing alleged informants.

The crisis in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions has resulted in unimaginable suffering for civilians. It is essential to provide asylum to those seeking especially to the Cameroonians of the from the Former Southern Cameroons while waiting to address the root causes of the conflict and work towards a peaceful resolution to prevent further human rights abuses and humanitarian crises.

Food Insecurity/Livelihoods/Poverty

Food insecurity, livelihoods, and poverty are critical concerns in Cameroon, particularly in the North-West and South-West regions. As of April 2023, approximately 1.7 million people required humanitarian aid, including around 628,190 internally displaced persons (IDPs)⁴⁶².

Food Insecurity

29% of the population in the North-West region and 17% in the South-West region were estimated to be severely food insecure at the beginning of 2022 (WFP, 2023, p. 8)⁴⁶³. Several

⁴⁵⁹ World Bank. (2021). Cameroon Economic Update.

⁴⁶⁰ Crawford, N., et al. (2022). "Rape and Sexual Violence in Cameroon's Anglophone Conflict."

⁴⁶¹ CHRNA. (2021). Cameroon: Education in Crisis.

⁴⁶² UN OCHA. (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁴⁶³ WFP. (2023). Cameroon: Food Security Situation.

divisions in the Far North, North-West, and South-West regions are hardest hit by food insecurity and malnutrition due to insecurity and climatic shocks (UN OCHA, 2023)⁴⁶⁴.

Malnutrition

- Moderate and Severe Acute Malnutrition: Of 16,503 children screened for malnutrition in November 2023, 234 children were identified with moderate acute malnutrition, and 91 with severe acute malnutrition (UN OCHA, 2023, p. 3)⁴⁶⁵.
- Projected Cases: Acute malnutrition affects nearly 400,000 children aged 6 to 59 months, with nearly 147,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 248,000 cases of moderate acute malnutrition projected between November 2023 and October 2024 (UN OCHA, 2023)⁴⁶⁶.

Humanitarian Response

The World Food Programme (WFP) requires \$23.1 million to assist over 222,000 refugees from Nigeria and the Central African Republic (CAR) currently hosted in Cameroon⁴⁶⁷. Funding shortfalls have forced WFP to cut rations for refugees to 50% in the Far North, Adamawa, East, and North regions of Cameroon, and to distribute incomplete food baskets since the end of 2023.

The ongoing crisis in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions has exacerbated poverty and limited access to markets, employment, and essential services.

Poverty and Economic Impact

- Pre-crisis poverty rates: The World Bank reported significant differences in poverty rates between the North-West (55%) and South-West (18%) regions as of 2014⁴⁶⁸.
- Increased poverty: The crisis has increased poverty levels in both regions, with the World Bank noting that the poverty rate has risen significantly since the start of the conflict.

⁴⁶⁴ WFP. (2023). Cameroon: Food Security Situation.

⁴⁶⁵ UN OCHA. (2023). Cameroon: Situation Report.

⁴⁶⁶ UN OCHA. (2023). Cameroon: Situation Report.

⁴⁶⁷ World Food Programme (WFP). (2023). Cameroon: Food Security Situation.

⁴⁶⁸ The World Bank. (2014). Cameroon Economic Update.

Market Access and Employment

- Disrupted livelihoods: Conflict and insecurity continue to disrupt livelihood activities, trade flows, market access, and market functioning, leading to below-normal access to food and income⁴⁶⁹.
- Fluctuating consumer prices: The disruption to supply chains, regular roadblocks, and associated increases in transportation costs have contributed to fluctuating consumer prices⁴⁷⁰.
- Limited access to markets: The population's access to markets is limited due to roadblocks, taxes imposed by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), and the risk of goods being confiscated or destroyed⁴⁷¹.

Labour Market Impacts

1. Reduced demand for casual labor: Demand for non-agricultural, casual labor is below normal levels due to decreased economic activities⁴⁷².
2. Closed livestock markets: Important livestock markets in Bui and Donga Mantung remain closed, and herders are reluctant to make large transactions due to fear of attack or abduction⁴⁷³.

Negative Coping Mechanisms

- Survival sex and exploitation: The affected population has resorted to negative coping mechanisms, including survival sex and exploitation⁴⁷⁴.
- Child marriage and child labor: Child marriage and child labor have increased, with children engaging in hazardous work driven by poverty due to parental loss of livelihood⁴⁷⁵.

⁴⁶⁹ Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). (2023). Cameroon Food Security Outlook.

⁴⁷⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁴⁷¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁴⁷² Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). (2023). Cameroon Food Security Outlook.

⁴⁷³ Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). (2023). Cameroon Food Security Outlook.

⁴⁷⁴ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁴⁷⁵ Danish Refugee Council (DRC). (2023). Cameroon: Livelihoods and Market Analysis.

- Theft and banditry: Young men without access to education and job prospects have resorted to negative coping mechanisms such as theft and banditry, putting them at risk of abduction and trafficking⁴⁷⁶.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Cameroon is facing significant challenges in ensuring access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), particularly in the North-West and South-West regions. According to UNICEF, the lack of access to these essential services is the leading cause of cholera and other diseases in the country⁴⁷⁷.

The situation is dire, with 55% of assessed villages facing challenges in accessing clean water, and 75% of localities in some divisions relying on unimproved water points (UN OCHA, 2023, p. 78)². This has led to outbreaks of cholera, with 142 cases and eight deaths reported in the South-West region as of November 2023 (UN OCHA, 2023, p. 2)⁴⁷⁸.

Key Challenges

- Insufficient improved water points: Many villages lack access to safe drinking water, forcing residents to rely on unimproved water sources.
- Long distances to water points: Residents must travel long distances to access clean water, which can be time-consuming and exhausting.
- Lack of containers for collecting and storing water: Without proper containers, residents struggle to collect and store clean water, making it difficult to maintain good hygiene practices.

Efforts to Address WASH Challenges

- Organizations like CDVTA: Are working to provide clean water and sanitation facilities to rural communities in Cameroon.
- UNICEF and other partners: Are supporting the government's efforts to improve WASH services, including the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

⁴⁷⁶ Gender Capacity (GenCap). (2022). Cameroon: Gender Analysis.

⁴⁷⁷ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2023). Cameroon: WASH Situation Report.

⁴⁷⁸ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

Overall, addressing Cameroon's WASH challenges requires a sustained effort from the government, international partners, and local organizations. By working together, it is possible to improve access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services, reducing the risk of water-borne diseases and promoting better health outcomes for all.

Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian access to Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions remains challenging due to various security threats and obstacles. Key concerns include:

- Kidnapping and ransom demands: Humanitarian staff face the risk of kidnapping and ransom demands, highlighting the need for enhanced security measures⁴⁷⁹.
- Aid diversion and extortion: Humanitarian goods are vulnerable to diversion and extortion by armed groups, compromising the integrity of aid delivery⁴⁸⁰.
- Roadblocks and payment demand: Despite having necessary authorizations, humanitarian convoys are often delayed or blocked by roadblocks, with demands for payment from all parties⁴⁸¹.
- Accusations of government support: The UN and partners are repeatedly accused by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) of supporting the government, further complicating humanitarian access⁴⁸².

These challenges underscore the need for:

1. Enhanced security protocols for humanitarian staff and goods.
2. Improved coordination with local authorities and armed groups to facilitate safe access.
3. Strengthened community engagement to address misconceptions and build trust.

⁴⁷⁹ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-north-west-and-south-west-situation-report-no-60-december-2023>

⁴⁸⁰ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-north-west-and-south-west-situation-report-no-60-december-2023>

⁴⁸¹ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-north-west-and-south-west-situation-report-no-60-december-2023>

⁴⁸² <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-north-west-and-south-west-situation-report-no-60-december-2023>

4. Continued advocacy for unhindered humanitarian access, in line with international humanitarian law.

Access to education

Access to education in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions has been severely impacted since 2017, when non-state armed groups (NSAGs) banned government-administered education⁴⁸³. This boycott has been violently enforced, with separatist fighters attacking schools, students, and teachers. As a result, many schools have been forced to close, with 38.5% of schools in the North-West and South-West regions not operational as of November 2023. The situation is dire, with students and teachers facing threats, abductions, and violence.

Challenges to Education

Attacks on schools: Separatist fighters have attacked schools, destroyed infrastructure and disrupted learning⁴⁸⁴.

Teacher and student abductions: NSAGs have abducted teachers and students, creating a climate of fear and uncertainty⁴⁸⁵.

School closures: Many schools have been forced to close due to security concerns, leaving students without access to education⁴⁸⁶.

Efforts to Address the Crisis

- **Alternative education programs:** Some organizations are providing alternative education programs, such as community-based education initiatives⁴⁸⁷.

⁴⁸³ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁸⁴ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁸⁵ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁸⁶ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁸⁷ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

- **Support for displaced students:** Efforts are being made to support displaced students, including providing access to education in safe zones⁴⁸⁸.

Overall, the situation in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions is critical, with access to education severely limited due to violence and insecurity.

The education system in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions is facing numerous challenges due to the ongoing conflict. Violence and Intimidation have become major obstacles, with separatist fighters attacking schools, students, and teachers. In August 2021, a seven-year-old pupil was killed by a stray bullet during an armed exchange near a school in Kumbo⁴⁸⁹.

Attacks on Education have continued, with reports of physical assaults, threats, abductions for ransom, and arson attacks on educational buildings. In November 2021, four students and a teacher were shot in the Government Bilingual High School in Ekondi-Titi⁴⁹⁰.

Separatist fighters have also attacked university campuses, disrupting exams and abducting lecturers. Lockdowns and School Closures have further exacerbated the education crisis. In September 2021, separatists ordered a two-week lockdown, forcing schools to close⁴⁹¹. Similar lockdowns were introduced in 2022 and 2023, severely impacting the education sector. The Humanitarian Impact of these attacks is significant, with thousands of students and teachers affected. The situation is dire, with many schools remaining closed due to security concerns. Efforts are needed to address the root causes of the conflict and ensure the safety and well-being of students and teachers.

Arson attacks by The Government of Cameroon military and Amba fighters on educational facilities in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions have been rampant. In February

⁴⁸⁸ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁸⁹ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁹⁰ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁹¹ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

2022, it is believed Amba fighters burned down dormitories and administrative buildings of the Queen of the Rosary College Okoyong, a girls-only Catholic boarding school in Mamfe town, allegedly because the school planned to participate in government-organized National Youth Day activities⁴⁹². Similarly, in the same month, a classroom in a government primary school in the village of Molyko/Buea was burned by suspected Amba fighters. In April 2022, two schools were set on fire by armed men in Buea. These attacks have resulted in significant disruptions to education, with many schools forced to close due to security concerns.

The situation has been further exacerbated by separatist-imposed lockdowns. In September 2022, separatists imposed a two-week lockdown to prevent the official opening of schools for the new academic year, leading to violent incidents⁴⁹³. The separatists have also imposed restrictions on schools, allowing only selected schools to reopen, provided they do not use school uniforms, sing the national anthem, or teach French. These attacks on education have had a devastating impact on students, teachers, and the broader community. It's essential that urgent action is taken to address the lack of access to education caused by separatist attacks and to ensure that students and teachers are protected from harm.

While Amba fighters attack on formal education facilities have been widespread, some local authorities have also rejected non-formal education initiatives. This has resulted in the forced closure of several community schools, further limiting access to education for affected communities.

Key Challenges:

- **Rejection of non-formal education initiatives:** Some local authorities oppose non-formal education initiatives, forcing community schools to close⁴⁹⁴.

⁴⁹² ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁹³ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁹⁴ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

- **Lack of alternative learning options:** The August 2022 Multisectoral Needs Assessment found that 83% of assessed villages had no alternative learning options when schools were closed⁴⁹⁵.
- **Targeting of formal education facilities:** Formal education facilities, staff, and students continued to be targeted and attacked in 2022⁴⁹⁶.

The rejection of non-formal education initiatives by local authorities has exacerbated the education crisis in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions. Efforts to support alternative learning options and community-led education initiatives are essential to ensuring that children and youth have access to education, even in the midst of conflict.

“Formal education facilities, staff and students continued to be targeted and attacked in 2022. Meanwhile, some local authorities oppose non-formal education initiatives, which led to the forced closure of several community schools. The August 2022 MSNA [Multisectoral Needs Assessment] found that in 83 per cent of the assessed villages, no alternative learning options were available when schools are closed.” (UN OCHA, 11 May 2023, p. 14)⁴⁹⁷.

Attacks on education in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions continued unabated in 2023. According to UN OCHA, at least 13 violent incidents were reported between January and July 2023, including the abduction of children and teachers.

Key Incidents

- **Lockdown and school closures:** A two-week lockdown enforced by non-state armed groups in September 2023 resulted in only 61.5% of schools reopening⁴⁹⁸.
- **Low student enrollment:** Less than half (46.8%) of the expected number of students enrolled in schools⁴⁹⁹.

⁴⁹⁵ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). “Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis” Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁹⁶ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). “Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis” Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁹⁷ UN OCHA, 11 May 2023, p. 14

⁴⁹⁸ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). “Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis” Query Response [a-12289]

⁴⁹⁹ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). “Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis” Query Response [a-12289]

- **Teacher killings and injuries:** Two teachers were killed in Belo (Boyo Division) after attending a preparatory meeting for the start of the new school year. Three teachers and one priest were shot and injured in Kembong village in the Manyu division⁵⁰⁰.
- **Abductions:** Numerous community heads were abducted, allegedly for promoting the reopening of schools⁵⁰¹.

Humanitarian Impact

1. Disrupted education: The ongoing attacks on education have resulted in disrupted learning, with many students missing out on critical educational opportunities.
2. Fear and trauma: The violence has created a climate of fear and trauma, affecting not only students and teachers but also the broader community.

Access to healthcare in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions is severely challenged due to ongoing violence and attacks on healthcare facilities and personnel. The UN Secretary-General has reported on these incidents, including attacks in June 2021 and May 2022⁵⁰².

