

KLW BRIEFING

Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiation

SW Chiefs Urged to Check Activities of Separatist Fighters

By Journal du Cameroun | December 16, 2020

The Prime Minister Head of Government, Chief Dr Joseph Dion Ngute have called on traditional rulers of the six departments in the crisis-hit South West region of Cameroon to check the activities of separatist fighters in their respective areas of command. Presiding over a meeting with the Chiefs Wednesday December 16 in Buea, the Head of Government prescribed the reactivation of Council police among other measures to check the increasing activities of gunmen in the region recently targeting traditional rulers. He told the custodians of the tradition of the people to mobilize their communities and work with the administration to ensure the security of their people. The Head of Government equally extended President Biya's condolences to the Chiefs for the killing of their peer, Emmanuel Ikome, Chief of Dipanda Mile 14 village last Sunday December 13. Recently, traditional rulers have been the targets of separatists in the region fighting for a separate State they call Ambazonia. In one month, two Chiefs were killed by unidentified gunmen. Last Sunday, another Chief was killed in captivity. Two of his peers kidnaped alongside him earlier that Sunday were later on released thanks to the intervention of defense and security forces.



US: Protect Cameroonians From Deportation

By Human Rights Watch | December 18, 2020

The United States government should protect all Cameroonians in the United States from deportation because of serious threats to their safety in Cameroon, Human Rights Watch said today.

The government should designate Cameroonians in the United States for temporary protected status, which is intended to protect nationals and habitual residents of countries experiencing extraordinary and temporary conditions from being returned to those countries if they are not able to return in safety. US authorities should also investigate allegations that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel physically abused Cameroonian asylum seekers to force them to sign documents related to their deportation. Hundreds of civilians have been killed in Cameroon in the past year in the Anglophone North-West and South-West regions, where violence has been acute since late 2016, as armed separatists seek independence for the country's minority Anglophone regions. Violence has displaced tens of thousands of people in the past year, adding to the hundreds of thousands who have fled their homes since the start of the violence. Security forces have responded abusively to separatist attacks, often targeting civilians, their lives, and livelihoods. Armed separatists have killed, tortured, assaulted, and kidnapped hundreds of people. They have also prevented humanitarian workers and teachers from doing their jobs, depriving children of access to education. Few people responsible for serious abuses have been held accountable since the crisis in the English-speaking regions began in late



A patrol of Cameroonian gendarmes during a political rally in the Omar Bongo Square, Buea, capital of the South-West region, on October 3,

[Women, Youth Map Out Strategies to Prevent Conflicts, Promote Peace](#)

By Journal du Cameroun |
December 17, 2020

A group of women and youth drawn from at least six regions of Cameroon that have experienced conflicts have resolved to promote peace in their various communities. They took the commitment at the weekend during a workshop organized in Ebolowa by the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development to elaborate a local strategy aimed at involving women and youth in the prevention of conflicts and consolidation of peace within a context marked by the full implementation of decentralization. The participants were drawn from the Far North, North, Adamawa, East, North West and South West regions shared their various experiences in conflict situations in their communities and how they went about seeking solutions. Thus, according to the organizers, the workshop was aimed at ensuring the integration of human rights, gender and youth aspects in peace building initiatives, both at central and local levels. "Women most often act as counselors while youth are most often the victims of all the atrocities in conflict zones. It is thus important to give them the necessary tools to prepare them not only to face conflicts but also to receive and support youth and families living in these areas affected by conflicts," Atikatuou Alhadji, a facilitator from the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development said.

2016. In the Far North region, the Islamist armed group Boko Haram has deliberately attacked civilians, including internally displaced people, with almost daily killings, kidnappings, thefts, and destruction of property. The government has also cracked down on political opponents and opposition party supporters, charging hundreds participating in peaceful protests in September 2020 with terrorism and rebellion, and using the pandemic as pretext to silence opposition and quell dissent. Anglophones deported to Cameroon face a serious risk of abuse by government security forces because they may be assumed to have links to separatists, or from the separatists themselves. Torture is common in official and unofficial detention centers, including military bases, where many people are being held incommunicado. Cameroonians fleeing the Far North region are at serious risk of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and harassment if they are returned, as the government has accused many residents of supporting Boko Haram. Cameroonians who are seen as sympathizers to opposition parties can also face threats if returned due to the government's crackdown on the political opposition. Given these conditions, many Cameroonians qualify as refugees under US asylum and international refugee law.

