



Réseau des Défenseurs
des Droits Humains
en Afrique Centrale

JOINT LETTER

Dear members of the Security Council;

The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa, headquartered in Douala-Cameroon and which covers 8 Central African countries and Front Line Defenders headquartered in Dublin, both the organizations in charge of protection and the security of Human Rights Defenders seize your illustrious organization to urge you to take the appropriate measures for the protection and security of defenders in Cameroon in general, and defenders of the North West and South West regions, in particular.

Since **October 2016**, Cameroon has been experiencing an unprecedented socio-political crisis, which began with the strike of English-speaking lawyers (for the translation into English of OHADA texts) (Bamenda, North West), followed by the strike of English-speaking teachers and students of the University of Buea (South West); follow-up of the creation of the Consortium of English-speaking civil society and establishment of a dialogue by the state and the consortium, dialogue which will be quickly interrupted by the government:

October 1, 2017: attempt to proclaim secession by the Ambazonians, there have been 100 people shot dead by the security forces, and since that date, the socio-political crisis has gained momentum in armed conflicts between the radicalized separatists and the Cameroonian government via the security and defense forces.

In general, the situation of human rights, fundamental freedoms as well as the protection and security of defenders in Cameroon remains very worrying although we can welcome the brief political will of President Paul Biya in the search for solutions. This resulted in the convening of the Grand National Dialogue on September 30, 2019 although it did not reflect the inclusive nature that everyone expected, the release of 333 activists on October 3, 2019, and the continuation of the prosecution certain leaders and activists of the Movement for the Renaissance of Cameroon (MRC), an opposition party, in particular Pr. Kamto, candidate and 2nd in the presidential election of 2018.

Beyond the numerous abuses and serious human rights violations observed in this conflict and perpetrated by the two parties to the conflicts, the proliferation of armed groups and small and large caliber weapons should be noted. What concerns us most remains numerous arbitrary arrests and detentions. More than 1,000 files of activists remain pending before the military court, which is not intended to try civilians. In addition to arrests and detentions, human rights defenders pay the heavy price, enforced disappearances, death threats, targeted assassinations, physical assaults and sexual touching, attacks on private property, spinning, forced exile. Here is the non-exhaustive but emblematic list of Human Rights Defenders, men and women who are targeted:

Tableau :

Les défenseur(e)s en danger dans le Nord-Ouest, Sud-Ouest et le littoral au Cameroun

Date	Names	Organisation	Location	Threats	Comments
6 August 2018	Mowha Franklin	President of FrontLine Fighters For Citizen Interests	Bamenda	Mowha Franklin has been arrested and detained repeatedly in the context of her human rights work, her threatened family had in the past been relocated. Since June 2018, he had been threatened by anonymous persons. Since the beginning of the socio-political crisis, he had been really involved in reporting and documenting violations in Kumba in south-west Cameroon. On August 6, 2018, until today, he remains unaccounted for. on 05 September 2018 to file a complaint with the Prosecutor's Office of the Kumba Court of First Instance to declare the disappearance.	Press release for the opening of the file Relocation of his family from Bamenda to Bangangté.
November 2018	Agbor Magdaline Tarkang	Changing Mindsets and Empowering Group	Buëa	Magdaline has been facing death threats with her family since the beginning of the socio-political crisis. The people did not identify themselves and broke into the office and took away the work equipment, She receives threats every day promising her death.	Emergency fund for the acquisition of secure computer equipment
December 2018	Sally Maforci Ndeh	Common Action for Gender Development	Bamenda	Sally receives death threats, anonymous text messages from Ambazonians asking her to abandon her human rights work if her children are not kidnapped. She was forced to hide her children in another city.	Relocation of her family and herself to the West of Cameroon.
December 2018	Frida Ebai	Common Action for Gender Development	Buëa	Frida was visited by the armed people who broke down her door and took away the drinking phones, her work equipment, the television and a sum of money she had at home. She has received threats telling her that we know her organization if she continues to report her and her family will be burned the next time they return.	Relocation to Limbe in the South-west
April 2018	Omam Esther	Reach Out	Buëa	The Ambazonians arrived in her offices and vandalized everything taking away mobile phones, laptops, a sum of 450 000f cfa and rushed her down and had a shock on her head.	Emergency fund for the acquisition of secure computer equipment
29 May 2018	Musa Ndamba	Human rights defender and 1st national vice-president of the Association for Social and Cultural Development of Bamenda		Arbitrary arrest and detention following a complaint filed by the billionaire and member of the RDPC Central Committee for "misinformation".	
February 2019	Losha Géraldine	A Common Future	Bamenda	She has received visits from armed individuals at her home who broke down her central door and threatened her to stop her activist work if not she will see what will happen to her They took mobile phones, a sum of 400,000f and his work equipment when they passed by.	Press Release
11 February 2019	Philippe Nanga	ONG Un Monde Avenir (A Future World)	Douala	After having organized a coffee debate bringing together young people from the English-speaking regions and the coast on the theme: " <i>crossed views of young people on the so-called English-speaking crisis</i> ", two hotels contacted refused to host this event.	Press Release
29 October 2019	Michel Biemtong	Journalist and human rights defender, media director online hurinews	Yaoundé	Arbitrary arrest and detention for alleged " <i>incitement to terrorism</i> ".	Press release, Observation of the trial relocated to Burkina-Faso
31 October 2018	Mimi Mefo TAKAMBOU	English-language journalist, assistant editor-in-chief and star presenter, Equinoxe radio/TV	Bamenda	Arbitrary arrest and detention for alleged " <i>spreading false news and cybercrime</i> ".	Press release Observation of trials Relocation to London
February 2019	Mboumien Sally Maforchi	Common Action for Gender Development	Bamenda	Death threat against him and his family by unidentified armed men	Relocated to Bafoussam in the Western region