Attacks on Healthcare Facilities and Personnel

- Healthcare facilities, supplies, and workers are being targeted: Leaving civilians without access to medical services⁵⁰³.
- Three health workers were killed in 2022: Ambulances are being caught in crossfire, searched by security forces, or carjacked by non-state armed groups⁵⁰⁴.

Impact on Civilians

⁵⁰⁰ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁵⁰¹ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289]

⁵⁰² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁵⁰³ Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) and Insecurity Insight. (2022). Attacks on Healthcare in Cameroon.

⁵⁰⁴ Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) and Insecurity Insight. (2022). Attacks on Healthcare in Cameroon.

Civilians are struggling to access medical services due to attacks and movement restrictions. Women, in particular, are traveling miles to secure healthcare access, highlighting the dire situation⁵⁰⁵.

Current Situation

- Approximately 18% of health facilities in the North-West and South-West regions have been forced to close since April 2023: Humanitarian workers are also being affected, with 11 workers temporarily held in the region⁵⁰⁶.

Key Challenges

- Forced closures: Between April and July 2023, around 18% of healthcare facilities were forced to close, with many operational ones struggling to function adequately⁵⁰⁷.
- Destruction of health infrastructure: The Mamfe hospital, the largest health facility in the South-West region, was burned down by suspected separatist fighters in June 2022, leaving over 80,000 people without access to healthcare⁵⁰⁸, although other anonymous sources indicates that the destruction was caused by government sponsored militias to sabotage the Ambazonian struggle.

Humanitarian Response

- Mobile clinics: Organizations like UNICEF and UNFPA are using mobile clinics to bridge the healthcare gap, offering essential services to remote and hard-to-reach communities⁵⁰⁹.
- Support from humanitarian organizations: MSF is providing medical care, including surgical and psychological support, to those affected by the crisis⁵¹⁰.

⁵⁰⁵ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁵⁰⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁵⁰⁷ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289].

⁵⁰⁸ ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). "Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis" Query Response [a-12289].

⁵⁰⁹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

⁵¹⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (2023). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.

Socio-Economic Impact

Prior to the crisis, Cameroon's Northwest and Southwest regions demonstrated impressive economic and social indicators, rivaling the rest of the country. Key highlights include:

- High Human Capital Index (HCI): The Northwest and Southwest regions boasted the highest HCI at the subnational level, indicating a strong foundation in health, education, and economic prosperity⁵¹¹.
- Digital connectivity: These regions were among the most digitally connected in Cameroon, after Yaoundé and Douala¹.
- Reputation for education: The Northwest and Southwest education system was widely admired, with some Francophone parents even sending their children to school in these regions¹.
- Oil wealth: The Southwest region is home to significant oil reserves, contributing substantially to Cameroon's GDP¹.

However, despite these advantages, the Anglophone population in the Southwest region expressed grievances regarding:

1. Exclusion from decision-making: They felt marginalized in decision-making processes related to their region's resources⁵¹².
2. Poor representation: They had limited representation in state oil companies, such as Sonara and the National Hydrocarbons Corporation⁵¹³.
3. Perceived lost opportunities: There was a sense of regret regarding potential national investments that could have benefited cities like Buea, Limbe, Kumba, and Bamenda if the regions had pursued independence rather than reunification⁵¹⁴.

⁵¹¹ World Bank Group. (2021). "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts"

⁵¹² World Bank Group. (2021). "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts"

⁵¹³ World Bank Group. (2021). "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts"

⁵¹⁴ World Bank Group. (2021). "The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts"

The Anglophone crisis in Cameroon has had a profound impact on the country's economy, education, and healthcare sectors.

Economic Impact

- 30% decline in industrial services performance:
- 5.3% drop in exports:
- 3.4% decrease in consumption:
- 10.2% decline in investment:
- Over 2 million people lost their livelihoods:
- \$64 million in infrastructural damages:
- \$35 million in agribusiness sector losses:
- \$27 million in energy sector losses: ⁵¹⁵

Education Sector

- Over 3,000 schools closed (out of 6,515):
- 700,000 school children deprived of regular classes:
- 98.6% drop in secondary school enrollments (from 213,277 to 2,908):
- Only 19% of primary and secondary schools remained open:
- 10.91% drop in tertiary school enrollment at the University of Bamenda: ⁵¹⁶

Healthcare Sector

- Only 34% of health facilities remain operational:
- Increase in reported deaths in the North and Southwest regions: Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.).
Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon. ⁵¹⁷

The crisis has had a devastating impact on the lives of Cameroonians, particularly in the North-West and South-West regions. The decline in economic performance, education, and healthcare has far-reaching consequences for the country's development and stability.

⁵¹⁵ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵¹⁶ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵¹⁷ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

Economic Decline

Overall GDP in 2019 declined by 35.2% and 27% in the Northwest (NW) and Southwest (SW) respectively compared to pre-crisis figures⁵¹⁸. Agricultural production of cash crops and food crops has been severely affected, with:

- Complete shutdown of banana production in 2018:
- 90% decline in palm oil production in 2019:
- Rubber production eight times less in 2019 than its pre-conflict level: ⁵¹⁹

Impact on Employment and Household Incomes

- The World Bank estimates that close to 2 million workers in the SW and 1.2 million workers in the NW were likely affected by the crisis: ⁵²⁰
- Farming and productive activities have been adversely affected by conflict-related issues: Making it difficult for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to find employment⁵²¹.
- Household incomes have been severely affected: Leading to a significant increase in poverty⁵²².

The conflict has had a crippling effect on the economy, leading to widespread poverty and unemployment. Addressing the root causes of the conflict and working towards a peaceful resolution is crucial to reviving the economy and improving the livelihoods of those affected.

Displacements

The ongoing crisis in Cameroon's North-West and South-West regions has resulted in widespread displacement of individuals due to violence and insecurity. Key statistics and findings include:

Displacement Figures

⁵¹⁸ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace".

⁵¹⁹ Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace".

⁵²⁰ World Bank. (n.d.). Cameroon Overview.

⁵²¹ World Bank. (n.d.). Cameroon Overview.

⁵²² World Bank. (n.d.). Cameroon Overview.

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 1.2 million IDPs reported in the Anglophone regions as of September 30, 2023⁵²³.
- Refugees in Nigeria: nearly 280,300 people displaced to neighboring Nigeria, representing 5% of the total population of the two Anglophone regions⁵²⁴.

Displacement Patterns

- Pendular Displacement: Individuals frequently shift between their homes and places of refuge due to perceived threats⁵²⁵.
- Urban Displacement: Many displaced individuals seek refuge in Douala, the country's economic hub, where they face challenges adapting to city life⁵²⁶.

Challenges Faced by Displaced Individuals

- Housing: Displaced individuals often stay with relatives or friends while seeking more suitable housing⁵²⁷.
- Employment: Displaced individuals face difficulties finding employment in urban areas¹.
- Adapting to City Life: Displaced individuals struggle to adapt to the urban environment, highlighting the need for targeted support and assistance⁵²⁸.

The ongoing conflict in Cameroon has resulted in devastating humanitarian consequences, including:

- Human Loss: Approximately 21,000 fatalities have been registered⁵²⁹.
- Displacement: An estimated 280,300 refugees and 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been forced to flee their homes⁵³⁰.

⁵²³ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2023). Cameroon Situation.

⁵²⁴ Amnesty International. (2023). Cameroon: Thousands displaced by conflict.

⁵²⁵ GenCap. (2022). The Impact of the Crisis on Women and Girls in Cameroon.

⁵²⁶ Afrique XXI. (2023). Cameroon: The forgotten crisis.

⁵²⁷ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵²⁸ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵²⁹ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵³⁰ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

- Manpower Loss: The conflict has led to a significant loss of manpower, affecting the country's productivity and economic growth⁵³¹.
- Urban Overcrowding: Large displacements have caused overcrowding in cities like Bafoussam, Douala, and Yaoundé, putting pressure on local resources and infrastructure⁵³².

Social Consequences:

The crisis has led to an increase in:

- Crime rates:
- Prostitution:
- Abortion: ⁵³³

These negative social consequences ultimately affect the welfare and well-being of citizens, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

Cameroon's crisis has significantly increased the country's fragility, with alarming declines in governance indicators over the last five years, particularly in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

The 2019 Ibrahim Index of African Governance reveals a disturbing trend of decreasing national security indicators every year since 2014⁵³⁴.

Key Declines:

- Government Engagement in Armed Conflict: Cameroon has experienced one of the largest deteriorations in this area, highlighting the government's struggles to address the crisis effectively⁵³⁵.
- Absence of Violence by Non-State Actors: The decline in this indicator reflects the growing presence and influence of armed groups in the region⁵³⁶.

⁵³¹ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵³² Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵³³ Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analysing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

⁵³⁴ Mo Ibrahim Foundation. (2019). 2019 Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

⁵³⁵ Mo Ibrahim Foundation. (2019). 2019 Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

⁵³⁶ Mo Ibrahim Foundation. (2019). 2019 Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

- Absence of IDPs: The significant increase in internally displaced persons (IDPs) has put immense pressure on local resources and infrastructure⁵³⁷.
- Reliability of Police Services: The decline in this indicator suggests a lack of trust in law enforcement agencies, exacerbating the overall sense of insecurity⁵³⁸.

Furthermore, the country's poor performance in participation and human rights is a concern, particularly in the context of recent presidential elections, which saw very low voter turnout in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

These challenges underscore the need for Cameroon to address its governance and security issues to mitigate the crisis's impact and ensure a more stable future.

Cameroonian Refugees abroad

The situation of Cameroonian refugees from the North West and South West regions is dire. In Nigeria, over 280.300 refugees have fled to seek safety, with many relying on informal paths to cross the border as official entry points remain closed⁵³⁹. These refugees, mostly women and children, face significant challenges in accessing basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare.

Challenges in Nigeria:

- Limited Access to Basic Services: Refugees struggle to access essential services, including healthcare and education⁵⁴⁰.
- Insecurity and Violence: The ongoing conflict in Cameroon's North West and South West regions has led to increased insecurity and violence, forcing many to flee⁵⁴¹.
- Difficulty in Integrating with Host Communities: Refugees often face difficulties integrating with local communities, exacerbating their struggles⁵⁴².

⁵³⁷ Mo Ibrahim Foundation. (2019). 2019 Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

⁵³⁸ Mo Ibrahim Foundation. (2019). 2019 Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

⁵³⁹ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2023). Cameroon Situation.

⁵⁴⁰ International Rescue Committee (IRC). (2022). Cameroon Refugee Crisis.

⁵⁴¹⁵⁴¹ Human Rights Watch. (2022). Cameroon: Conflict in the Anglophone Regions.

⁵⁴² Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). (2022). Cameroon: Displacement in the Anglophone Regions.

In neighboring countries, such as Chad and the Republic of Congo, Cameroonian refugees also face significant challenges. Many are forced to live in precarious conditions, with limited access to basic services and livelihood opportunities.

Situation in Other African Countries:

- South Africa: Cameroonian refugees in South Africa face challenges in accessing asylum procedures and often struggle to integrate with local communities⁵⁴³.
- Other African Countries: In countries like Ghana and Kenya, Cameroonian refugees often face difficulties in accessing education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities⁵⁴⁴.

In Europe and America, Cameroonian refugees also face significant challenges, including:

- Difficulty in Accessing Asylum Procedures: Many refugees struggle to access asylum procedures, and those who do often face lengthy and uncertain processes⁵⁴⁵.
- Integration Challenges: Refugees often face difficulties integrating with local communities, including accessing education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities⁵⁴⁶.

Overall, Cameroonian refugees from the North West and South West regions face significant challenges in accessing basic services, integrating with host communities, and rebuilding their lives.

Summary of Key Findings

Security Situation

- Deteriorating security situation with ongoing violence and instability⁵⁴⁷
- Escalating violence, including the use of improvised explosive devices and kidnappings⁵⁴⁸

⁵⁴³ South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). (2022). Report on the Situation of Cameroonian Refugees in South Africa.

⁵⁴⁴ International Organization for Migration (IOM). (2022). Migration in Africa: Cameroonian Refugees

⁵⁴⁵ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). (2022). Migration: Cameroonian Refugees in Europe.

⁵⁴⁶ United States Department of State. (2022). Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Cameroon.

⁵⁴⁷ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2020.

⁵⁴⁸ International Crisis Group, 2020

Economic Instability

- Conflict has significantly impacted the economy, leading to food and fuel shortages, and rising poverty levels⁵⁴⁹
- Economic impact includes decline in GDP growth and increase in inflation⁵⁵⁰

Security Situation

The security situation in Cameroon is dire, marked by widespread violence, killings, torture, and enforced disappearances committed by both government forces and separatist groups. The conflict has resulted in significant human suffering, with civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, being targeted by both parties.⁵⁵¹

Key Security Concerns:

- **Targeting of Civilians:** Civilians have been targeted, resulting in significant human suffering, with reports of civilian casualties, including the killing of at least 20 civilians in a single incident in the town of Buea.⁵⁵²
- **Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions:** Government forces have arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals suspected of supporting separatist groups, often without charge or trial.⁵⁵³
- **Terrorism:** Terrorist groups are active in the far north, including around Lake Chad and the Nigerian border, targeting public places and government buildings.
- **Kidnapping and Piracy:** Kidnapping and piracy are significant concerns, particularly in the Far North, Northwest, and Southwest regions, as well as in the Gulf of Guinea.

The conflict has displaced over 1.8 million people, with at least 1.2 million people internally displaced and over 280,300 fleeing to Nigeria. The situation remains volatile, with ongoing

⁵⁴⁹(World Bank, 2020)

⁵⁵⁰ International Monetary Fund, 2020

⁵⁵¹ Amnesty International, 2020

⁵⁵² Human Rights Watch, 2019.

⁵⁵³ Amnesty International, 2020

clashes between government forces and separatist groups, and infighting among different separatist groups.⁵⁵⁴

Human Rights Abuses

Cameroon is facing a dire human rights crisis, with widespread abuses committed by government forces, Amba fighters, and other state-sponsored fighters. The situation is exacerbated by a culture of impunity, with perpetrators rarely held accountable for their actions.