[Cameroonian Soldiers Accused of Killing Women, Children Appear in Court](#)

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | December 17, 2020

A few civilians were at a military tribunal in Yaounde on Thursday to witness the trial of three soldiers accused in the February 14 Ngarr-buh massacre of women and children. Gabriel Foyong said he lost two family members and wanted to see justice served. "We are not asking for something much from the government of Cameroon," he said. "What we require is just justice, that justice should take its rightful course so that such incidents may be avoided. Honestly, government needs to sit up, because most of the people dying are the innocent ones. Ngarr-buh is a very perfect example." The defendants pleaded not guilty before the session was adjourned. The presiding judge, Yvonne Leopoldine Akoa, did not say when the proceedings would resume. Human Rights Watch described the Ngarr-buh killings as one of the worst incidents of abuse by security forces in the history of Cameroon's separatist crisis. The rights group said 17 members of a vigilante group and a separatist fighter were also charged and remain at large. Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior central African researcher for Human Rights Watch, said the trial was expected to be an important step toward tackling impunity. Human Rights Watch said 21 civilians, including 13 children and a pregnant woman, were killed. Five houses were torched,

[Cameroon: Gov't Urged to Publish Findings of Inquiry into Wazizi's Death](#)

By Journal du Cameroun |
December 17, 2020

International Non-Governmental Organizations Reporters Without Borders which defends press freedom and ACAT France, Christian right group have urged the Government of Cameroon to make public findings of the enquiry into the death of Samuel Wazizi in police custody. In a tweet posted Wednesday December 16, Reporters Without Borders indicate that President Paul Biya has already received the report on the enquiry and request for its publication. "6 months after journalist Samuel Wazizi was confirmed dead while being detained, President Paul Biya has received the conclusions of the promised investigation..." "Reporters Without Borders and ACAT France request its publication." The tweet reads. The journalist working with Buea-based Chillen Music Television was arrested early August 2019 on the basis that he collaborated with separatist fighters in the South West region. After about ten months of silence on his case, it was rumoured that he died in police custody after which Government confirmed he had passed away that same month as a result of severe sepsis. After pressure from international and national right groups as well as journalism associations, the Head of State promised to order an independent probe into Wazizi's death. Six months after, the findings on the investigation are yet to be published.

property was looted and some residents beaten. Allegrozzi said the killings and torture were not isolated cases but part of a long history of military abuses in Cameroon's English-speaking regions.

[Traders, Truckers Protest Cameroon-Chad Border Closing Over COVID](#)

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | December 16, 2020

Traders and truck drivers in Cameroon and Chad held a nine-minute protest Wednesday on the N'Gueli bridge that crosses the border, with each minute symbolizing one month since cross-border traffic was restricted in March to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The group that organized the protest, the Association of Truck Drivers in Chad and Cameroon, called for an immediate reopening of the border. Forty-seven-year-old Chadian truck driver Mal Goni says the lack of trade has devastated his income. Chadian drivers should be allowed to transport goods from Cameroon to their capital, N'Djamena, he says, and Cameroonian drivers should be allowed to transport goods coming from Chad. Cameroon authorities say before March 5, when the first cases of COVID-19 were reported, at least 1,200 people crossed the bridge each day. Since traffic was restricted, they say, the daily number crossing the bridge is less than 200. Cameroon imports food staples such as sorghum, onions and groundnuts from Chad during lean seasons. Cameroon and Chad sealed their shared border in March to stop the spread of COVID-19, after both countries recorded cases. Landlocked Chad, which relies on Cameroon for 80 percent of its imports, agreed to allow goods from its neighbor, but only if they were trucked from the seaside town of Douala direct to N'Djamena and if the drivers tested negative. But after COVID-19 spread further in May, both countries resealed the border. Cameroon and Chad hope to soon reach an agreement to reopen the border under COVID-19 prevention measures, according to Mballa.