

KLW BRIEFING

Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations

The Southern Cameroons Incident Tracker: <https://reportscatrocities.info>

[Britain Backs Most of the World's Repressive Regimes, New Analysis Shows](#)

By Phil Miller | March 11, 2021

Freedom House, a Washington-based think tank funded almost entirely by the US government, published a report last week designating 64 of the world's 210 countries or territories as "not free". More than half of them are ruled by regimes supported to varying degrees by the United Kingdom, Declassified has found. Britain sells arms, provides security training or has troops deployed to at least 36 of the countries listed as "not free", comprising 56% of the total. The regimes range from absolute monarchies to those run by authoritarian leaders who hold unfair elections or subject territories to military occupation. The findings undermine the British government's constant claim to be a "force for good" in the world. ... Other African countries rated "not free" include Cameroon, where Paul Biya has ruled the country "with an iron fist" since 1982 and acts as a president-for-life. This week the UK government signed a £200-million trade deal with his regime. Biya's troops receive British military training — despite him admitting they killed civilians in English-speaking parts of Cameroon where there is a separatist movement.

[Armed Separatists' Abuse Rife in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions](#)

By Ilaria Allegrozzi | March 12, 2021

Armed separatists kidnapped John (not his real name), a medical doctor in Cameroon's English-speaking North-West region, on February 27 and took him to their camp. They accused John of "not contributing to the struggle," pointed a gun at his back, and threatened to kill him. He was released six hours later, after a 300,000 CFA [US \$544] ransom payment. "They said I had to give them money to support their struggle for independence, to buy guns," John told Human Rights Watch. "They told me not to tell what happened to anyone; otherwise, they would kill me and anyone in my family." John's story is far too common in Cameroon's two Anglophone regions. Since 2017, armed separatists have kidnapped hundreds of people, including students, clergy, political leaders, and humanitarian workers, while calling for the Anglophone regions to separate. The separatists have enforced a boycott of education in the English-speaking regions to protest against what they perceive as the assimilation of the Anglophone education system into the central, French-speaking one. This recent kidnapping occurred amidst a wave of renewed separatist violence over the past two months. On February 13, separatist fighters killed three tribal chiefs in Essoh Attah village, South-West region, allegedly for refusing to hand over profits from their cocoa sales and for promoting education, according to media reports. On January 9, suspected separatist fighters killed the principal of a high school in Eyumojock, South-West region, and wounded another principal from a high school in Tinto, South-West region, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and media reports. Separatists have hindered the delivery of humanitarian assistance and killed and tortured those who they suspect of collaborating with authorities and security forces. "We are at the mercy of their

Cameroon Set for First Consignment of Coronavirus Vaccines

By Journal du Cameroun | March 08, 2021

The first consignment of COVID-19 vaccines will be administered in Cameroon in two weeks, the Minister of Public Health Dr Malachie Manaouda has announced. Announcing the imminent availability of the vaccines last weekend, the Minister of Public Health said priority will be given to health workers, persons over the age of 50 with co-morbidity and existing conditions, vulnerable persons, teachers, special groups and the general public. "Cameroon, after some formalities made possible by the Head of State, will receive in 2 weeks, its first doses of the British AstraZeneca vaccine, under the COVAX facility. Priority will naturally be given to health workers. Let's protect ourselves," Dr Malachie Manaouda said. Several questions have been raised over the availability of the vaccines, the costs as well as the various levels of priority. Clearing doubts, the Minister of Public Health said the vaccine is free for all according to levels of priority and added that the vaccination is not compulsory but it will be on the basis of a formal acceptance. Quoting the World Health Organisation, the Minister of Public Health reassured the vaccine increases the chances of avoiding severe illness and death, thus encouraged the population to take to take the vaccine if the opportunity arises. The COVID-19 vaccines will be introduced in Cameroon with a non mandatory character to reduce severe forms and loss of lives given the recent epidemiological situation in the country which has seen a surge in cases and deaths. The recent epidemiological situation has put public health officials on alert with the government tightening back measures to avoid further contaminations which could make the situation look even worse.

guns," a 35-year-old resident of Bafut, North-West region, said. "Separatist fighters harass everyone. They ask for money, and if you are unable to pay, they threaten or kidnap you." Cameroon armed forces, who have conducted multiple abusive operations in the Anglophone regions, have to do better, to provide effective civilian protection. The United Nations Security Council and Cameroon's international partners should make it clear to separatist leaders that there are consequences for these crimes, including through targeted sanctions, such as travel bans and asset freezes on those who bear responsibility for those committing the abuses.

USDP Is Busy Reviewing Its Internal Mechanism

By Eulalia AMABO | March 11, 2021

Segments of an interview with Prince Ekosso, National President of the United Socialist Democratic Party: There is no gainsay to the fact that the war and insecurity ranging from the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon, Boko Haram insurgencies in the Far North, refugees from Central Africa and now couple with the COVID-19 pandemic should be the major concern for USDP. So, USDP is working harder to see that there's ceasefire, security, peace, reconciliation, and development in the country and particularly in the two restive English speaking regions. We are working and talking with both government and separatists towards the restoration of normalcy in the North West and South West regions. We are pulling together the opposition political forces so as to determine the choice of Cameroonians in the 21st century political participation. A press conference is in view which will be a platform to re-announce our manifesto/ vision for real change in Cameroon. USDP is working with Cameroonians in the diaspora. It should be noted that if the Anglophone crisis has reached the violent stage which we now experience, it's because of the impact of disgruntled Cameroonians overseas. So, USDP has the responsibility to provide political, social, cultural and economic space for all Cameroonians in the diaspora back at home. USDP has been hammering on the idea of the revision of the Electoral Code, especially voter's age to begin as from 18 years, the application of Article 66 and other provisions of the Constitution and the passing into law the aspect of Dual Nationality since 2011. So, USDP welcomes the idea of the revision of the electoral code. However, USDP believes that the process of democratisation of Cameroon must be pursued through the revision and amendment of the Constitution to enable the active participation of the youths who constitute 70-75% of the Cameroon population. In the days ahead, USDP will register its contribution towards the recent call for revision of the electoral code by documenting substantial recommendations.