Key Human Rights Concerns

- **Torture and Ill-Treatment:** Government forces have been accused of torturing and ill-treating detainees, including using electric shocks, beatings, and forced labor⁵⁵⁵.
- **Restrictions on Freedom of Expression:** The government has restricted freedom of expression, arresting and detaining journalists and activists. At least 10 journalists were arrested and detained in 2020, according to the International Press Institute⁵⁵⁶.
- **Displacement and Humanitarian Crisis:** The conflict has resulted in the displacement of over 1.2 million people as opposed to 700,000 people reported by other organisations, creating a significant humanitarian crisis. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported on the severe humanitarian needs of displaced populations, including food, shelter, and healthcare⁵⁵⁷.
- **Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions:** The government has arbitrarily arrested and detained individuals, including activists and journalists⁵⁵⁸.
- **Violence Against Civilians:** Both government forces and Amba fighters/other state-sponsored fighters have been accused of committing violence against civilians, including killings, abductions, and destruction of property⁵⁵⁹.

⁵⁵⁴ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2020.

⁵⁵⁵ Amnesty International. (2020). Cameroon: Human Rights Crisis in the Anglophone Regions.

⁵⁵⁶ International Press Institute. (2020). Cameroon: Journalists Detained.

⁵⁵⁷ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2020). Cameroon Humanitarian Response Plan

⁵⁵⁸ Committee to Protect Journalists. (2020). Cameroon: Journalist Detained.

⁵⁵⁹ Amnesty International. (2020). Cameroon: Human Rights Crisis in the Anglophone Regions.

To the Concerned Authorities, this report urgently bring to your attention the plight of Anglophone refugees fleeing the ongoing conflict in Cameroon. The testimonies and evidence presented in this report demonstrate the dire need for asylum and protection.

These individuals have endured unimaginable suffering, including violence, displacement, and human rights abuses. Their stories are a testament to the devastating consequences of the conflict, which has ravaged their communities and left them with no choice but to seek safety elsewhere.

We implore you to consider the urgent need for asylum and protection for these vulnerable individuals. Their lives depend on it. We urge you to provide a safe haven, where they can find refuge, healing, and hope. We are confident that your prompt attention to this matter will save lives, alleviate suffering, and uphold the fundamental human rights of these Anglophone refugees.

SECTION 12: Practical Measures and Solutions

This section outlines concrete recommendations and actionable solutions that concerned authorities can implement to address the root causes of the Anglophone conflict and work towards a lasting resolution.

To address the human rights crisis in Cameroon, several practical measures and solutions can be implemented.

Immediate Actions

- Independent Investigation: Establish an independent international investigation into the human rights abuses committed by all parties involved.⁵⁶⁰
- Accountability: Ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions, regardless of their affiliation.
- Protection of Civilians: Implement measures to protect civilians from violence, including the establishment of safe zones and humanitarian corridors.

Human Rights Protection

- Freedom of Expression: Respect and protect the right to freedom of expression, including the release of detained journalists and activists.⁵⁶¹
- Humanitarian Assistance: Provide urgent humanitarian assistance to displaced populations, including food, shelter, and healthcare.⁵⁶²

Long-term Solutions

- Dialogue and Reconciliation: Facilitate inclusive dialogue and reconciliation efforts to address the root causes of the conflict and promote a lasting peace.
- National Legal Framework: Establish a national legal framework for the protection of human rights defenders in Cameroon, as recommended by the Nkafu Policy Institute.

⁵⁶⁰ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/cameroon/>

⁵⁶¹ <https://nkafu.org/the-protection-of-human-rights-defenders-in-cameroon/>

⁵⁶² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>

Risk of Persecution Based on Ethnicity

Based on Ethnicity

- Targeting of Anglophones: Members of the Anglophone community are at risk of persecution due to their ethnicity⁵⁶³.
- Ethnic-Based Violence: There have been reports of ethnic-based violence, including the killing of at least 20 Anglophone civilians in a single incident⁵⁶⁴.

Based on Political Opinion

- Persecution of Separatist Supporters: Individuals suspected of supporting separatist groups or holding anti-government views are at risk of persecution⁵⁶⁵.
- Arbitrary Arrests and Detentions: There have been reports of arbitrary arrests and detentions of individuals based on their political opinions, including the arrest and detention of at least 100 people⁵⁶⁶.

Conclusion

In line with the various submissions above, we are concluding that the plight of English-speaking Cameroonians from the North West and South West regions is a heart-wrenching tale of persecution, violence, and displacement. As they flee their homeland in search of safety, they deserve compassion, empathy, and support.

We urge the authorities of host countries to carefully consider the asylum appeals of these individuals, recognizing the genuine fears and risks they face if returned to Cameroon. It is imperative that their claims are evaluated with sensitivity, understanding, and a commitment to upholding international refugee law.

The international community has a moral obligation to provide protection and safety to those fleeing persecution and conflict. We call on governments, international organizations, and

⁵⁶³ Amnesty International. (2020). Cameroon: Human Rights Crisis in the Anglophone Regions.

⁵⁶⁴ International Crisis Group. (2019). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How to Avoid a Further Escalation.

⁵⁶⁵ Human Rights Watch. (2019). Cameroon: Separatist Fighters Occupy Schools.

⁵⁶⁶ United Nations Commission on Human Rights. (2020). Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Cameroon.

civil society to join forces in providing a comprehensive response to the humanitarian crisis faced by English-speaking Cameroonians.

The world should stand in solidarity with these individuals, who have been forced to abandon their homes, livelihoods, and loved ones in search of refuge. Let us amplify their voices, acknowledge their suffering, and advocate for their right to seek asylum and protection.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of these vulnerable individuals, providing them with hope, safety, and a chance to rebuild their lives in peace and dignity.

SECTION 13: Recommendations for Effective Response

Addressing the Needs of Southern Cameroonian Refugees:

The ongoing crisis in Cameroon has resulted in a significant influx of Southern Cameroonian refugees, highlighting the need for a coordinated and multi-faceted response from international bodies, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). To effectively address the needs of these refugees, the following recommendations are proposed:

International Bodies

- **Advocacy and Awareness:** International bodies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), should raise awareness about the plight of Southern Cameroonian refugees and advocate for their protection at international forums, including the UN Security Council and the Human Rights Council.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Mobilize financial and technical resources to support refugee assistance programs, ensuring adequate funding for humanitarian efforts. This can be achieved through targeted appeals, donor engagement, and innovative funding mechanisms.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Regularly monitor human rights conditions and report on the situation of refugees to hold governments accountable and ensure compliance with international protection standards. This includes documenting incidents of violence, persecution, and human rights abuses.

Governments

- **Protection and Asylum:** Governments, particularly those in neighboring countries, should ensure that Southern Cameroonian refugees have access to protection and asylum procedures, in accordance with international law.
- **Humanitarian Assistance:** Provide humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education, to refugees and host communities.
- **Durable Solutions:** Explore durable solutions, such as resettlement, local integration, and voluntary repatriation, in consultation with refugees and other stakeholders.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- **Refugee Assistance:** Provide refugee assistance programs, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education, in coordination with international bodies and governments.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Raise awareness about the plight of Southern Cameroonian refugees and advocate for their protection and rights.
- **Community-Based Initiatives:** Support community-based initiatives that promote social cohesion, peaceful coexistence, and economic empowerment among refugees and host communities.

Additional Recommendations

- **Support Host Communities:** Provide support to host communities, including economic empowerment programs, to promote social cohesion and mitigate the impact of refugee influxes.
- **Address Root Causes:** Address the root causes of the conflict, including political, economic, and social grievances, to prevent further displacement and promote durable solutions.
- **Foster Regional Cooperation:** Foster regional cooperation and coordination among governments, international bodies, and NGOs to ensure a comprehensive and effective response to the refugee crisis.

We believe by implementing these recommendations, the international community can work towards providing effective protection and assistance to Southern Cameroonian refugees, while also addressing the root causes of the conflict and promoting durable solutions.

SECTION 14: Urgent Action Needed for Cameroonian/Southern Cameroonian Asylum Seekers

The plight of Southern Cameroonian asylum seekers is dire and demands immediate attention. To address their urgent needs, several key recommendations have been identified.

Recognition and Protection

- Recognize Refugee Status: Countries must acknowledge Southern Cameroonians fleeing conflict as refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention⁵⁶⁷.
- Non-Refoulement: Adhere to the principle of non-refoulement, ensuring asylum seekers are not returned to Cameroon where they face serious threats to life or freedom⁵⁶⁸.

Efficient Asylum Procedures

- Expedited Asylum Procedures: Implement expedited procedures to ensure timely protection for those at risk, prioritizing cases involving severe persecution⁵⁶⁹.
- Streamlined Processing: Establish efficient processing systems to reduce backlog and wait times, ensuring asylum seekers receive fair and prompt consideration⁵⁷⁰.

Durable Solutions

- Resettlement Programs: Expand resettlement programs for Southern Cameroonian refugees, providing a durable solution for those who cannot safely remain in host countries⁵⁷¹.
- Local Integration: Support local integration initiatives, enabling refugees to settle and rebuild their lives in host countries⁵⁷².

⁵⁶⁷ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁶⁸ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁶⁹ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁷⁰ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁷¹ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁷² Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

Support for Host Countries

- **Financial and Technical Assistance:** Provide financial and technical assistance to countries hosting Southern Cameroonian refugees, improving living conditions and access to services⁵⁷³.
- **Capacity Building:** Support capacity-building initiatives for host countries, enhancing their ability to manage refugee influxes and provide adequate services⁵⁷⁴.

Additional Measures

- **Humanitarian Assistance:** Ensure humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education, reaches asylum seekers and refugees⁵⁷⁵.
- **Advocacy and Awareness:** Amplify the voices of Southern Cameroonian asylum seekers, raising awareness about their plight and advocating for their rights⁵⁷⁶.
- **Community Engagement:** Foster community engagement and social cohesion, promoting understanding and acceptance of refugees among host communities⁵⁷⁷.

The international community must respond with compassion and urgency, providing critical support to Southern Cameroonian asylum seekers. As a global community, you owe it to yourselves, to ensure their safety, dignity, and well-being.

⁵⁷³ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁷⁴ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁷⁵ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁷⁶ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

⁵⁷⁷ Human Rights Watch. (2022). "How Can You Throw Us Back?": Asylum Seekers Abused in the US and Deported to Harm in Cameroon.

Section 14: Conclusion

The Armed Conflict in Anglophone Cameroon: A Quest for Lasting Peace

This report has explicitly shown how the armed conflict in Anglophone Cameroon continues to devastate the region, it's imperative that we acknowledge the dire need for a compassionate response. The government of Cameroon may claim that all is well, but the reality is that the conflict has created a massive humanitarian crisis, displacing over 1.2 million people and leaving 2.2 million in need of assistance.⁵⁷⁸

It's time for the international community to come together and urge the Cameroon government and armed separatist groups to ceasefire and negotiate. We must prioritize inclusive dialogue, ensuring that the voices of affected civilians are heard and their concerns addressed. A democratic process, potentially involving an internationally supervised referendum, is crucial for achieving lasting peace.

Furthermore, we must recognize the need for greater autonomy and protection for the Anglophone regions. The Cameroon government must address longstanding grievances and ensure that the rights of the Anglophone population are respected.

To the authorities concerned, we issue a compassionate plea: open your doors and accept refugees fleeing the Anglophone region. Provide them with humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, and healthcare. Support local peace initiatives and promote economic development in the region.

The international community must also take action. We urge governments and organizations to provide funding and resources to support the humanitarian response. Establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to address historical grievances and human rights abuses.

⁵⁷⁸ <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports-briefs/crisis-denied-in-cameroon-government-refusal-to-recognize-suffering-in-nwsw-deters-donors/>

Ultimately, a lasting peace in Anglophone Cameroon requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of the conflict, involves all stakeholders, and prioritizes democratic decision-making. We must work together to create a more just and equitable future for the people of Anglophone Cameroon.

Appendix

Appendix A: Log of Data of Alleged Human Rights Abuses in Cameroon

This is a log of pieces of media received as well as published websites indicating the alleged Human Rights Abuses. Each piece of data has been observed and analysed by our research team.

The log begins from 2016 to 2024, the period addressed in this report. We have documented and analysed only the ones we have been privileged to lay hands on. These files can be viewed in the links provided and we can also provide the ones unpublished, without links if requested.

