

# KLW BRIEFING

## Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiation

### [CPDM Records Sweeping Victory in Pioneer Regional Election](#)

By Journal du Cameroun |  
December 10, 2020

The ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, CPDM party has won the majority of Regional Council seats in all ten regions in the country's first ever Regional election that took place Sunday December 6. According to results proclaimed by the electoral supervisory commissions in all ten regions, the party of the Head of State has won control over the majority if not all Regional Council seats in all the regions except for the Adamawa where the NUDP of Bello Bouba Maigari imposed itself by winning four out of the five constituencies. Out of the fourteen political parties who took part in the election, only four managed to grab seats, the CPDM, NUDP, CDU and FSNC. The CPDM imposed itself in the Centre and swept all the seats in the Nyong and Kelle Division, strong hold of the Cameroon Party for National Reconciliation of Cabral Libii. In the West region, the party took seven out of the eight Departments, the one left out is the Noun, stronghold of the CDU of late Adamou Ndam Njoya. The FSNC won two seats in the Mayo Louti, North region of Cameroon and the rest were swept by the CPDM. Altogether 700 Divisional delegates were elected Sunday December 6 by about 10,000 Municipal Councillors to oversee the affairs of the regions for the next ten years.

### [Cameroon's Ruling Party Scores Landslide Victory in Regional Elections](#)

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | December 11, 2020

Cameroon's ruling party scored a landslide victory in the country's first regional elections, winning nine of the country's 10 administrative regions. The victory has triggered fears the party will not relinquish some powers to regional governments – a promise made to end the ongoing separatist crisis in two western regions. Central government officials are promising to reduce their grip on power. The electoral commission said the CPDM, the party of longtime President Paul Biya, won a majority of the seats in nine of the central African state's 10 regions. The opposition National Union for Democracy and Progress won control of one region. Each region has a council of 70 seats. No political party has contested the results. The government says it is counting on the regional elections to end the separatist crisis in the western English-speaking regions, where armed groups want to break away from Cameroon and its French-speaking majority. Under the new system, each region will have regional bodies responsible for economic, health, social, educational, sports and cultural development affairs. The central government in Yaoundé says it will transfer some of its powers to the regions and, starting next year, the regions will be able to recruit hospital staff and teachers and build some of their infrastructure. The government says it will also give 15% of its 2021 budget to the regions to manage. Bongwong Justin Berinyuy is coordinator for the Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa in Cameroon's English-speaking North-West Region. He says the regional elections and the special status given to the English-speaking regions are not strong enough to stop the separatist crisis. Berinyuy said the CPDM victory indicates that Biya, who has been in power for 38 years, will continue dictating to a majority of local elected officials who are members of his party.

## Two Soldiers Injured, 14 Houses Torched in Boko Haram Attacks in Cameroon

By Xinhua | December 10, 2020

At least two soldiers of Cameroon elite forces Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) were injured and 14 houses were burned to ashes overnight into Thursday when militants of terror group Boko Haram attacked a village in Cameroon's Far North region, several local sources confirmed Thursday morning. Heavily armed militants of the group attacked Gakara village of the region when villagers were sleeping, torched houses and injured a member of a vigilante group who attempted to repel the attack, villagers told local reporters. The locals succeeded to escape thanks to the intervention of BIR soldiers, according to local authorities. The army said, two BIR soldiers were injured in the course of the repulse mission after their military vehicle climbed on a mine planted by Boko Haram in neighboring village of Bakarise and it exploded.