February 2019	Baiye Frida Ebai	Blessing Associates for Women and Children	Buéa	Burglary of the home, death threat by unidentified armed men	Relocated to Limbe, Southwestern France
FEBRUARY 2019	Magdaline Agbor	Changing Mentalities and Empowering Groups	Buéa	Burglary, office and home burglary, death threats by unidentified armed men	Emergency fund to replace office equipment, secure offices and home Relocated to Buea, South-west
20 August 2019	Maximiliènnè Ngo Mbe	REDHAC	Douala	Following the life sentence of Mr Ayuk Sisiku Tabe and 09 of his co-accused by the Yaoundé Military Tribunal. Maximiliènnè held a press conference at REDHAC headquarters. That day, we had the visit of plain-clothes police officers who wanted to pretend to be journalists but they were discovered.	Position paper
22 August 2019		REDHAC	Douala	REDHAC offices are monitored 24 hours a day by plain-clothes police officers	Neighbours' intervention
2 August 2019		REDHAC	Douala	After a meeting with the Prefect of Wouri on 17 August 2019, after having organised the 1st inter-community dialogue on 14 August 2019 in the Akwa village hall, the Prefect made it clear to Mrs Maximilienne in the presence of the Co-President, Me Alice Nkom, that the Minister of Territorial Administration, Mr Atanga Nji, asked him to silence Madame Maximilienne because she is very hard. On August 28, 2019, Mrs. Maximilienne was assaulted by an armed man after making sexual touches, he told her: "I'm not here for this but just to give you a warning". This incident took place some time after the Minister of Territorial Administration Mr. Atanga Nji clearly told the journalists: "An NGO to which journalists are giving access on the media is in the spotlight of the government and that if this continues the responsables of these media will regret their deeds "	Emergency fund for temporary relocation, psychological care Visit of Commissioner Bledo of the P.J. who apologizes and makes a commitment to shed light; The referral by the CADHP to the government refers the case back to the Attorney General; Complaint filed by the Legal Adviser.
16 september 2019	Philippe Nanga	ONG Un Monde Avenir (A Future World, NGO)	Douala	Burglary of Philippe Nanga's car by unidentified people for his intervention on the attack on Madame Maximilienne in a media outlet in Douala	Press release
30 November 2019	Pascal Ngwanyi	Community Initiative for Sustainable Development	Bamenda	Murdered while in an assistance programme for internally displaced persons and other victims of the socio-political crisis	Urgent appeal and advocacy