R ef	Date received	File type	Length (min)	Observer description
2016 to 2025				
1	June 25, 2018	Video documentary	9.43	Jun 25, 2018 #osint #BBCAfricaEye #investigativejournalism 299,202 views • Jun 25, 2018 • #osint #BBCAfricaEye #investigativejournalism Hundreds of shocking mobile phone videos from Cameroon have surfaced in the past six months. They are coming from the English speaking part of the country, where rebels are fighting to form an independent state called "Ambazonia". #BBCAfricaEye analysed these films, shedding fresh light on who is responsible for the violence. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct_SLnAGDuM&t=13s
2.	May 17, 2018	Video statement	6:53 mins	Ambassador Barlerin's Interview at Cameroon Unity Palace. May 17, 2018 https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10160414267705716
3.	October 3, 2017	www.foreign.senate.gov statement	2 page	Statement by Peter Henry Barlerin Ambassadorial Nominee to the Republic of Cameroon Submitted to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations October 3, 2017 https://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/100317Barlerin_Testimony.pdf
4	Jul 13, 2018	YouTube video	4.10mins	Cameroon's army indicted in extrajudicial killing of women, children [The Morning Call] https://youtu.be/_LI0BCfLYcl?si=vl6FYONmfsGecGkk
5	5 June 2019	STATEMENT	NA	List of the most neglected displacement crises. 1. Cameroon 2. The Democratic Republic of the Congo 3. The Central African Republic 4. Burundi 5. Ukraine 6. Venezuela 7. Mali 8. Libya

				a 9. Ethiopia 10. Palestine https://www.nrc.no/shorthand/fr/the-worlds-most-neglected-displacement-crises/index.html
				The forgotten refugee crisis in Cameroon https://www.nrc.no/shorthand/stories/the-village-of-forgotten-refugees/index.html
6	Sep 24, 2021	Video		The 'neglected crisis' in Cameroon's English-speaking regions • FRANCE 24 English https://youtu.be/cQQ6l-250dl?si=1iluppAfyeRigGNK
7	Oct 1, 2018	Video	5.17 mins	Refugees from Anglophone Cameroon face tough conditions in Nigeria https://youtu.be/kbek_TxfjVA?si=StT73V5k4N-wLRtH
8	Feb 14, 2025	Video	14.43 mins	https://youtu.be/hAHRWEn_CjA?si=8FtX-FV6eEiq407O Why has the world overlooked the brutal civil war in Cameroon? For nearly a decade, a violent conflict has raged between English-speaking separatists and the French-speaking central government, leaving over 6,000 dead and displacing more than half a million people. Despite its devastating impact,
9	Jan 2, 2017	Video	12.25 mins	Cameroon's English-speaking minority angry over perceived domination of French language https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0RDz1oybuE
	May 14, 2019	Video	1.00min	Cameroon: some U.N Security Council Member States meet on humanitarian crisis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kg5dRPZ9DQI
10	Feb 22, 2020	Video	33.24 mins	Feb 22, 2020 Fellow viewers today we examine the killings on women and children in Ngarbuh village by the Cameroon military and how the government lied about the attack and also undercover the faces behind the attack.. https://youtu.be/n3l75WAsp3o?si=gsL00odNOCwRt38F
11	Oct 26, 2020	Video	2.16 mins	Oct 26, 2020 #Cameroon #iamKUMBA #KumbaMassacre Cameroon's government has blamed separatists for the killing of school children in the southwest of the country. Eight children died when armed men attacked them with guns and machetes on Saturday. Hundreds of protesters are demanding justice while many parents fear sending their children back to school. https://youtu.be/IG55JA6VFvA?si=UNq318Oj31hhD9Wc

12	Mar 4, 2020	Video	7.37	<p>Mar 4, 2020 10,040 views • Mar 4, 2020</p> <p>Laura Angela Bagnetto, of Radio France International, on the Cameroon Anglophone Crisis. "It's not just military who are attacking civilians ... but also the separatists," she said. "People just want it to stop."</p> <p>https://youtu.be/txzs_4k3Wrg?si=E3NqALigDZo0shbj</p>
13	Jun 9, 2021	Video	15.47	<p>The United States announced on Monday visa restrictions against "leaders" and "accomplices" of violence in western Cameroon. Western Cameroon is the scene of a four-year bloody conflict between armed Anglophone groups and the army.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/ZdVSJeUO9GY?si=V2HM6mw_Xd_JzIOM</p>
14	Feb 5, 2019	Video	11.24	<p>Bilingual Cameroon is at the brink of civil war, with armed English speakers fighting for independence against the largely French-speaking government. Subscribe to The Washington Post on YouTube:</p> <p>https://youtu.be/flfUbOd_17M?si=5x5anR6ssSW4O7xe</p>
15	Apr 9, 2021	Video	12.41	<p>Since 2017, Cameroon has seen growing violence in what is generally known as the Anglophone Crisis. But what started as a conflict over decentralisation has now become a full scale effort to secure independence for the self-declared Federal Republic of Ambazonia. So, what is the conflict about? And is there any hope for an end to fighting?</p> <p>https://youtu.be/6cXXw2tPFcU?si=T0dcu4uNhHJke9PR</p>
16	Dec 26, 2023	Video	1.47 mins	<p>Dec 26, 2023</p> <p>While the eyes of the world are on the deadly conflicts in Gaza and Ukraine. There's another conflict that has been going on for years unnoticed in Africa. The civil war in Cameroon's Anglophone regions have claimed the lives of over 6,000 since it flared up seven years ago.</p> <p>https://youtu.be/1D5aEgENLWY?si=wNrJqgvBHwb5Ep8c</p>
17	13 October 2017	amnesty.org report	NA	<p>-Amnesty International on mass detention of lawful peaceful protesters in Ambazonia by Cameroon forces</p> <p>https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-</p>

				release/2017/10/cameroon-inmates-packed-like-sardines-in-overcrowded-prisons-following-anglophone-protests/
18	Aug 26, 2018 Aug 21, 2018		N A	<p>i- Oral Submission to the 39th Session of the UN Human Rights Council on the Universal Periodic Report of Cameroon, 20 September 2018.</p> <p>i- https://x.com/AgborNkonghoF/status/1033821916770041857</p> <p>ii- CHRDA Report on Cameroon military burning of Villages</p> <p>ii- https://x.com/AgborNkonghoF/status/1032001120502210560</p>
19				<p>University of Pretoria Faculty of Law .Centre for Human Rights calls for independent investigation of sustained allegations of crimes against humanity in Cameroon</p> <p>https://www.chr.up.ac.za/campaigns/stopcameroonviolations-campaign</p>
20	116th CONGRESS 2d Session			<p>S.Res.684 - A resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and separatist armed groups from the English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions to end all violence, respect the human rights of all Cameroonians, and pursue a genuinely inclusive dialogue toward resolving the ongoing civil conflict in Anglophone Cameroon.</p> <p>https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-resolution/684/text</p>
21	3, 2018 o			<p>Cameroon: Routine Torture, Incommunicado Detention UN Security Council Should Condemn Abuses, Demand Reforms</p> <p>https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/06/cameroon-routine-torture-incommunicado-detention</p>
22	24 March 2019	Video	1.21	<p>There is a hole dug in dry mud ground, like a grave, with a blindfolded man inside who is clearly alive and does not appear to be injured. As the man in the grave tries to get up, a man in military uniform kicks him down. There are at least four other men in military uniforms in view at different moments, and at least one of the men in military uniform has gun. There appears to be another man among the military men, wearing shorts and a t-shirt, without shoes on his feet – it is not clear if he is with the men in uniform or a prisoner. The French speaker recording appears to say 'Ça va comme ça'. There is the</p>

				<p>sound of a gun rifle click. The man blindfolded in the grave tries to get up. A man behind the camera shouts, 'ce la va, ce la va'. The man behind the camera speaks more French which I struggle to understand. He says, 'le tête'. There is the sound of 5 gunshots. The man in the grave is no longer moving. The men behind the camera continue to speak in French. A man in army clothing comes in front of the camera with a gun in hand. He points the gun at the still body in the grave and shoots the body once more. The body jolts. The man behind the camera says 'voila'. The man with the gun shoots again, the body volts, and the man behind the camera again says 'voila'. The man with the camera then says 'amen, amen, c'est bon, c'est bon'. There is no more movement. The video stops.</p>
23	27 March 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Image of deceased male body with lower back split open. Military t-shirt raised. Leg looks mangled and out of place to the side of the picture.</p>
24	27 March 2019	Photo	NA	<p>At least 9 men with guns, look like military. There is a burnt-out car and an army vehicle in shot.</p>
25	27 March 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Severely mangled corpse in military uniform, face down in mud. One leg cut off below knee. Left hand cut off. Right arm appears to have been cut off.</p>
26	27 March 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Severely mangled corpse, more so than the last. Again, face down. With a lighter coloured military top. The bottom part of the corpse appears to have been chopped off. The lower parts of the legs are missing. The intestines and other bodily organs are visible. There are no arms on or near to the corpse.</p>
27	30 March 2019	Video	3.21	<p>Two square graves have been dug out in a village. A woman's body is laid in one grave. The inside of the other grave is out of view, covered with white cloth. It appears that there may be two bodies in this grave. A man speaks in pidgin English, he begins to cry halfway through. A lady cries in the background. Other villagers stand around. Some become distressed towards the end of the video. Lots of crying and wailing as mud is put into the graves.</p> <p>Additional information received with the video: "Teers in heaven. Where is the rest of the world. Teers."</p>

28	31 March 2019	Video	1.13	<p>Video appears to be of a protest in Yaoundé – the capital. The roads are paved, and the buildings look well developed (as though it could be in London or the US). A truck with a sign drives past, with an advert by the Guardian newspaper saying, ‘peaceful protest in Cameroon.’ Someone speaks in the background. The image on the billboard changes to Paul Biya’s image. The person holding the camera says ‘that’s the man who has been killing people, he’s 87 years old and the British government keeps supporting him to stay in power.’ Sign changes to ‘Biya must go.’ Other people speak in French.</p>
29	31 March 2019	Video	2.01	<p>Same protest as above. Person holding the camera makes reference to political prisoners and says ‘the number of prisoners in Cameroon are yet unknown, ‘cus people just disappear from their homes. Some are reported to be in prison. Some we don’t know where they are. These are reports of the atrocities of the Biya regime. This is in Kumbo (referring to billboard image). There are over 115 homes likely destroyed by fire since 1st December 2018. Areas of Kumbo in the North West Region of Cameroon. Stop the rape, the torture, the habitual arrest of Western Cameroonians.’</p>
30	31 March 2019	Video	0.19	<p>Same protest as above. Image of Paul Biya and his wife. Then the billboard says, “UK supports Biya in burning houses in Cameroon while it collects gas to heat up homes in UK.” The next slide says, “France & Britain stop killing Cameroonians for oil and gas”.</p>
31	31 March 2019	Video	1.18	<p>There are many women in a church. Some are lying on the floor of the church. Other women are lying flat behind the pews. There is a lot of low murmuring. The church is full. The priest inside the church goes outside. Three gunshots are heard. A woman in the church says ‘shh’. The corridors of the church are full of women lying down. A child is visible. People slowly begin to rise.</p>
32	01 April 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Appears to be middle-aged deceased male, partially naked, lying on mattress. There is blood on the mattress. No visible injury on the body.</p>
33	01 April 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Deceased young man, fully dressed in civilian clothing. Lying face up, with a visible head injury. Three women in traditional country dress are standing around him.</p>

34		Photo	NA	Middle-aged woman in country dress, lying on black plastic on the ground, leaning on her side. She looks sad / despondent / traumatised.
35		Photo	NA	Three women dig a grave with ploughs usually used for farm work.
36	01 April 2019	Msg	NA	Image of a Facebook screenshot reporting an arson attack on Muyuka District Hospital in Fako. The message notes that it is unclear who the attackers were and indicates it may have been the Ambazonia fighters. Comments 'this is the umpteenth arson attack on hospitals in the conflict hit North West and South West regions since the crisis escalated.'
37	01 April 2019	PDF	NA	Memorandum of understanding of SCNC members declaring the existence of the Southern Cameroons Liberation council
38	01 April 2019	Photo	NA	A woman is on the ground, on a tarmacked road. A man in black t-shirt and jeans kicks her. The woman's teeth are clenched as though in pain. Another man stands over her with a stick in his hand, raised above her. He also has a black top and jeans, with a material wrap around his waist with an image that might be a political figure. The man has an army cap on his head. It looks like a francophone-region police car in view next to the man with the stick. Lots of other men are in the background.
39	4 th April 2019	Photo & PDF	NA	<p>Additional information that came with the images:</p> <p>"Cameroon military in Meluf again 4th of April 2019. They came to Jerfon Meluf Kumbo North West Region of Cameroon at 3:00am. During their devilish operation, they killed the following civilians(5); Boris Suika, Adelbert Seka, Eugene Banboye(mentally deranged), Pa Michael Bongyu(sick and couldn't run like other) and Roberto Sharila</p> <p>Seven houses were burnt belonging to:</p> <p>Peter Wirba, Wirsy Emmanuel Berinyuy, Lon Nobert, Fai Chekila, Oliver Wirntem, Bernard Yinmba and Pa Mbuhlai (Buba's father).</p> <p>They also broke into 87 houses went away with valuable and potable items.</p> <p>It should be noted that since they started entering Meluf, 22 people have died</p>

40	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	Upper body of deceased man, wearing a light blue shirt, with a blood stain on the chest area.
41	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	Lid being closed on a coffin, with people standing round. Mud ground indicates that this is in a village
42	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	Same coffin as above, with people standing around, and a priest in shot.
43	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	A house with a large proportion of the roof missing. The beams are blackened which indicates this could have been caused by fire.
44	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	Same deceased man as in 032. More of the body is in shot. Towards the lower half of the body, a pool of blood has formed.
45	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	The first stages of burial – the deceased is wrapped in a quality blanket.
46	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	The interior of a burnt-out village house.
47	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	First stage of burial. A corpse wrapped in a blanket carried by three men, held in place with palm branches.
48	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	Car windscreen, punctured by at least 6 bullet holes.
49	6 th April 2019	Photo	NA	Burnt out house interior. This house had a concrete layer on the wall in between the usual red brick, which indicates that it was a well-built house by local standards. including 3 mad people and 5 old people they killed.”
50	25 April 2019	Video	0.29	Man lying on ground, topless, wearing torn, blue-striped trousers. The victim appears to be alive but passed out (seemingly from pain). A man in army uniform is holding the victim’s left leg and appears to be trying to break it away from the body by placing one foot on the victim’s kneecap and using two hands to snap the leg upwards away from the body. Another person has a foot on the victim’s shoulder to hold the victim down. As the man in army uniform tries to snap the leg, the body of the victim moves upwards, exposing a large open wound to the side of the face. It seems as though an ear has been cut off. The victim seems to regain consciousness, and has his

