

# KLW BRIEFING

## Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiation

Link to the full report from the conference: <https://cdn-reports.org/>

### [Separatists Disrupt Regional Elections in Cameroon's Restive Anglophone Regions](#)

By Xinhua | December 04, 2020

Armed separatists on Friday began imposing a four-day lockdown in Cameroon's two troubled English-speaking regions of Northwest and Southwest to disrupt pioneer regional elections scheduled for Sunday. The lockdown will run from Friday to Monday, according to a statement issued by separatist leaders on social media. The streets have been deserted and all sorts of activities are not operational particularly in Northwest region where armed separatists have issued death threats to residents if they step out of the house, according to local residents. On Wednesday, the Cameroonian army told observer missions and reporters that it has taken necessary security measures to ensure the elections unfold without hitches in the restive regions.

### [As Cameroon Prepares First Regional Election on Sunday, Opponents Say It's Too Late](#)

By Josiane Kouagheu | December 03, 2020

Cameroon will hold its first ever regional election on Sunday, as President Paul Biya seeks to quell a four-year-old separatist insurgency and appease opponents who say he has neglected the provinces for decades. Over 10,000 local representatives will vote to appoint councils in all ten regions made up of regional delegates and traditional rulers, putting into action a 1996 law that promised decentralized government but was never enacted. Government officials say it will give the regions greater say over spending and local governance. They hope it could also end a conflict in the English-speaking west that was sparked by the perceived marginalization of the Anglophone minority. Critics say the election comes too late, offers only the semblance of regional autonomy, and does little to dent Biya's power. It could be disrupted by separatist fighters who call it a "fraud" and the main opposition parties are boycotting, meaning the councils will likely be stacked with Biya supporters. "If it had come in 1996, maybe it could have solved the crisis. But we are no longer at that level," said opposition politician and former presidential candidate Joshua Osih. "The demands are beyond decentralization. People want to take care of their own territory." Leading separatist Cho Ayaba said they intend seize officials organizing Sunday's vote. "We have issued an order banning the elections ... and for anyone ... collaborating with Cameroon in organizing this fraud to be arrested."

### [Cameroon/Kumba Kids Massacre: Another Suspected Killer Arrested](#)

By Journal du Cameroun | December 01, 2020

One of the gunmen involved in the massacre of seven kids in

## Cameroonian Military Commanders Visit Borno As Governor Considers Mercenaries

By Sahara Reporters | December 03, 2020

A top delegation of the Cameroonian Armed Forces on Thursday visited the Borno State Government House, Maiduguri, and met with the state governor, Prof Babagana Zulum, over Saturday's gruesome massacre of at least 70 rice farmers in Zabarmari community. This visit is coming 48 hours after the state governor noted that one of the recommendations his state had put forward to the Federal Government was to consider hiring mercenaries to dislodge the Boko Haram terrorists from the region since the Nigerian military appeared to be overwhelmed. Another recommendation that Zulum gave was for the regional forces, Cameroon, Chad and the Niger Republic to collaborate on waging war against the Boko Haram terrorists. At the meeting, the governor urged the Cameroonian delegation on the need for Nigeria and Cameroon to team up to defeat the Boko Haram terrorists.



a school in the Fiango neighborhood in Kumba, South West region of Cameroon on October 24 is currently in police custody. According to official reports, the suspected gunman who goes by name Neba Ngwa aka Commander Zabra was arrested this Tuesday December 1 at a drinking spot in the Fiango neighborhood located around the DO's office after he attempted to rob a customer of the bar. As both men struggled, a police officer is said to have intervened to separate them. Instead, Neba Ngwa reportedly seized his gun. After this action, a military officer who had been watching the scene from the DO's office intervened and though he tried to escape seeing he was overpowered, both security men arrested him. After questioning at the DO's office, Neba Ngwa is reported to have confessed being a separatist fighter adding that he belongs to a gang of Ambazonia fighters based behind Government Bilingual High School Kossala, Kumba. Neba Ngwa is officially the second suspected killer to have been neutralized by security forces.

## Easing Cameroon's Ethno-Political Tensions, On and Offline

By International Crisis Group | December 03, 2020

**What's new?** Cameroon's opposition leader Maurice Kamto continues to dispute the 2018 presidential election results, while his supporters and President Paul Biya's exchange invective that often descends into ethnic slurs. Fueled by online trolling, such hate speech is leading to violence.

**Why does it matter?** Tensions between the Biya and Kamto camps, increasingly framed along ethnic lines, threaten national stability, already rocked by the separatist insurgency in the country's Anglophone regions. These strains risk tearing at Cameroon's national fabric, with more bloodshed likely if the government takes no corrective action.

**What should be done?** The government should correct deficiencies in the electoral system that undermined the 2018 elections and outlaw ethnic discrimination. Facebook, the country's most used social media platform, should work with the government, opposition and civil society to limit inflammatory content or misinformation lest inter-communal relations break down further.

## Four Civilians Killed in Boko Haram Raids in Cameroon

By Xinhua | December 04, 2020

At least four civilians have been killed between Thursday and Friday by terror group Boko Haram in Cameroon's Far North region, local authorities said on Friday. The traditional ruler of Wemdeley village was killed overnight into Friday, while three

other persons were killed early Thursday in Talla Massali village when Boko Haram invaded the localities, authorities confirmed. The terrorists who came on motorcycles also made away with foodstuffs and kidnapped at least two people during the raids, according to local sources.

## **“Cameroon Why?” Blakk Rasta’s New Hit?**

By Modern Ghana | December 03, 2020

(Click the hyperlinked title to listen to the song and view the full lyrics)

Ghana’s number one reggae star, Blakk Rasta has released a new hit song demanding equal rights and justice, and rallying all Cameroonians to unite and live in peace and harmony. The song which was released via his YouTube channel on December 1, 2020 is a classic Kuchoko roots reggae sound containing a strong Pan African message, as has become Blakk Rasta’s trademark. Could this song from the Barack Obama hitmaker, who is fast gaining a penchant for being prophetic with the messages in his music lead to a lasting resolution to the conflict in Cameroon?



That certainly is the prayer he opens the song with. Lyrics include: “Why, my Cameroon? Stop the hate, share the cake . . . I never knew this would come. I never knew you would shoot and kill. Anglophone a fight. Francophone a fight. Woman and child just a drop like fly. I never knew you would get this mad. I never knew you would be so so bad.”

## **Novel About Forced Marriage in Cameroon Honored by French High School Students**

By Ollia Horton with RFI | December 03, 2020

A jury of French high school readers has awarded the prestigious Goncourt students prize to Djaïli Amadou Amal for her novel "Les Impatientes". The Cameroon-born writer says she is glad her message about violence against women in African culture has been understood by today's young people. Les Impatientes (The Impatient Ones) describes the lives of Ramla, Hindou et Safira, three young women from wealthy families in Marouna, northern Cameroon, and their struggles to live up to society’s expectations. The novel deals openly with polygamy, rape and arranged



marriage, realities which women of all social classes across the Sahel must face. Upon learning the jury’s decision, via video conference on Wednesday, Amadou Amal said she was “very proud and moved”. “This represents so much for me,” she said. “That we can talk about violence against women...and that young people have chosen this story, it means they are sensitive to its message. And that represents hope for the future,” she said. “It means they can change the world.” Born in 1975, Amadou Amal has published three successful novels and been awarded the Prix Orange for African literature. As president of the feminist organization Femmes du Sahel, she has striven to give a voice to those not usually heard in African society.