

# KLW BRIEFING

## Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations

### [Atanga Nji Claims Biya Has Won War Against Ambazonia](#)

By Journal du Cameroun | January 18, 2021

The Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga has claimed the Head of State Paul Biya has won the long-drawn separatist conflict in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon. However, at a security meeting in Bamenda, one of the hotbeds of the conflict, the country's interior Minister Paul Atanga Nji told the media, the country's President, Paul Biya, who has been in power since 1982 has already won the war and calm was gradually returning to the restive Anglophone regions. Paul Atanga Nji was speaking in Bamenda on Monday, January 18 during a working visit to evaluate the security situation in the North West Region. This comes after at least five persons were killed in Momo Division, following an explosion in the convoy of the Senior Divisional Officer-an incident that has been attributed to separatists. "After a thorough examination of the security situation (of the North West Region), ...I can conveniently say that the security situation is under control and that I have come to extend the encouragements of the Head of State to the local administrative authorities," Paul Atanga Nji said.

### [International Webinar —The United Nations Security Council and Peace in Cameroon: The Role of the United Kingdom's Presidency and Irish Membership](#)

By Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations | Webinar on January 22, 2021

**January 18, 2020 - (London | Berlin | Washington D.C) -**

As the UK takes over the Presidency of the Security Council in

February 2021, it is necessary to examine how the UK Government will lead in addressing current armed conflicts, especially in countries where international human rights violations and thousands of atrocities continue to be committed. It is equally important to articulate and shape Ireland's reaction to these challenging moments under the UK presidency after joining the prestigious but challenging Council from January 2021. Ireland since 1962 has demonstrated a relentless commitment to the protection of people's rights and the promotion of preventive diplomacy in averting the escalation of armed conflicts, including the commitment on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P).

The rights abuses, massacres and atrocities to date shock the human conscience. The Mautu Massacre of at least 8 Southern Cameroonian civilians on January 10, 2021 follows an established as a pattern of massacres,



**Coalition**  
for Dialogue and Negotiations

## [UN Calls for Probe into Cameroon Army Attack on Civilians](#)

By Edward McAllister | January 15, 2021

The United Nations on Thursday called for an investigation after Reuters reported that Cameroonian soldiers opened fire on fleeing civilians during a weekend raid, killing up to nine people. Three witnesses told Reuters that soldiers entered the village of Mautu in the South West region - at the heart of a separatist insurgency - raided homes and shot civilians as they ran for cover under nearby cocoa bushes. The Cameroonian military denies wrongdoing. It said it was conducting a raid on separatist positions when it came under fire and had killed what it labelled "terrorists". "Deeply concerned & saddened by the attack on Mautu ... that claimed the lives of many civilians. I call for an investigation into this attack," said the head of the U.N.'s Central Africa office, François Louncény Fall, on Twitter. Britain also expressed concern. The witnesses said they saw nine dead people, including a child and an old woman. None of the dead was a separatist fighter, they said. Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said it was treating four people from the village, all with gunshot wounds: a young child, two elderly patients and a young woman. International players have long called for peace. Abuses on both sides have made talks difficult. Sunday's attack comes as three soldiers face trial for their alleged involvement in the killing of 21 civilians last year in a village in the North West region.

pointing from Menka (May 28, 2018), Tiben (July 12, 2018), Muyuka (August 4, 2018), Misaje (October 12, 2018), Bali (May 14, 2019), Bole Bakundu (February 6, 2020), Babanki (March 2, 2020), Ngarbuh (February 14, 2020), Muambong (April 22, 2020), to Bafut (May 3, 2020), Kumba (October 24, 2020), and many others.