				<p>other knee bent in front of him as though trying to get up. His head lifts and he looks down at his leg which is in the process of being snapped off. There are two other men on the ground near to the victim with their hands tied behind their backs. They are topless. One is wearing orange shorts and the other darker trousers. The victim rolls to the other side and lets out a gasp and begins screaming. The victim is hit on the head with a stick by someone out of shot. <i>(I cannot watch anymore of this video and I have had to stop documenting this piece of footage. Please refer to the referenced file in the folder for more information.)</i></p>
51	25 April 2019	Video	03.03	<p>Footage from inside a building which looks derelict and as though all of the windows have been smashed through. It is daylight outside. Gunshots can be heard intermittently. There are three men in military uniform in shot outside, and they appear to be going into a house / building across the road. The shooting starts again. It appears as though the person with the camera is trying to hide. Three military men walk back, something is said in French. Shots begin again. It appears as though one of the military men is bent over and dragging something. The military men start to kick, perhaps the door or wall of the building to get entry. People from inside the building where the footage being taken whisper – they sound like young voices.</p>
52	27 April 2019	Photo	NA	<p>In the top of a photo is a severed limb – either arm or leg, it is hard to tell. There is a tie on one side of the limb which makes it seem to be an arm. In front of the limb is a severed male head. On the forehead of the severed head, a severed penis has been placed. A light-coloured (yellowish/cream) round object is next to the penis. It appears to be one of the testicles which has become exposed / escaped. There is another severed limb to the front of the severed head. Again, it is hard to tell which limb, but it appears to be an arm.</p>
53	29 April 2019	Video	1.05	<p>A man is sitting on the floor, with his feet exposed. Another man is standing on the man of the floor, holding him down. Another man is standing over with a stick and beats the feet of the man on the floor. The man hits the soles of the feet three times. He says something in local dialect. The man on the floor is then taken by the hand and led outside. As he leaves the house, another man kicks him on the way out.</p> <p>Cuts to another video. Another room, darker this time. Lots of people appear to be in the room. Another person is put on the ground with their feet outward in front of them exposed. A man beats the soles of the feet four times using a plank of wood. It then appears the man on the</p>

				floor is kicked multiple times. All wearing civilian clothing in both videos.
54	1 May 2019	Photo	NA	Deceased young man, full body. Civilian clothing. No shoes on the feet. A stream of blood running from the top half of the body.
55	12 May 2019	Photo	NA	Deceased body of presumed male. From the injuries, it looks as though the man died from fire / being burnt. His skin is peeled away in some areas and looks burned in others. Two women and two men hold the front of the body, preparing the man for burial.
56	13 May 2019	Video	0.47	Deceased body lying flat on the ground, face up, of a man in his late 20s/ early 30s. He is wearing blue trousers and a darker coloured t-shirt. Blood down lower front and blood on the ground behind. Commentary on the video talks about 'the terrible government that says there is no gun firing'. He says to look what happened this morning. And then points to the amount of gun cartridges on the ground. According to the commentator, there are up to one hundred cartridges. The man said that they were used on two people. The camera shows a second deceased man, with blood pooling from his head. He is wearing a black t-shirt which is ripped and shorts, but no shoes upon his feet. The commentator says, about this second corpse 'there is the commander'.
57	13 May 2019	Photo	NA	Picture of large protest. Appears to be in Europe or the US. However, the background could be Yaoundé. People are holding placards, and so it is an organised event.
58	13 May 2019	Photo	NA	Picture of another protest. This is certainly in Cameroon. Protestors are holding a sign that reads: 'Holocaust 6 million Jews killed. Rwanda 1 million killed. Southern Cameroonians 6,000 killed and counting and the world is quiet.'
59	13 May 2019	Msg	NA	The following message came through about a protest in the US: "Developing News... Southern Cameroonians are shutting down the UN headquarters. An estimated population of about 6,000 Ambazonians from around the United States are currently right in front of the UN security council for a MASS protest against neocolonialism. The protest which some people have described as the GREATEST in the History of southern Cameroonians have

				brought together all southern Cameroonians from all walks of life irrespective of their group affiliations. Eye witnesses say their message is UNIQUE and CLEAR as their banners read "independence of southern Cameroons now!!" the protesters have stolen the show as onlookers and UN diplomats gather to watch GRUESOME images of Mr Paul Biya's killings in southern Cameroons. Live videos will be streaming live soon....."
60	18 May 2019	Photo	NA	House completely burnt to the ground, nothing is left standing apart from the frame of a bed.
61	18 May 2019	Photo	NA	Another home completely burnt to the ground. The building in this photo has collapsed and the roof has fallen to the ground.
62	18 May 2019	Msg	NA	<p>Message received about the burning event: "How the incidence of Alachu Mile 8 started.</p> <p>"Over 200 houses were either partially or totally burnt down at mile 8 Mankon & it's environs. It should be noted that the quarter head of that quarter in mile 8 Mankon was shot inside his own house two weeks ago. While the population of that quarter were planning to give their quarter head a befitting burial this coming week end, the BIR forces came & insisted that they must be the ones to remove the quarter head from the mortuary & burry. The population agitated & protested, saying that the military cannot kill their quarter head & still deprive them of the right to give him a befitting burial. While the crown was protesting the burial of the quarter head by the military, a battalion of BIR forces arrived from their Camp at the Bamenda airport some 2km away & razed the quarter head's compound ablaze. They also burnt down all the canopies. As if that was not enough, they collected all the 6 pigs meant to be slaughtered at the quarter head's funeral. This angered young men in the quarter who decided to revenge. They later targeted & ambushed 2 BIR forces living in that same quarter who were returning from work in civilian attire on a motor bike. The third on was kidnapped & taken away to explain why or who gave them instructions to insist on burying their quarter head. The reckless military then retaliated by burning down over 200 houses & killing 3 young innocent men not even involved. The situation is almost out of hand as much of the population of the area are in nearby bushes. I believe it is not over yet because radicalised young men in the area whose houses have been razed are mobilising & planning for something worse which may lead to the lost of many more lives in the process. My comment; young</p>

				men should exercise restraint. Many inhabitants of the area have recounted several human rights violations including rape, killing of unarmed civilians, arbitrary arrest & detention e.t.c The only houses in the area skipped or not burnt are those of people who were indoors, pleaded & paid bribes to the military ranging from 60,000----500,000FCFA. These are the only fortunate people whose houses were spared. The good news is that many inhabitants are willing & ready to cooperate in investigations from Human rights Monitors in any Fact Finding Mission. Human Rights Violations are overwhelming being reported across the North-West Region but unfortunately most inhabitants fear for their lives as they run away & do not take photographs to facilitate investigations. It should be noted Human Rights Monitors can only work with cases that have exhibits, photo or video proves/evidence. I wonder if the Cameroonian military are actually trained!!!”
63	20 May 2019	Video	03.02	Video of 2-month-old deceased female child who had been shot in the back of the head. Blood is on the sheet, and 7 or 8 bullet shells near the child’s head. Commentator claims that the child was killed by ‘terrorists of the Republic of Cameroon’. He continues to explain that the military came in as the mother was struggling to prepare food for the family. The child was sleeping in the parlour. The soldiers came in and went to the child and shot the child in the back of the head. The camera zooms closer on the wound on the child’s head, and the skull is exposed. The camera then shows more of the house. There is a bullet on the ground. Furniture in the house have been pushed over. The commentator claims that the military wanted money, and when they couldn’t find money, they killed the child. The commentator calls on the international community to ‘help us’. He says they want their independence. They want to live in peace. ‘Please we are pleading for your intervention. Come and help us, we are begging.
64	16 June 2019	Photo	NA	Appears to be three or four bodies on a lower stretcher and least one body in an above stretcher. It is unclear if the boys are alive – I presume they are inside a hospital helicopter. It is hard to make sense of these pictures.
65	16 June 2019	Video	0.37	Caddy truck, with men in full military uniform standing around, with green helmets on. In the back of the caddy, there is a pile of bodies (at least 5) in the truck. The bodies appear to be wearing army print trousers and black tops. One of the bodies moves a leg upwards and downwards.

				The video then moves to a helicopter, and someone says something in French. The above images 099 and 098 seem to be from this moment. Bodies are being taken from the back of the truck and placed onto stretchers.
66	16 June 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Deceased male body on a table, wrapped in a traditional blanket, face exposed. A person wearing a white latex glove is touching the body which makes this seem like a mortuary.</p> <p>Additional information with the image: “Policemen killed by a bomb allegedly planted by separatists today in the south west region”</p>
67	15 July 2019	Photo	NA	Image of two deceased young men. One body is fully clothed with a blood-soaked lower left leg, blood on the arms and hands. The head is not in view. The second boy is topless, with blood on his chest. The lower half of the body is not in shot.
68	15 July 2019	Photo	NA	Image of deceased male, young looking. He has brown / green shorts on and is topless. Blood from nose, on lower stomach and on lower arm. The man’s left leg is broken. The shin bone is protruding from the skin, completely snapped from the lower ankle / foot bone. The one foot visible in shot has no shoe on the foot. There appears to be another body in the top right-hand corner. This may be the main man in 110. (These all look to be young men, late teens / early twenties.)
69	23 July 2019	Video	3.13	<p>Crowd, lots of noise, outdoors, a crowd. A man with sunglasses on talks to the camera. He says, these are Ambazonian detainees, in the prison, it is too much. Men are shouting into the camera ‘we are tired, we are tired’. ‘We are survivors, we are survivors’. The crowd seems to be all men. ‘We don’t eat food, we don’t drink water, they are to send us to a cell every day, so let them just finish us as they finished our mothers and fathers. ... We have decided to die.’ Lots of whistles and drums. ‘Paul Biya must go.’</p> <p>Additional information: ‘Strike by Anglophones in Yaoundé prison’</p>
70	23 July 2019	Video	1.03	Houses on fire, in a compound area. A gunshot sounds. Lots of people in the background talking. Another gunshot. Shouting and lots of crowd noises. The commentator speaks French. Distant gunshots. Four loud gunshots. A satellite dish is in view. It looks to be some main city area.

71	24 July 2019	Photo	NA	<p>30 or so men in a very small confined space, which looks to be a prison. 20 or so men are lying top and tail, on the ground, very tightly together. A few men are standing. There is no bedding. The men are all in underwear, no shoes or tops. There is a fan in the corner of the room and a bucket in the middle of the men.</p> <p>Additional information received: 'Anglophone prisoners in Yaoundé'</p>
72	25 July 2019	Video	1.17	<p>Filming inside a car. There is an older woman deceased laid down on the passenger seat of the car, the chair rolled back. In the distance, there is the sound of a woman crying. The commentator of the video says, in pidgin, 'this mami (older woman) was killed in Bambala market this morning'. He shows where the lady was shot, in the stomach, and there is a gunshot wound through her traditional dress. It went into her stomach. The lady's name is Polina. The commentator said the date was 24th July 2019. The commentator says that 'they' shot another person as well. They were both civilians. Polina was 70 something and was at the market buying fish, to sell on in her smaller village market. They shot the lady on the motorbike, we are told. The man filming shows the fish the lady bought in the market – a big bag of it.</p>
73	27 July 2019	Msg	NA	<p>The following message received: 'Reports of an Anglophone lawyer beaten by two gendarmes in Biyem Amssi simply because he was recognized as an Anglophone. The said Lawyer is said to be Bar Amumba. He is unconscious as seen lying on the Gendarmerie hilux above. Nowhere is safer for Anglophones anymore.'</p>
74	8 Aug 2019	Video	1.39	<p>Two deceased boys lying on grass. One has sandals (flipflops) on, white shirt, and white shorts. His face is very bloody, and he has blood on his right arm, which is raised up towards his face. The other boy has one bare foot and one sandal on. It is hard to tell if he has a top on, he seems to be topless. It is also unclear if he is in underwear or shorts. The second boy has an open wound on his upper leg and an open wound on his shoulder. Someone says in pidgin 'that's the carpenter no?' and someone agrees that it is. The camera moves and there is another deceased boy in shot. He is lying on his back and has blood all down the front of a white vest. The ground appears to be soaked</p>

				<p>with blood. It sounds as though there is a crowd / it is in a busy area.</p> <p>The video cuts to another image of another deceased body, male. This man has trainers on, blue jeans, and a white shirt – he looks smart. He is lying on his back; his chest is covered in blood.</p> <p>The commentator talks about how the children can't go to school because of Paul Biya. The commentator said the deaths happened in the night, a shooting happened.</p>
75	19 Aug 2019	Video	04.39	<p>Video tour of a village to show how deserted it is. The man filming says it is in the market (he says the name, but I cannot quite catch it). It looks like a mud road to somewhere. The man with the camera shows how deserted the area is, which he claims is because of the regime and people being frightened to go outside. He shows how the grass has overgrown in the market because no one has gone for so long. He says, 'this is what the Republic of Cameroon government has done.' All the old stalls are deserted. The commentator points out that all the doors to the little shops in the market have been opened and scattered – this is what the military have been doing. The commentator claims that the military have scattered everything, kidnapped and stolen. It is a long video, during which we do not see even one person outside.</p>
76	19 Aug 2019	Msg	NA	<p>Message received about an Amba trial in Yaoundé: "The most scandalous judicial proceedings in world history. Today at the Yaoundé Military Tribunal, the defense Counsel for Sessekou AYUK Julius TAFE, NFOR NGALA NFOR, TASSANG Wilfried and Seven (7) others moved the said Court at exactly 1:55pm to stay the proceedings pursuant to the motion to the President of the Yaounde Court of Appeal challenging the independence of the Presiding Judge Lieutenant Colonel MISSE NJONE Jacques B.</p> <p>To buttress the motion, the defense Counsel referred the Court to the following provisions of the Cameroon Criminal Procedure Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sections 591(e), 592, 594 and 598 of the Cameroon Criminal Procedure Code on the Challenge against a Magistrate of the Bench; - Sections 1(i) on the rights of parties (in this case the rights of the accused persons which is to challenge or recuse a judge who to the accused persons appear to be bias); and - Sections 3(1) a and b on the sanctions of the infringement of any rule of criminal procedure.

