

# KLW BRIEFING

## Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiation

### About 28,000 Liters of Illicit Fuel Seized in Limbe

By Journal du Cameroun |  
December 01, 2020

Over twenty thousand liters of illicit fuel smuggled into Cameroon have been seized by customs officials in Botland in Limbe, South West region of Cameroon. The illicit product was seized last November 26 as it was being transported for black market. It was hidden in big containers transported in a bus. Sources say it is thanks to a tip off that elements of the Limbe Mobile Brigade deployed themselves and intercepted the cargo. While Custom officials were carrying out their routine check of the vehicle, reports say the two individuals on board the bus took to their heels. The illicit fuel has been impounded and will latter on be placed at the disposal of the country's company of petroleum depots well known in its French abbreviation, SCDP due to its dangerous nature. Despite the moves so far made by the Government to fight against the importation and or sale of illicit fuel in the country, the activity keeps gaining ground.



### Effort Launched to Reunite Cameroonian Families, Children Separated by Crises

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | November 28, 2020

Humanitarian organizations in Cameroon have launched a program to reunite with their families the increasing numbers of children who have fled the Boko Haram conflict and the separatist crisis in the English-speaking regions. The groups say the effort was launched after the number of such children jumped from about 10,000 to 25,000 in major cities within three months. Among the children who are ready to return to their families are teenagers who fled economic hardships caused by the spread of COVID-19. Cameroon's minister of women's empowerment and the family, Marie Theres Abena Ondoua, said the children living on the streets as a result of COVID-19 are in addition to those escaping Boko Haram terrorism on Cameroon's northern border with Nigeria. Other children on the street have fled separatist crisis in the western English-speaking regions of the French-majority bilingual country. August Ewudu of the Cameroon Red Cross program to restore family links says they want to reunite at least 10,000 children with their families before the end of the year. Ewudu said lists of children who cannot trace their parents are available at Red Cross offices. Cameroon's government and humanitarian organizations are also pleading with concerned citizens to take care of children in need should it be impossible to trace their family members. The government says it will be giving either education or job training to the children who refuse to be reunited with their families.

### Lawyers in Cameroon Desert Courts Over Unfair Treatment

By Aurore Bonny | December 01, 2020

Lawyers in Cameroon abandoned their gowns and wigs Monday as they launched a five-day protest to express their dissatisfaction over the lack of respect shown to them by the

## Associations Drilled on Human Rights Values, Protection

By Xinhua | December 01, 2020

Several youth, associations and civil society organizations have been drilled on the respect of human rights and the promotion of a culture of peace on Thursday, November 25 during an educational talk organized at the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education. The objective of the exchange was to continue capacity building activities for leaders of associations and youth movements in the promotion and defense of human rights, which they started months ago. The talk was equally aimed at equipping participants with knowledge on human rights as well as the duties of a citizen in upholding them, to also make known the consequences of breaching peace and human rights and to sensitive young leaders and learners on their roles as relays and ambassadors of peace in their environment. On his part, the representative of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, Thérèse Atangana stressed peace is best achieved in an environment where human rights are respected and urged the youth to thus be perfect ambassadors of these values in their respective communities.



country's magistracy, military and executive branch. While the Cameroonian press portrayed the event as "a strike," for lawyer Djanda Maurice, this is not the case. "The council of order has decided to suspend robe-wearing for a week. We did not talk about a strike. This means that we won't do anything that we usually do when we wear our black dresses," he told Anadolu Agency. He considers this decision "much awaited" by his colleagues and him because the latest news on lawyers was the "last straw." He said there are more and more obstacles to the exercise of their profession but also acts of bargaining around citizens' freedoms. For lawyer Tchamo Mafetgo, it is "a peaceful and poignant way to express oneself and be heard." The lawyers contacted by Anadolu Agency are convinced that things can change if the authorities make a complete diagnosis of the judicial system. In particular, many obsolete laws dating from before independence should be revised and systematically imprisoning lawyers should be avoided.

## Armed Separatist Arrested Over Murder of Cameroonian School Children

By Xinhua | December 01, 2020

The commander popularly known as commander Zebra was ambushed and arrested on Tuesday noon by the military in collaboration with the local population while he was strolling in the town, Meme division prefect Ndong Chamberlin Ntou'ou told reporters. "We will take all measures to ensure all actors of the crime are arrested. He is the second one to have been arrested. We will capture the others one by one," Ntou'ou said, adding that six others are on the run. The seven children were killed in a classroom in October while they were studying in Kumba. Separatist leaders have since denied having taken part in the massacre that was widely condemned

## Cameroon Faith Leaders Call for Mediated Peace Talks

By Rebecca Tinsley | November 29, 2020

Cameroon faith leaders are calling on the government of President Paul Biya to accept the mediation of a third party to resolve the conflict in Cameroon. The Norwegian Refugee Council describes the violence there as the world's most ignored crisis. The faith leaders' statement marks a turning point; previously, they have been less overt in urging action from the Yaounde regime. It is also significant that senior representatives of so many religious groups have come together for a two-day workshop on the crisis. Analysts say their meeting plays an essential role in giving voice to the concerns of the unarmed civilians who have been side lined by

the rise of secessionist militia factions. In a statement, the leaders from Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian, Evangelical, Pentecostal, Methodist and Muslim communities urged the government to concede that an impartial third party was needed to mediate negotiations to stop the fighting. President Biya has repeatedly assured diplomats that Cameroon alone must address its internal issues. An independent NGO, the Swiss Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, has offered to host negotiations. However, the government and some secessionist factions have held back from committing to peace talks, fearing they will be seen as conceding strategic ground. They have also ignored calls for a Covid-19 ceasefire from the UN Secretary General and in an open letter from Nobel Laureates and other world leaders.

## **Atanga Nji on Working Visit to Northern Regions Ahead of Regional Elections**

By Journal du Cameroun | November 30, 2020

The Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji is on a two-day security working visit to the Northern regions of Cameroon to check the security situation ahead of the country's first ever regional elections slated for December 6. Speaking to administrative and security officials present at the meeting, Minister Paul Atanga Nji emphasized on tight security as the country prepares for maiden regional council elections and end of year feasts amid repeated attacks of Boko Haram insurgents and other security challenges including kidnappings, organized crimes, acts of vandalisms to name but these. Before Garoua, the Territorial Administration boss was in Maroua, in the Far North region of Cameroon Sunday November 29 for a similar meeting during which a declaration signed by a good number of personalities from the three Northern regions expressing their total support to the Head of State was read. The declaration equally condemns "claims" of marginalization advanced by the Mouvement 10 millions de nordistes recently banned from any activity by the Minister of Territorial Administration.