In keeping with our commitment to continuous engagement with critical international stakeholders to peace and human rights, the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations will host an international webinar on "**The United Nations Security Council and Peace in Cameroon: The Role of the United Kingdom's Presidency and Irish Membership**". Panelists and moderator invited to this engaging discussion to engage the UK and Ireland are:

1. Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy Sea to Ireland
2. Rt. Rev. Philip Egan, Bishop of Portsmouth, member - Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
2. Rt. Rev. Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, member - Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
3. Dr. Pat Hynes, Political Dialogue Program Manager, Glencree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation, Ireland
4. Iffat Rahman, International Human Rights Advocate

**Date:** Friday January 22, 2021

**Time:** 12 noon EST, 5 pm GMT

**Registration:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rmONlgg0QMeIKrXS6jaQvA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rmONlgg0QMeIKrXS6jaQvA)

## [Cameroon Court Denies Request to Release Opposition Leaders](#)

By Ilaria Allegrozzi | January 15, 2021

On January 12, an appeals court in Cameroon rejected legal efforts to secure the release of Olivier Bibou Nissack and Alain Fogue Tedom, two prominent members of the country's main opposition party, Cameroon Renaissance Movement (Mouvement pour la renaissance du Cameroun, MRC), as well as twenty other MRC members. They were arrested in September 2020 while exercising their right to freedom of assembly and have been in custody since. The court's

## Cameroonian Minister Vows to Respond to Killing of Security Forces

By Xinhua | January 20, 2021

Cameroon's Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji said on Tuesday the government will take tough measures against separatist rebels who killed security forces in the country's volatile English-speaking region of Northwest. "These people who killed security forces and innocent civilians will be tracked down in their latest hideouts. In their own interest, they should surrender to the police and gendarmerie before we come for them. There will be no escape," Nji told reporters while visiting a military checkpoint in Matazem that was attacked by armed separatists. At least, 12 members of Cameroonian security guards have died in attacks by separatists since the start of January, according to security reports. The number of civilian casualties is not known. "The good news is that some of the assailants and accomplices of the attacks have been arrested. What is going on now is the last of the resistance because the terrorists have lost strength and speed," Nji added who regularly refers to separatists as "terrorists." Armed separatists have freshly intensified attacks in the region that was relatively calm in December, according to security sources.

decision came after a lower court rejected a habeas corpus request filed by the defendants on November 5, 2020. Nissack and Fogue face politically motivated charges including attempted revolution, rebellion, and unlawful assembly. They were first held in police custody for over a month at the Secrétariat d'Etat à la Défense (SED), in Yaoundé, before being transferred to Yaoundé central prison on November 3 for a six-month pretrial detention period. At SED, they were kept in total isolation, deprived of any reading materials, and frequently denied access to their lawyers. Nissack and Fogue were arrested as part of a massive government crackdown on peaceful demonstrations organized by the MRC on September 22 across Cameroon, which included the arrest of over 500 people, mainly MRC members and supporters. Many peaceful protesters were beaten while being arrested and in detention. "The police beat me with truncheons," a 39-year-old MRC member arrested in Douala told Human Rights Watch. "I spent nine days at the judicial police jail, sleeping on the floor and without access to my lawyers." Of the over 500 arrested, at least 136 remain in detention, 20 of whom have been convicted and sentenced to prison by civilian courts, according to the MRC's lawyers. "In Cameroon's criminal justice system, habeas corpus requests appear to have lost their value as individuals who are presumed innocent are systematically deprived of their liberty," Menkem Sother, a lawyer for Nissack said. MRC leader Maurice Kamto continues to dispute the 2018 presidential election results which confirmed the victory of President Paul Biya, who has been in power for 38 years. Cameroonian authorities should respect people's right to demonstrate peacefully, immediately release those wrongfully held, and investigate law enforcement's conduct in the 2020 crackdown and treatment of detainees.

## Separatists Impose Lockdown to Disrupt CHAN in Cameroon's Restive Anglophone Regions

By Xinhua | January 18, 2021

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 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.

## **Two Suspected Separatists Killed Following Attack on Beer Truck in Limbe**

By Journal du Cameroun | January 15, 2021

Two suspected separatist fighters have been killed in a shootout with defence forces in Likomba, a locality in Tiko Subdivision, Fako Division of the restive South West region of Cameroon early this Friday 2021. The shootout erupted after a group of separatist fighters are said to have burnt down a fourteen wheeler truck belonging to Brasserie du Cameroon, loaded with beer. Upon getting news about the incident, security forces rushed to the scene before opening fire.