				<p>Despite these motion of the defense Counsel, the Presiding Judge MISSE NJONE Jacques B. in utmost violation of the cited provisions and the rights of the accused persons continues to hear the second prosecution witness even without completing the hearing of the first prosecution witness who was not in court today.</p> <p>This attitude of the said Judge not only confirm his bias and personal interest in sentencing the accused persons, but equally clearly reveal the presumed outcome of the proceedings.</p> <p>The attitude of this judge is a clear violation of the very notion of FAIR TRIAL. What a shame!</p> <p>Barrister AYUKOTANG NDEP NKONGHO.”</p>
77	20 Aug 2019	Msg	NA	<p>Message received about the results of the aforementioned (142) Amba trial in Yaoundé: “The judgment has been delivered in the military tribunal and the Anglophone leaders sentenced to life imprisonment Darker days ahead</p> <p>BREAKING NEWS!!!</p> <p>President Sisiku AyukTabe and 11 other members of his Cabinet have been sentenced to Life Imprisonment and to pay 250 billion FCFA to #Cameroon 12.5 billion FCFA cost for civil party With additional 5 years imprisonment by #MilitaryCourt in Yde</p> <p>Press Release Communication and Media Committee of the Defense Team of Sessekou AYUK Julius TABE and others.</p> <p>Let the entire world be informed that at exactly 5:38am this Tuesday the 20th day of August 2019, the President of the Federal Republic of Ambazonia and the nine (9) others have been slammed the life sentence by the Yaounde Military Tribunal in gross violation of their rights as accused persons.</p> <p>Media and Communication Chairman Amungwa TANYI Nicodemous”</p>
78	28 Aug 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Image of man dressed in suit, in his 50s at a guess. It seems he has been killed.</p> <p>Message received: “Early this morning, at about 1am, Fr Bonaventure Ndong was informed that his elder brother, Omer, two other cousins of his and some six villagers were killed in a farming area in Bafmeng by the military who</p>

				went there in search of troublemakers. Kindly remember these and others in your prayers.”
79	5 Sept 2019	Photo	NA	Deceased body of a man being laid out flat in the back seats of a car. A man sits beneath the body and holds the man’s head. He looks at the deceased affectionately. The deceased is wrapped in a sheet. There are multiple deep cuts into his face. Two on the forehead, two deep cuts on the left cheek, a deep cut on the right cheek. It looks as though he’s been cut up with a machete.
80	25 Sept 2019	Video	0.30	<p>Man hung up above a fire, swinging. He has his arms tied behind his back and large pieces of wood on the back of his neck, the back of his body, and in between the join in his legs where the knee is. His legs are bent upwards and tied at the feet. There are at least two men in military uniforms in shot, speaking French. One of the men has a gun. Both of the men have what looks to be leather whips which they occasionally hit the tied-up man with. Another man in military uniform comes into view, with a piece of wood or metal, which he beats the tied-up man’s face with. The tied-up man whines in pain. The military man with the gun takes off the rifle and uses it to beat the tied-up man, ramming the gun into his body. The tied-up man whines louder. He swings from his tied-up position above the fire.</p> <p>Another man whips him as he swings the other way. Then the man with the gun rams it into the man’s side again. The next time he is whipped, it causes one of the blocks of wood balanced on his neck to fall down. Another military man comes into view. The man with the whip places the fallen piece of wood back on the tied-up man’s neck. The man with the gun slaps the tied-up man around the face. The video ends.</p> <p>Message received: “CameroUn... common destiny for the English Speaking Minority Rebel. The game to show all those who dare LRC and H.E. MR. BIYA PAUL. Long live the Republican Soldier!”</p>
81	30 Sept 2019	Photo	NA	A mangled corpse, without a head, laying on the back, front upwards. The ground beneath the body is mud. The ground to the right side of the photo (the left side of the body) has a damp patch that could be blood or moisture. The right leg from the knee upwards has been completely cut open to the bone, and all the way up to the neck. The chest has been opened up. It looks like the whole chest areas (the breasts) have been cut open. The private areas have also been cut open. From looking at the corpse it is

				unclear if it is a male or female body. The opening of the wounds look yellow and red. It looks as though there are intestines spilling out of the corpse onto the ground. The rest of the body is covered in wounds, as though the body has been slashed all over with a knife. On the left ankle, there is a tie-like object, which indicates the person may have been tied up at some point by the ankles. The tie (rope / material) is long, and goes under the body, appearing to the left side of the photo, the right side of the body.
82	18 Oct 2019	Photo	NA	<p>Image of a deceased male, lying face up on muddy red ground. He is wearing a red t-shirt, black shorts, and no shoes on his feet. There is mud on his body and clothing. Multiple people appear to be standing around the body, including at least two men and one woman.</p> <p>Message received: "After the report on CRTV news last evening Nkwenti Alias Scorpi, the leader of Mendankwe vigilante group has been killed by Amba boys."</p>
83	25 Oct 2019	Msg	NA	<p>Message received: "Cameroon Military invade and attack community schools in Kumbo</p> <p>Kumbo- Nso Bui: Cameroon Military today at 10 am local time stormed two community schools, one in Tobin and the one promoted by UNICEF at the Banso Baptist Hospital (BBH), chased students and fire gunshots at the Hospital Premises as students ran for their dear lives.</p> <p>The cry for schools to resume in the conflict zones obliged the population to operate community schools where children could study freely. This caused the former SDO for Bui vowed that, it was going to happen over his dead body. Last week a new SDO was installed with only 42 people attending, 3 civilians, 7 authorities/officials and the rest Military and since the governor felt that as humiliation, he vowed to close all schools in collaboration with the new SDO.</p> <p>Today at around 10 am local time, the SDO dispatched the military men who came in yesterday in about 7 trucks to invade the schools and forced the students out by firing sporadically.</p> <p>They later left Tobin for Banso Baptist Hospital (BBH) where the one promoted by UNICEF is located and shot heavily up to Kikaikelaki which about 5 km is away making sure all the students escaped into the bushes. We did not get news of any casualties at the time of the report. But the SDO has insisted that either students attend their own schools (Governments) or no education will take place. They have vehemently rejected the idea of community schools but want schools where students will not be safe</p>

				<p>as they are the ones always shooting and raping the very students they want in their institutions.</p> <p>This is ample proof that the regime is the one responsible for no schools resumptions in Southern Cameroon since most of them are benefiting from the crisis.</p> <p>Scandy Media Platform</p> <p>http://sheytatah.dk/cameroon-military-invade-and-attack-community-schools-in-kumbo/</p>
84	9 Nov 2019	Video	2.01	<p>Outdoors in a busy rural marketplace. There is a motorbike in view, and on the ground next to the motorbike, a body lying on the ground. There are several men standing around. There is a lot of commotion. A man in a red-hooded top walks past the camera; he is holding a long rifle. There is a man on the ground who appears to be deceased. He is wearing black trousers, no top. A man in yellow shorts, a black and yellow chequered top, and sandals has one of his feet on the chest of the man. He moves his foot up and down, but not aggressively. The man on the floor slightly moves his left arm upwards, showing that he is not deceased. His eyes are wide open, almost as though he can't blink. Two men walk over to the man on the ground and start talking to him. One of the men has a purple t-shirt, a country straw bag, a long rifle in his right hand, pointed downward, a white bracelet on his left wrist, a black beanie hat and the face covered with a red handkerchief. The man slightly behind him has a white t-shirt, a black and pink beanie hat and sunglasses, blue-and-black striped fingerless gloves, and a straw country bag. The commentator filming keeps saying something about a child. Another man comes into view, wearing a very worn black leather jacket, a black beret, and a red country bag on his shoulder – he is pulling the man on the ground up by his arms. The man in red comes back. He is wearing red trousers as well as a red hooded top, and a blue t-shirt. The man on the ground is now sitting up, he is rubbing his face. He looks dazed / shocked. There is a crowd in the background, it looks busy, and there are a couple of women. It seems as though someone kicks the man in the back – there is a thump noise and the man jolts forward as though he's been kicked, though the kick is not in view. The boy who had his foot on the man's chest kicks him and walks off. The man in red points a gun at the man. It appears as though he hits the man with the gun. There is a thud. The camera has moved away, showing the crowd around, but not what's happening to the man.</p> <p>The camera moves around and there is more thudding. A black car is being struck with sticks and the windows have broken. Another man is lying on the ground, in black trousers, a black top and Nike blue trainers. Several of the</p>

				men have gone over to him and are beating him with sticks as he tries to protect himself from the blows – shielding his face. The camera shows the car again. Then back to the man being beaten with sticks. He is lightly moving an arm, but barely. A man grabs the body by the trousers and pulls him along the ground. He is hit once more on the leg. He lightly moves his arm, but other than this, he is still. The camera goes to the man's face. It is bloody – there is blood from the mouth and blood on the forehead. The boy in red shorts, a black shirt, red cap, wearing headphones has a machete in his right hand. He appears to run it along the neck of the man on the ground, but it is unclear if it penetrates the skin. The man is dragged off.
85	13 Oct 2018	Photo	NA	Cameroonian military, in full uniform, standing on grass with guns. There are 8 or so dead bodies in a line on the ground, all face up; some appear to be on top of others. There is a pile of long rifles in front of them.
86	13 Oct 2018	Photo	NA	Three deceased men. Two lying next to each other, slightly on top of each other, face down. One has black trousers and a red top. The other is wearing black trousers and a black top. The one in black has a black piece of cloth on his left arm. The other man has a thin white bracelet on his left wrist. The other body is laid face upwards and appears to be wearing black shorts or underwear and a black patterned top, which has risen on his chest. 10 guns have been rested on top of the two men laid together. There appears to be a small pile of clothes in the top of the photograph.
87	7 Dec 2018	Photo	NA	Two males deceased, lying face up. Both are topless, and both are wearing dark coloured shorts. They are lying in a pool of blood. Palm tree leaves have been placed around them. The ground is cleared red mud, indicating this is a village. There is a group of civilians standing around the men; only their lower legs are visible.
88	12 Dec 2018	Photo	NA	Military men entering a helicopter. They are either accompanying or arresting a seemingly very well-to-do man in traditional clothing. The ground is cleared red mud, indicative of a village location.
89	7 Jan 2019	Video	0.12	Man lying naked on floor, face down. A man with military trousers, a blue top, with the face covered, is standing over the man on the floor holding out a piece of burning wood. It appears as though something like molten metal is dropping from the burning piece of wood onto the naked man's body. The man on the floor is making pained noises.

				He looks to the camera and is clearly in a severe amount of pain. It is unclear to me what language is being spoken.
--	--	--	--	--

Appendix B

Collection of Video CAMEROON POLICE BRUTALITY, TORTURE, RAPE

Compiled by Rev Friar Charles Lwanga Augustino Maria,
(Charles Lyonga Matute)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c0IfFQV7zvc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KExbtUFSGQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNc5nep-xY4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2NtaD4Hwsg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBORy48hUEE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EpDgPFAueo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRpENBgjnRg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-p9YWi2my4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNX5Y3d54E8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6O89SCANJgo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7OiYkquBCY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPsIXO2FMGg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AL4pobHTALU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0RDz1oybuE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8sFEGrZPh4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=APAOzvvtTI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12xSsUKhBVc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmeHobOM0ng>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVY_7tbNgpk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vROmj7YysA4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpeUsylzcH0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2xknl4ZOII>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoF33CYSZW0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5rGld2G4w0&t=300s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSY30QOLUIw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcJBbOkGLnw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJRgkOBqv_4

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSARsvnlIH8>

POLICE SHOOTING GUNS IN North West And South West Regions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szPe17TCsds>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djqofbucwlc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCiVOoUmzQE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4d0SVR4Z_q0

<https://youtu.be/UKHPYw3Q1fA>

<https://youtu.be/AxydRmYWddY>

<https://youtu.be/10dmJ5GJNws>

<https://youtu.be/4TVTKlhalfo>

<https://youtu.be/k3njvxYbi1U>

<https://youtu.be/Ob1IHUd3-DM>

<https://youtu.be/-kzDF4jHLZ0>

<https://youtu.be/HycwwlasffA>

<https://youtu.be/InjNRisNzGw>

https://youtu.be/GF_j5Ts0Sak

<https://youtu.be/Rt9Cnzt6TwY>

<https://youtu.be/K9CIBeJPG5s>

<https://youtu.be/w6Zb5R89neY>

<https://youtu.be/81hpCnMym4I>

<https://youtu.be/N7Y-iGliaeI>

https://youtu.be/K1AMule_wWU

https://youtu.be/QIfA48b0B_I

<https://youtu.be/N4ETTDc8kqg>

<https://youtu.be/v4EC7aUiWLk>

<https://youtu.be/8msSvZh3OdM>

<https://youtu.be/Nn-CLoDbACg>

<https://youtu.be/IKSoSOFTMXA>

<https://youtube/kQlckYm24sw>

<https://youtu.be/FSUiPs6gyBo>

<https://youtu.be/Q3muUis0dzM>

https://youtu.be/GXM_ybMgE14

<https://youtu.be/aB7ap44THfE>

<https://youtu.be/9x5S5InnOZ0>

<https://youtu.be/gaPAjz9Bf84> Bakundu Village burnt

<https://youtu.be/WI3Fxdwu9I> summary of genocide in Southern Cameroons

https://youtu.be/-5mA8-ME_JY men killed in front of wives and children

<https://youtu.be/HDkQfz7P-mw> genocide in Santa

<https://youtu.be/-SOnaXBBPEQ>. All Ambazonians citizens killed and driven in the bushes so DO and gendarms had to do the marching

<https://youtu.be/UnoxlrwUhq0> Manyeme in Ambazonia people forced to flee in the bushes by the cameroun army killing squad.

<https://youtu.be/1-j799ysAIA> Breast feeding Ambazonia girls been forced to swim in the mud by LRC military of Biya. You see why we must separate?

<https://youtu.be/lieQ3nLsf1s> Soldiers of LRC 11th of June 2018 in Teke village burnt down with three persons burnt alive.

<https://youtu.be/NpoKOTbfHmk> This is LRC army using our hard-earned tax money to indiscriminately shoot on the population the Republique of Cameroun wants to annihilate. Who is the criminal? Even in the extreme cases repression should be measured. Is this the new professionalism of our armed forces. Like my professor of anatomy Abounou Akong usually put it. "Quand on ne sait pas ce qu'on fait, ça devient le COMBAT DES NÉGRES DANS UN TUNNEL Á MINUIT".