## Cameroon: Arbitrary Detentions and Military Courts Highlight the Latest Crackdown on Opposition Members

By Amnesty International | December 09, 2020

The arrests, arbitrary detentions and prosecutions in military courts of opposition members who were peacefully gathering are the latest example of Cameroonian authorities' crackdown on dissenting voices since late September, Amnesty International said today. At least 500 people were arrested on 22 September, the majority of them members of the opposition Movement for the Renaissance of Cameroon (MRC). Of those, 160 remain in detention, 13 have been sentenced to prison by civilian courts, and 14 appeared before a military court. Fourteen people arrested on 22 September were prosecuted by the military court in Bafoussam (West) between 24 and 25 November, for "attempted insurgency and unauthorized public demonstration and gathering". One of the defendants was also prosecuted for "contempt to the President of the Republic" and for holding "two signs calling for the departure of President Biya". At least 45 other MRC members also arrested on 22 September were convicted of "attempted revolt", "rebellion", "aggravated assembly" and "lack of national identity card" by the Yaoundé military court, which placed them in pre-trial detention. Those imprisoned include Olivier Bibou Nissack, Maurice Kamto's spokesman, and Alain Fogue Tedom, national treasurer of the MRC. Amnesty International spoke to a MRC member arrested in September in Douala, who said he was subjected to torture or other ill-treatment during his interrogation, which took place without the presence of a lawyer at the Directorate of Territorial Surveillance (DST) located at the port of the town. He was then detained incommunicado for two months and five days in another site, without being brought before a judge.

## Cameroon's Habit of Arbitrary Detention and Arrest

By Deutsche Welle | December 10, 2020

German engineer Wilfried Siewe is now a free man after being held in a Cameroon prison for nearly two years. Siewe, who was born in Cameroon, was released from Yaounde Central Prison on Saturday and



## **On Human Rights Day, Cameroon Activists, Civilians Call for True Dialogue to End Crises**

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka |  
December 10, 2020

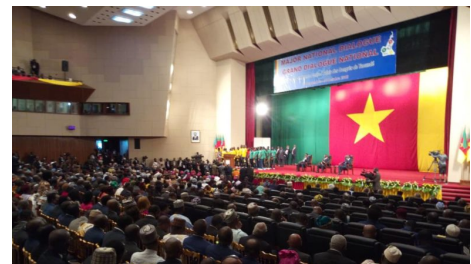
Hundreds are protesting on Thursday, International Human Rights Day, in Cameroon to call for an end to separatist violence and Boko Haram terrorism. The two conflicts have killed tens of thousands of people in the country. A crowd of mostly women and children, sing at the city center in Cameroon's capital, Yaoundé, for peace to return to the central African state. Mumah Bih Yvonne of the Cameroon Women's Peace Movement says human rights abuses are becoming unbearable, with women and children the most common victims. Both the military and separatist fighters have admitted quite often that human rights abuses such as abductions, beheading of women and children, and killing of innocent civilians exist. In some cases, the government has blamed the military and opened investigations. Feka Parcibel is coordinator of the organization Hope for Vulnerables and Orphans. She says rebels and the military should drop their weapons if they truly want peace to return to Cameroon. She says the fighting has deprived hundreds of thousands of children of their rights to education. Feka said Cameroon should organize what she called a true national dialogue with separatist leaders to stop human rights abuses. Marie Theres Abena Ondoua, Cameroon's minister of women's empowerment, says the government is committed to bringing peace, but that fighters should drop their weapons.

returned to his home in southern Germany earlier this week. He was arrested in Cameroon in January 2019 on the last day of a family vacation after police saw him snapping photos of a justice building in the capital, Yaounde. When officers searched his mobile phone, they found a WhatsApp video of a protest against the government of President Paul Biya that was held in Germany's capital Berlin. Some sources report that Siewe also had books in his possession by Cameroon opposition figures. Siewe was detained on suspicion of being a threat to state security. Although he was later able to prove that he was neither in Berlin nor attended the demonstration, he was still held by authorities. He was later sentenced for alleged participation in a 2019 prison riot. In an interview with the German TAZ newspaper in November, his wife Layoko Siewe said she believes her husband was detained "to set an example" to the diaspora, who often speak out against Biya. Biya's regime has long been criticized by human rights organizations for using arbitrary detention to lock up opposition voices. "People simply exercising their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and demonstration have paid a high price with prison terms based on trumped-up charges," said Fabien Offner, Amnesty International West and Central Africa researcher, in a press statement on Thursday that referred to further detentions of protesters in September. "The authorities must immediately put an end to the mass arbitrary arrests and detentions and immediately release prisoners of conscience." Maximilienne Ngo Mbe, the Executive Director of the Central Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, said the rights situation in Cameroon was getting "worse by the day." "Instead of making progress, the country is regressing," Mbe told DW from Douala, Cameroon's largest city. "In Central Africa, Cameroon tops the list when it comes to rights violations and arbitrary detention: arrests of activists and rights defenders are rife."

