

# KLW BRIEFING

## Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations

### Cameroon Deploys Troops as Separatists Threaten African Nations Championship

By Moki Edwin Klnzeka | January 09, 2021

In Cameroon, one week ahead of the African Nations Soccer Championship, officials have deployed troops to protect players from across Africa as separatists vow to stop the games in restive English-speaking regions. The government is assuring football fans from across Africa that the games will be safe and that measures have also been taken to stop the spread of COVID-19. The official song of the African Nations Championship (CHAN), by Cameroon singer Jane Mary Ihims, plays in markets and popular spots in Cameroon's capital city, Yaoundé, ahead of the official kickoff of the tournament on January 16. CHAN matches will be played in Yaoundé, the coastal city, Douala, and the English-speaking southwestern town of Limbe. Separatists have warned on Social Media that countries taking part in the championship should not go to the South West region. The separatists, in messages on Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp, say the English-speaking regions are crisis-prone and the safety of the teams cannot be assured there. Bernard Okalia Bilai, governor of the English-speaking South West region, says measures have been taken to ensure the safety of soccer fans, officials and players from Africa and beyond. Bilai added there are still some pockets of resistance from separatists fighting to create an English-speaking state in French-majority Cameroon. He said the military and police have been deployed to deal with separatists who fail to surrender.

### CDN Surveys Southern Cameroonians About Elder Statesmen and Women Qualifications

By Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations | Survey closes January 15, 2021

As part the Resolutions of the Virtual International Conference organized by CDN and in application of the desires of Southern Cameroonians



expressed in the survey, the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations is requesting Southern Cameroonians to participate in a short survey to share their ideas on the criteria and potential candidates who qualify as Elder Statesmen and Women.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2WWCC3C>

The Coalition believes in a well-coordinated, sustained and calculated approach that brings everyone on board. We equally believe respecting elders who have genuinely fought for the Southern Cameroons and tapping from their wisdom is necessary. As we engage in our multifaceted programs and engagements, we want to assure Southern Cameroonians, leaders and members of the different stakeholder groups of our resolve to pursue a credible, mediated and negotiated end to the war.

### Cameroon Pro-Independence Leaders Get Support from US Senate 2021

By All Africa | January 12, 2021

Cameroon Pro-Independence Leaders welcome the call for the need for an internationally mediated negotiation on the

## [Attack Leaves Child, Others Dead in Restive SW Region](#)

By Journal du Cameroun | January 11, 2021

About nine persons, including a child, were killed on Sunday, January 10 in Mautu, a locality Fako Division, South West Region of Cameroon, sources have said. Locals accuse soldiers of storming the locality around 3pm on Wednesday in search or armed separatist fighters before as they opened fire leading to the casualties. A video that has since gone online shows an injured woman shot on the leg and her child shot on the hand. However, journalducameroun can not independently verify the video and claims. Other locals said they escaped into the bushes when soldiers stormed the locality but returned to find scores of persons lying in their own pool of blood. Sunday's incident follows a bloody week that has the death of over two dozens of persons in separate incidents as scenes of violence continue to be recorded in the North West and South West Regions.

root causes of the conflict in Cameroon by the US Senate Resolution 684. The leader of the Pro-Independence government, Sissiku Julius Ayuktabe who is currently serving a life sentence with 10 of his closest collaborators and thousands of other Pro-independence activists in overpopulated, unsanitary, and inhumane prisons in Cameroon expressed a sigh of relief and welcomes the move by the US Senate. Speaking through a confidential source from his prison cell in Yaounde, the Pro-Independence leader reiterated and reaffirmed his commitment and call for an internationally supervised negotiation for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. In a rare sign of Bipartisanship, Members of the US Senate passed RES. 684 which "calls on the Government of Cameroun and armed separatists' groups from the Northwest and Southwest regions to end all violence, respect human rights of all Cameroonians, and pursue a genuinely inclusive dialogue towards resolving the ongoing civil conflict in Anglophone Cameroon". Unlike other resolutions passed by the 116th US Congress during the conflict, RES. 684 goes far beyond just condemning the violence and human rights violations. The Senate resolution clearly empowers the US State Department to work in concert with other relevant agencies to take targeted actions against the Cameroon government officials and leaders of Armed groups involved in perpetrating the violence. The resolution also summons the international community to collectively work together in taking decisive and stringent actions against the Cameroon government and Armed groups to force both parties to the proverbial negotiating table. However, in a stinging rebuke, the US RES. 684 in calling for a genuinely inclusive dialogue towards the resolution of the ongoing conflict clearly undermines the much-heralded Grand National Dialogue by the Cameroonian government and the French government as insufficient, not genuine, and not inclusive to address the conflict. The move to empower the US State Department to begin targeted actions also sends a powerful signal and announced to political observers and hardliners in Yaounde who have mocked previous resolutions of the US Congress as toothless that the US is going to focus and bring global attention to this crisis. This RES. 684 signals the US intent to get involved and provide a leadership role to bring an end to a crisis that has been neglected by the International Community.