<https://youtu.be/qVvOx1zqX3I> French soldiers helping in the genocide in Ambazonia. France soldiers wounded as they kill civilians in Mbengui North West Region.

<https://youtu.be/aotFefTvDXA> An Ambazonian lady who was shot at Ekona by a French soldier testifies what happened. French genocide. Let the world take note of the genocide promoted by France again after Rwanda 1996 it is Southern Cameroons.

<https://youtu.be/WHUWAPrehoc> Genocide Cameroon military aided by France 5th July I bomb civilian houses in Satum Mamfe Ambazonia

<https://youtu.be/Sa6GBkvAY2s> Mayor Ekema slave to LRC taking the laws into his hands.

<https://youtu.be/Nd0C9FPSCBU> The ruthlessness of the Cameroun army of Paul Biya on civilians very inhuman. Human right abuse in Cameroon.

<https://youtu.be/4N1H0snZ6LM> The cruelest video of the year. Cameroun military killing women and babies on their backs. This is their regular action.

<https://youtu.be/TDla6FxCHPA> The Fon of Fontem calls on all other fons and chiefs of Ambazonian to stand with their people.

<https://youtu.be/5Z04QUdMVMA> Mola njoh litumbe Ambazonia pathriach

https://youtu.be/nwDVCUbj_ to Subcommittee of the US Congress hearing of Anglophone Crisis in Southern Cameroons Vs Cameroun Chairman Smith on the hearing: "In order to prevent the long simmering anglophone conflict from destabilizing a critical U.S security partner in the region, U.S. policy makers must understand the legitimacy of grievances and the social, constitutional and historical context of the present discontent in The Republic of Cameroon. A way forward includes a credible election process in the short term, but in the long run requires constitutional reform which reconstitutes the relationship among the Cameroonian peoples along just principles and the consent of the governed."

<https://youtu.be/G5w9luVqNz4> Born to kill Cameroun military experts in killing unarmed civilians.

<https://youtu.be/wEaanFrDva8> LRC of Cameroun army brutality on an Ambazonian civilian.

<https://youtu.be/XVmGYjQNr2w> Viewers graphic image of an Ambazonian civilian killed by Cameroun military. Genocide in action.

https://youtu.be/wnBJ_pUZN50 A message to the African and world leaders to stop the genocide in Southern Cameroons Ambazonia.

<https://youtu.be/0DxNAeE2k6k> JJ Rawlings former Ghanaian president calls on world leaders to stop the genocide in Ambazonia.

<https://youtu.be/bAkzLZlh4a0> REDHAC calling on elections to stop and propose some mediators to end the crisis.

<https://youtu.be/GeWzQop1nXc> Cameroonian military BIR killed four youths in Buea for smoking and being Anglophones. 29 July 2018. Genocide.

<https://youtu.be/YxlvE9SFNXg> Batibo a village in the North West of Ambazonian depopulated military killed many corpses all over.

<https://youtu.be/WPFSIJurvU> Cameroonian Military entered a civilian's residence firing indiscriminately and burnt a moto bike

Appendix C:

“IRRELEVANT PARODY OF JUSTICE!”

By

Charles Taku

The politically motivated life sentences slammed on Sisiku Ayuk Tabe and nine Ambazonian leaders by a Court-martial in Cameroun with the complicity of the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is one more unfortunate example of the militarization of justice, civil and political rights in African through inter-state terror. The ten victims who were in Nigeria under the protection of international law, were abducted from a hotel in Abuja Nigeria in a coordinated operation carried out by Nigeria and Cameroun intelligence and paramilitary operatives. A Federal High Court in Abuja, Nigeria has since decided that the abduction and rendition of these victims was illegal and violated the Nigerian constitution and international law and ordered the return to Nigeria of the abductees; a decision, the Nigerian government has so far ignored.

The entire operation leading to this Cameroun staged night judicial terror is a slur on the rule of law credentials and constitutional governance of Nigeria and Cameroun. It provides cattle fodder for the validation of the criticism made by an increasing number of observers that the two countries may be paying lip-service to the supposed fight against Boko-Haram in which the international community has deployed extensive resources. Going by the interstate abduction and court-martial of these victims in a night judicial ritual, a method allegedly used by Boko-Haram in its operations, could this hydra-headed monster so-called Boko-Haram not be but a stealth interstate ruse used to create instability to justify political

brigandage and the corrupt eternalization of political power relying on international resources and support? Why will supposed sovereign nations prefer interstate terror to the international rule of law in the conduct of international relations?

This irrelevant parody of justice against Sisiku Ayuk Tabe and Southern Cameroons leaders is about ten individuals. It is about the consequences in Nigeria, Cameroun and Africa of the legitimization of abduction and state terror as alternatives to the international rule of law. The international community must make a strong statement condemning this travesty and judicial brigandage and seek the unconditional release of these victims. Its indifference may unfortunately be construed as a tacit validation of impunity in an explosive region where violence is not a rare commodity.

No one should be under the illusion, that the impugned court-martial process and its outcome is a victory for Cameroun or Nigeria that collaborated in it. It is an international symbol of shame for the two countries and a validation of the just claims of the Southern Cameroons to sovereignty and freedom. The ten did not present the case of the independence of the Southern Cameroons by violent means. At their abduction, they were merely articulating the claims which the Southern Cameroons have strenuously presented for the past fifty-seven years, at the United Nations, at home and worldwide. Rather than seek dialogue to resolve the conflict, Cameroun declared war with impunity, hoping to subdue the aggrieved people of the Southern Cameroons through genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Nigeria government which Africa and the world relied on to mediate in this and other African disputes, decided to throw its support to the government of Cameroun in the mistaken belief that the abduction of these victims would end the crisis. By its own miscalculation, Nigeria, lost an opportunity to oversee a peaceful solution to a potentially protracted conflict in its own backyard.

Ambazonia is an albatross on the neck of the Republic of Cameroun which will loosen its grip only when Ambazonia is fully liberated. The life sentences only extend the duration and complexity of the conflict which neither the present leaders of Cameroun nor Nigeria will be around to see how it plays out. May be only their progeny, may as fate often does, have the

chance to have glimpses of these victims when they will be liberated to partake in the celebration of an independent and free neighbouring Ambazonia. The night justice of shame will not define the cause they stand for. The sustained resistance, self-defense and the unbreakable will and resolve of a people who have craved for justice with peace plants, memoranda to the UN and the international community, their precious blood and the eternal conscience of humanity will determine the outcome of this conflict and not conspiratorial carnage, terror and the arrogance of ephemeral power of a frail failing dictatorship. For this reason, by imposing the so-called life sentences and other coercive conditions of life on Southern Cameroons captives, they might in this occasion, have put their own poisoned portions on their own lips and that of their nation.”

Appendix D

By Dr. Nfor N Susungi

Our Reference : BFP/PRL /09/2019/001

Why the Briscam Freedom Party shall not participate in Mr. Biya's Grand National Dialogue

There are five principal reasons why the BFP cannot participate in any Dialogue with the Biya regime:

NO1: BIYA DOES NOT BELIEVE IN Dialogue

It is on record that Paul Biya has always been opposed to dialogue with the people of the Southern Cameroons /Ambazonia because he looks at them with great contempt and has always believed that his military will crush the Anglophones whom he calls "rebels and secessionists" and enable him to impose his annexationist agenda on them making it unnecessary for him to negotiate anything with them.

Mr. Biya also agreed secretly with French President Emmanuel Macron that France shall block every attempt by the UNSC to act under Chapter VII of the UN charter to bring the crisis to an end. But the hidden agenda was to buy time for Mr. Biya to pursue his military objectives of crushing the Anglophone rebellion. Mr. Biya is only calling for this national dialogue because his military strategy has failed.

NO2: DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED POLITICAL GOALS

The Southern Cameroons /Ambazonia has fixed the political goal of achieving full independence with English as its official language and has also decided that they shall withdraw from the CEMAC Franc Zone to join the ECOZONE.

Mr. Biya and his government are still deluding themselves with the mantra that Cameroon is "one and indivisible". This is the thinking which has led Mr. Biya to send many young poorly trained French-speaking soldiers to their deaths over the last three years.

The reality is that the federal union which was formed in October 1961 by a peaceful and voluntary vote of the people of the Southern Cameroons but scrapped by the Ahidjo government in 1972 can never be restored by the Biya government by military force, involving the burning of 200 towns and villages, the sending of 30.000 as refugees into Nigeria and creation of over 600.000 IDPs.

Mr. Biya still dreams about a Union in which the French language will remain the language of power and Southern Cameroons will be forced to remain in the French controlled Franc Zone and continue to be a French colony by proxy.

The goals of the people of the Southern Cameroons are so far away from those of those of the Biya regime that nothing can be achieved in Mr. Biya's so-called National dialogue.

NO3: ABSENCE OF AN INTERMEDIARY

Mr. Biya is convening his dialogue at which there will be no neutral party acting as an intermediary. He is interested in a dialogue which will be controlled by the CPDM party so that, like all elections LRC, everything will be tailored to suit the needs of his party.

An earlier attempt to conduct dialogue in Switzerland with Swiss intermediation failed because Swiss neutrality was questionable due to the fact that Mr. Biya is a Swiss Citizen. Despite his Swiss citizenship the Swiss Federal Prosecutor has failed to indict him for genocide war crimes and crimes against humanity as he is required to do under Article 23 and 24 of the Swiss penal code.

If the Swiss Federal Prosecutor who has been active in indicting Fifa officials on charges of corruption, fails to indict a Swiss Citizen for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, then Switzerland cannot be deemed a trusted party to intermediate in the Cameroonian crisis.

NO4: UNACCEPTABLE VENUE

Mr. Biya is calling his National Dialogue to take place in Yaounde. The choice of this venue guarantees that no serious minded opinion leader from the Southern Cameroons will come to his dialogue forum because the fate of Sisiku Ayuk Tabe and the Nera Ten who were abducted from Abuja in January 2018 is proof that the Biya regime can never be trusted. They were subsequently tried by a military tribunal and sentenced to life imprisonment and fined 250 billion FCFA.

For this reason Southern Cameroons /Ambazonians are advised to stay away from Mr. Biya's national Dialogue because they could either be arrested or targeted for assassination for the purpose of decapitation of the leadership of the Southern Cameroons /Ambazonian movement.

NO5: MILITARY OCCUPATION

Mr. Biya is calling his national dialogue when the Southern Cameroons is still under occupation by the Cameroonian army which has continued to burn villages and to kill innocent civilians including babies.

WHAT IS THE BFP PROPOSING

The Briscam Freedom Party believes that there are two key elements that are essential for settling the crisis. These two elements must be understood to Mr. Biya and his international supporters.

(I) REFERENDUM

The Briscam Freedom Party has consistently maintained that the only solution to this crisis is to hold a UNSC sponsored referendum in Southern Cameroons to determine the people's will as it is done in all civilized countries. Why?

°If France can allow the people of New Caledonia to hold a free referendum to decide their future even though the French Republic is a unitary state according to the constitution of the 5th Republic ;

°If France can hold a referendum to decide whether or not to ratify the Maastricht treaty.

°If Canada can allow the people of Quebec to hold two referenda to enable the people of French speaking Quebec to decide their future;

°If the United Kingdom can allow the people of the Falklands to hold a referendum to freely choose their future;

°If the United Kingdom can allow the people of Scotland to hold a referendum to decide their future and may even repeat it in the event of the UK's exit from the EU.

°If the United Kingdom itself can decide to hold a referendum to decide its future membership of the European Union

°If France can hold a referendum just to decide whether or not to privatise Paris Airport

°If the UNSC can allow people of South Sudan can hold a referendum to decide on their future

°If the Swiss Confederation conducted as many as 10 national referenda in 2018 alone

°If the Russian Federation can hold a referendum in Crimea to enable the people to choose their future,

°If referendum is the unique political instrument which civilized societies regularly use in order to settle complex political problems that present the electorate with a binary choice,

Then the people of the Southern Cameroons /Ambazonia shall not settle for less. The Southern Cameroons youth who took up arms after Mr. Biya declared war on them on 30 November 2017 will lay down their weapons only when the UNSC sets a date for a referendum with a referendum question that should be identical to the one that France used in New Caledonia on 4th December 2018.

(II) SCREXIT DIVORCE BILL

We have taken note of the life sentences pronounced on Sisiku Ayuk Tabe and his 9 companions in addition to the fine of 250 billion FCFA. The figure of 250 billion FCFA is nearly half a billion USD. The the GDP (2018) of Cameroon is around \$40 billion and the fiscal budget is \$5 billion. In other words the fine is 10% of the annual budget of Cameroon and 1.25% of the GDP of the whole of Cameroon.

The Briscam Freedom Party accept the 250 billion FCFA as a SCREXIT divorce bill and are willing to sit down with the government of Dion Ngute, the chairman of the proposed National Dialogue to negotiate the modalities so that the payment can be made through a single wire transfer to the Cameroon treasury in order to bring an end to this Union which has brought so much pain and suffering to our people.

The Briscam Freedom Party is willing to lead a team from the Southern Cameroons /Ambazonia to negotiate the modalities for the payment of the 250 billion FCFA SCREXIT divorce bill leading to the release of Sisiku Ayuk Tabe and the Nera Ten as well as all the detainees of Southern Cameroons /Ambazonia held in the various detention centers as part of a comprehensive separation treaty between the Southern Cameroons /Ambazonia and la Republique du Cameroun.

The negotiations between the Southern Cameroons /Ambazonia and LRC shall be conducted with the AfDB and the World Bank acting as joint facilitators and Co-chairmen because the two institutions possess vital information on the Cameroonian economy and they shall play a vital role in providing post conflict support to the two countries.

Conclusion

The conclusion is that unless the the Biya regime and the international community are willing to accept the principle of a UNSC sponsored referendum followed by negotiations for a SCREXIT Divorce, then the armed conflict is going to last long and the next phase shall involve the rest of Cameroon.