## **Cameroon: UN Wants Gov't to Address Core Issues Raised by Major National Dialogue**

By Journal du Cameroun | December 11, 2020

The government of Cameroon has been urged to address the core issues raised by the Major National Dialogue as well as continue to engage in dialogue with all parties in order to seek long lasting solutions to the crisis in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon.



## Germany Urges Gov't to Negotiate with Ambazonia Separatists

By Journal du Cameroun |  
December 11, 2020

Germany has urged the government of Cameroon to enter into direct negotiations with Ambazonia separatists for sustainable peace to reign in Cameroon. The situation was on review on Wednesday, December 9 at the United Nations Security Council with members giving their diverse opinion on the situation. According to the German Ambassador to the United Nations, Gunter Sautter, the best way to attain sustainable peace is for the government of Cameroon to enter into negotiations with the separatists. Last year, Swiss organization, Humanitarian Dialogue announced it was open to mediate between both parties with a section of the separatist movement in favor of the initiative but the government of Cameroon remained mute. Several countries have given their backing to the process including Germany who think a will be a step in deescalating the conflict.



The call was made by the Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, François Loucemy Fall on Wednesday, December 11 while presenting the situation in the sub region at the United Nations Security Council. Presenting the comprehensive report, François Loucemy Fall detailed the series of violence and attacks recently committed by non state armed groups and soldiers in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. "Only a cessation of hostilities and a political dialogue to end the crisis in the NorthWest and South-West regions can create an environment conducive to the protection of civilians, respect for human rights and sustainable peace and development," François Loucemy Fall said. He equally urged the government of Cameroon to speed up the implementation of the recommendations of the Major National Dialogue and ensure dialogue continues with all parties.

## Cameroon Opposition Leader's De Facto House Arrest Ends

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | December 09, 2020

Hundreds of supporters of Cameroon opposition leader Maurice Kamto have gathered at his home after his months-long de facto house arrest suddenly ended. Heavily armed police stationed at his home since September 22 left on Tuesday. Cameroon authorities gave no immediate explanation for why police left or if Kamto would face any charges from the September protest that prompted the detention. Christopher Ndong is secretary general of Kamto's Cameroon Renaissance Movement party. He says the opposition leader is in good health and will be addressing his supporters at what he calls an appropriate moment. Ndong called on the government to release some 130 Kamto supporters and party officials who were among hundreds arrested in September for rebellion and illegal assembly. In a press release late Tuesday, government spokesman Rene Emmanuel Sadi said those arrested would face the law. Sadi said they are accused of rebellion, attempted revolution, and illegal assembly for a September 22 protest against President Paul Biya and holding regional elections. Territorial administration minister Paul Atanga Nji says Cameroon's first regional elections held Sunday shows that people trust Biya and his government.



# Coalition

## for Dialogue and Negotiations

Following the successful **International Conference on the Armed Conflict in Southern Cameroons**, the CDN received donations towards humanitarian needs. A few dollars shy of \$10,000 was received and earmarked for projects that would specifically aid those most affected by the conflict. After reviewing dozens of organizations and several proposals, the Steering Committee selected four organizations to each to receive **a grant of \$2,500 for humanitarian aid projects to be conducted in Southern Cameroons and/or Nigeria.**

The CDN would like to congratulate **the Belinda Babila Foundation, the Victoria Relief Foundation, the Mawuh Global Solutions Organization, and the Ayah Foundation** on being selected for the grant. There is a truly desperate need for humanitarian aid and organization in response to the ongoing armed conflict. The CDN is excited to be able to partner with those focused on bringing help to the most vulnerable. Details of the completed projects will be shared on the CDN website once completed.

**About the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations:** The Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiation is a U.S. based organization of professionals with ties or origins in the Southern Cameroons. The Coalition believes in the protection of human rights and negotiation as the single most reliable form of engaging warring parties for sustained peace in the Southern Cameroons. The Coalition is engaged in pursuing peace in the Southern Cameroons through evidence-based approaches for lasting peace.