## [Cameroon Says Explosives Planted by Separatists Killed 5, Including Female Journalist](#)

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | January 07, 2020

Officials in Cameroon have ordered the military to hunt down separatist fighters whom authorities blame for planting bombs that killed four soldiers and a female journalist. The attack also

## [Armed Men Kill School Principal, Injure Others in Manyu Division](#)

By Journal du Cameroun | January 11, 2021

The Principal of Government High School, Ossing in Manyu Division, South West Region of Cameroon was on Saturday, January 9 killed by unidentified armed men. Locals say the principal was attacked in his neighbourhood after returning from school that day as he was shot at by the armed men who immediately took off. In another separate incident, two persons are seriously receiving treatment at a health facility in Tinto, still in Manyu division after they were attacked by armed men. The two men; the Principal of Government Technical College Tinto and a student were shot at by the armed men for reportedly violating school boycott calls. The violent incidents occurred last weekend despite authorities reassuring that calm had returned to the division after welcoming back about 800 refugees who were returning from Nigeria.



injured three others. Deben Tchoffo, governor of Cameroon's North West region, says at about 1 am on Wednesday, roadside bombs exploded near a convoy of government officials being escorted by the military. Tchoffo says the delegation was returning to the town of Mbengwi from the Njikwa and Andeck districts, where the officials went to officially install administrators recently appointed by President Paul Biya. Tchoffo said the attack was carried out with improvised explosive devices planted by separatist fighters on a road near the English-speaking northwestern town of Mbengwi. He said the three people injured were government officials. Their injuries were classified as life threatening and they were rushed to hospitals. He said three troops are still missing and that there were huge material losses. Tchoffo added that the military has been deployed to the area to search for the perpetrators. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. A statement from Cameroon's minister of communication Rene Emmanuel Sadi blames separatists. The female journalist killed was Liwusi Rebecca Jeme, who was also the highest government communication official in the Momo administrative area.

## [Six Killed in Suspected Separatist Attack in Matazem](#)

By Journal du Cameroun | January 08, 2021

Two civilians, three Gendarme officers and one policeman have been killed in an attack perpetrated by suspected Ambazonia fighters in Matazem, border town between the restive North West region of Cameroon and the West region. According to the Governor of the West region, Awa Fonka Augustin, the attack was perpetrated early Friday January 8. Security forces were taken unaware by a group of armed men suspected to be separatist fighters operating in that part of the country at a check point near Matazem in Bamenda, Chieftown of the North West region. This attack comes barely 48 hours after an improvised explosive device detonated Wednesday in Momo, killing five, including one civilian and four security elements.

## [Cameroon: Army Denies Responsibility in Killing of Civilians in Mautu](#)

By Journal du Cameroun | January 12, 2021

The army has denied responsibility in the killing of civilians last Sunday, January 10 in Mautu, Muyuka sub division in the South West Region of Cameroon. Locals accused soldiers of the Cameroon army of carrying out targeted killings when they invaded the village last Sunday in search of armed separatist

fighters. However, a statement from the army denies any responsibility. According to the spokesperson of the Cameroon army, Col. Cyrille Serge Atonfack Guemo, “elements of the 21st Motorised Infantry Battalion carried out a preventive raid on the positions of terrorist groups under the orders of the so-called “Spirito” and Gabonais” in Mautu last Sunday. According to Col. Guemo, the armed separatists immediately opened fire on the soldiers who then provided an “adequate response.” “As a result of the skirmish, some terrorists were neutralised, others who were injured took to their heels, weapons and munitions were recovered,” Col Guemo said, adding operations are still ongoing to find injured fugitives. When the incident occurred on Sunday, pictures and videos went viral online, showing corpses as well as a woman injured on the leg and her child clinging onto her with an injured hand as both battled for survival. However, the spokesman of the Cameroon army described the images as a “hotpotch of gruesome images in a bid to blame our defence forces for a blind massacre perpetrated in Mautu”. He added that investigations will be carried out to shed light on the gruesome images that have been circulating.

## **France Condemns Mautu Killings, Calls for Investigations**

By Journal du Cameroun | January 12, 2021

The French Embassy in Cameroon has condemned last Sunday’s killings of civilians in Mautu, Muyuka subdivision in the restive South West Region. At least eight civilians are reported to have been killed and others injured when soldiers of the Cameroon army invaded a village called Mautu in search of armed separatist fighters. “France condemns the attack that took place in Mautu, South West Region of Cameroon and killed 8 civilians on Sunday, January 10 in unclear circumstances. France condemns the indiscriminate use of violence against civilians and demands that the facts of this unjustifiable crime be clarified,” the French Embassy said in a statement.