©Copyright September 2019;

Dr. Nfor N Susungi

Chairman

Briscam Freedom Party

Ombudsman for National Security

WhatsApp No +22557217839, +22967192982, +2348091169696”

ENDNOTES TO APPENDIX

1. Appendix A: These are the only atrocities we could lay hands and verified. What we could not lay hands is believed to be more than what we have. This to note that what we have reported is only about a quarter of the issues.
2. Appendix B : Compiled by Rev Friar Charles Lwanga Augustino Maria, (Charles Lyonga Matute)
3. Appendix C : CHIEF CHARLES ACHALEKE TAKU Chief Charles A. Taku, a traditional Chief from Cameroon, is an International lawyer of thirty-seven years' trial experience. He specializes in International Criminal, Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law and Practice. For the past eighteen years, as lead counsel, Chief Taku represented clients at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, The Special Court for Sierra Leone, the International Criminal Court, and the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights in Arusha Tanzania. Chief Taku is the Vice President the International Criminal Court Bar (ICCBA), of the Association of Defense Counsel at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ADAD), and member for life of the Governing Council of the African Bar Association (AfBA). Chief Charles Taku published and contributed to the publication of major books on international law and several scholarly articles. He has attended and made compelling contributions at several conferences on International Law in many parts of the world. He is proficient in English and French languages.
4. Appendix D: Dr. Nfor N Susungi is a former Cameroon Diplomat, who worked for the African Development Bank. He is the current Chairman of the Briscam Freedom Party. He is one of the major stakeholders of the Anglophone conflict who refused taking part of the 2019 Grand National Dialogue.

LIST OF SOURCES

Academic Journals

1. Amin, J. A., & Takougang, J. (2018). The Anglophone problem in Cameroon. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 36(1), 1-15.
2. Agwanda, B., & Asal, U. Y. (2021). The Anglophone problem in Cameroon: The change from crisis to conflict, and a possible way forward to resolution. *African Journal on Conflict Resolution*, 21(1).
3. Konings, P., & Nyamnjoh, F. B. (2019). The Anglophone crisis in Cameroon: A background. *The Round Table*, 108(2), 147-157.
4. Maurice Beseng, et al. (2023) "From 'Anglophone Problem' to 'Anglophone Conflict' in Cameroon: Assessing Prospects for Peace"

Reports

1. ACCORD - Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation. (2024). Cameroon: The Cameroon Anglophone Crisis. Query Response [a-12289].
2. Amnesty International. (2020). Cameroon: Human Rights in the Anglophone Regions.
3. Assessment Capacities Project. (2021). Cameroon: North-West and South-West Regions - Situation Report.
4. International Crisis Group. (2022). Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis: How to Avoid a Wider War.
5. Norwegian Refugee Council. (2022). The World's Most Neglected Displacement Crises.
6. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2022). Cameroon: Humanitarian Response Plan.
7. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2022). Cameroon: Situation Report.

8. World Bank Group (2021) “The Socio-Political Crisis in the Northwest and Southwest Regions of Cameroon: Assessing the Economic and Social Impacts”

News Articles

1. Al Jazeera. (2022). Cameroon's military launches major offensive against separatists.
2. BBC News. (2020). Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: A timeline.
3. The Guardian. (2020). Cameroon's separatist movement: A guide.
4. Reuters. (2020). Cameroon's separatist conflict intensifies.

International Organization Reports

1. Committee to Protect Journalists. (2022). Cameroon.
2. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). (2022). Migration: Cameroonian Refugees in Europe.
3. Human Rights Watch. (2022). Cameroon: Human Rights Crisis in the Anglophone Regions.
4. International Rescue Committee (IRC). (2022). Cameroon Refugee Crisis.
5. Reporters sans frontières (RSF). (2022). 2022 World Press Freedom Index.
6. South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). (2022). Report on the Situation of Cameroonian Refugees in South Africa.
7. UNICEF. (2023). Cameroon: WASH Situation Report.
8. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2022). Cameroon Situation.

Online Resources

1. Bertelsmann Stiftung. (2022, February 23). Cameroon Country Report.
2. CIA World Fact Book. (2023, December 6). Cameroon.
3. Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2023, December 31). Cameroon.
4. Nkafu Policy Institute. (n.d.). Analyzing the Socioeconomic Consequences of the Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon.

5. Pelican, M. (n.d.). The Anglophone Conflict in Cameroon – Historical and Political Background.

OTHER ONLINE SOURCES

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/cameroon>

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2020/03/03/Cameroon-Ambazonia-Ngarbuh-massacre>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngarbuh_massacre

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/24/cameroon-massacre-findings-made-public>

<https://waccglobal.org/media-and-conflict-in-cameroon-today/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Cameroon

<https://www.tanner-law.com/articles/immigration/cameroon-designated-for-temporary-protected-status/>

<https://www.cliniclegal.org/resources/humanitarian-relief/june-7-federal-register-notice-for-new-18-month-tps-designation-for-cameroon>

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/06/07/2022-12229/designation-of-cameroon-for-temporary-protected-status>

<https://blogs.law.ox.ac.uk/cameroon/blog/2021/03/causes-anglophone-conflict-cameroon>

<https://behorizon.org/french-in-africa-post-colonial/>

https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/africa/cameroon_en

<https://www.mediadefence.org/ereader/publications/introductory-modules-on-digital-rights-and-freedom-of-expression-online/module-3-access-to-the-internet/limitation-of-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>

<https://cm.usembassy.gov/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices-cameroon/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/23/decreed-cameroon-unjustifiably-censors-free-speech>

www.refworld.org/docid/5ad85797a.html

<https://www.rightofassembly.info/country/cameroon>

https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/415610_CAMEROON-2022-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf

<https://freeassemblyandassociation.net/guiding-principles/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/cameroon/report-cameroon/>

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/cameroon>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/05/africa-media-freedom-seriously-threatened/>

<https://www.mediadefence.org/news/anglophone-journalists-in-cameroon-continue-to-face-state-repression/>

<https://safetyofjournalists.org/academic-research/journalism-in-cameroon-a-high-risk-and-dangerous-profession>

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/528267-CAMEROON-2023-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/23/decreed-cameroon-unjustifiably-censors-free-speech>

<https://www.irex.org/sites/default/files/pdf/media-sustainability-index-africa-2012-cameroon.pdf>

<https://cpj.org/2024/10/cameroon-ratchets-up-media-censorship-ahead-of-2025-election/>

<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/arbitrary-arrest-and-continued-detention-human-rights-defender-abdul-karim-ali>

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/activist-held-arbitrarily-200-days>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/12/cameroon-amnesty-international-urges-release-of-abdul-karim-ali-a-peace-activist-detained-without-charge-for-more-than-four-months/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/06/cameroon-routine-torture-incommunicado-detention>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/cameroon-new-abuses-both-sides>

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/cameroon>

<https://theowp.org/cameroon-military-court-sentences-anglophone-separatist-leaders-to-life-imprisonment/>

<https://www.cameroon-concord.com/cameroon/former-bir-member-moja-moja-arrested-following-allegations-of-coup-plot>

<https://www.cameroon-concord.com/category-blog-layout-02/ewome-john-aka-moja-moja-dismissed-from-the-cameroon-rapid-intervention-battalion-bir>

<https://www.rulac.org/browse/conflicts/non-international-armed-conflict-in-cameroon>
<https://archive.thinkprogress.org/us-cuts-military-aid-cameroon-human-rights-032f7fa4a6ef/>
<https://africacenter.org/publication/asb42en-oversight-accountability-security-sector-governance/>
<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/cameroon>
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cameroons-human-rights-record-be-examined-universal-periodic-review>
<https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/cameroon/>
<https://www.cameroon-concord.com/southern-cameroons/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-a-forgotten-war-devastating-the-nation>
<https://constitutionaloptionsproject.org/en/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-peace-policy-paper-series>
<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-north-west-and-south-west-situation-report-no-60-december-2023>
<https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>
<https://peacenews.com/civil-society-organizations-work-to-end-cameroons-anglophone-conflict/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon_Anglophone_Civil_Society_Consortium
<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/unfpa-cameroon-situation-report-26-december-2024-humanitarian-crisis-remains-critical-concern>
<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-28-february-2024>
<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>
<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>
<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-21-march-2024>
<https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon/> Reasons and scenarios of Ethno-Political Tensions in Cameroon

<https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon/>

<https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon>

<https://cameroun.cc/the-evolution-and-changes-in-the-cameroon-constitution/>

https://www.dibussi.com/2006/03/a_rose_by_any_o.html

<https://www.focusafrica.info/en/cameroon-paul-biya-corrupt-dictator-in-power-for-over-38-years/>

<https://www.focusafrica.info/en/cameroon-paul-biya-corrupt-dictator-in-power-for-over-38-years/>

<https://www.focusafrica.info/en/cameroon-paul-biya-corrupt-dictator-in-power-for-over-38-years/>

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Cameroon%27s+Anglophone+Crisis%3A+Analysis+of+the+Political%2C...-a0620328979>

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15249.doc.htm>

<https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

<https://peacenews.com/civil-society-organizations-work-to-end-cameroots-anglophone-conflict/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon_Anglophone_Civil_Society_Consortium

<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/unfpa-cameroon-situation-report-26-december-2024-humanitarian-crisis-remains-critical-concern>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-28-february-2024>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-21-march-2024>

<https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon/> Reasons and scenarios of Ethno-Political Tensions in Cameroon

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

Reasons and scenarios of Ethno-Political Tensions in Cameroon

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglophone_Crisis

<https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon>

<https://cameroun.cc/the-evolution-and-changes-in-the-cameroon-constitution/>

https://www.dibussi.com/2006/03/a_rose_by_any_o.html

Prospects for Peace”

<https://www.focusonafrika.info/en/cameroon-paul-biya-corrupt-dictator-in-power-for-over-38-years/>

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Cameroon%27s+Anglophone+Crisis%3A+Analysis+of+the+Political%2C...-a0620328979>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2023/06/human-rights-violations-in-camerouns-anglophone-north-west-region/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/07/cameroon-rampant-atrocities-amid-anglophone-regions-must-be-stopped/>

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15249.doc.htm>

<https://www.mediadefence.org/ereader/publications/introductory-modules-on-digital-rights-and-freedom-of-expression-online/module-3-access-to-the-internet/limitation-of-the-right-to-freedom-of-expression/>

<https://cm.usembassy.gov/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices-cameroon/>

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/23/decreed-cameroon-unjustifiably-censors-free-speech>

www.refworld.org/docid/5ad85797a.html

<https://www.rightofassembly.info/country/cameroon>

https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/415610_CAMEROON-2022-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf

<https://freeassemblyandassociation.net/guiding-principles/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/cameroon/report-cameroon/>

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/cameroon>
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/05/africa-media-freedom-seriously-threatened/>
<https://www.mediadefence.org/news/anglophone-journalists-in-cameroon-continue-to-face-state-repression/>
<https://safetyofjournalists.org/academic-research/journalism-in-cameroon-a-high-risk-and-dangerous-profession>
<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/528267-CAMEROON-2023-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/23/decreed-cameroon-unjustifiably-censors-free-speech>
<https://www.irex.org/sites/default/files/pdf/media-sustainability-index-africa-2012-cameroon.pdf>
<https://cpj.org/2024/10/cameroon-ratchets-up-media-censorship-ahead-of-2025-election/>
<https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/en/case/arbitrary-arrest-and-continued-detention-human-rights-defender-abdul-karim-ali>
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/activist-held-arbitrarily-200-days>
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/12/cameroon-amnesty-international-urges-release-of-abdul-karim-ali-a-peace-activist-detained-without-charge-for-more-than-four-months/>
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/06/cameroon-routine-torture-incommunicado-detention>
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/02/cameroon-new-abuses-both-sides>
<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/cameroon>
<https://theowp.org/cameroon-military-court-sentences-anglophone-separatist-leaders-to-life-imprisonment/>
<https://www.cameroon-concord.com/cameroon/former-bir-member-moja-moja-arrested-following-allegations-of-coup-plot>
<https://www.cameroon-concord.com/category-blog-layout-02/ewome-john-aka-moja-moja-dismissed-from-the-cameroon-rapid-intervention-battalion-bir>
<https://www.rulac.org/browse/conflicts/non-international-armed-conflict-in-cameroon>

<https://archive.thinkprogress.org/us-cuts-military-aid-cameroon-human-rights-032f7fa4a6ef/>

<https://africacenter.org/publication/asb42en-oversight-accountability-security-sector-governance/>

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/cameroon>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/cameroons-human-rights-record-be-examined-universal-periodic-review>

<https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/cameroon/>

<https://www.cameroon-concord.com/southern-cameroons/anglophone-crisis-in-cameroon-a-forgotten-war-devastating-the-nation>

<https://constitutionaloptionsproject.org/en/cameroon-anglophone-crisis-peace-policy-paper-series>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-north-west-and-south-west-situation-report-no-60-december-2023>

<https://www.accord.org.za/ajcr-issues/the-anglophone-problem-in-cameroon-the-change-from-crisis-to-conflict-and-a-possible-way-forward-to-resolution/>

<https://peacenews.com/civil-society-organizations-work-to-end-cameroons-anglophone-conflict/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameroon_Anglophone_Civil_Society_Consortium

<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/unfpa-cameroon-situation-report-26-december-2024-humanitarian-crisis-remains-critical-concern>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-28-february-2024>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-19-june-2024>

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/cameroon/cameroon-situation-report-21-march-2024>

<https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon/> Reasons and scenarios of Ethno-Political Tensions in Cameroon

<https://lansinginstitute.org/2020/12/10/reasons-and-scenarios-of-ethno-political-tensions-in-cameroon>

<https://cameroun.cc/the-evolution-and-changes-in-the-cameroon-constitution/>

https://www.dibussi.com/2006/03/a_rose_by_any_o.html

<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Cameroon%27s+Anglophone+Crisis%3A+Analysis+of+the+Political%2C...-a0620328979>

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15249.doc.htm>