

KLW BRIEFING

Updates for the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations

[Ex Ambazonia Combatants Stage Protest in Buea](#)

By Journal du Cameroun |
February 01, 2021

Repentant combatants at the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Centre in Buea on Monday staged a protest to demand better conditions. The ex combatants blocked part of the street leading up to Bokwaongo early on Monday morning in their attempts to make their voices heard. Security forces were immediately deployed to the scene as they watched on to avoid any escalation or violent act in the course of the protest. The ex fighters say they have been abandoned to themselves, promises made have not been kept while their living conditions at the centre are not the best and want an improvement. The protest comes after previous media reports of mismanagement of funds and poor treatment of the ex combatants, some of whom have become beggars on the streets of Buea.



[Launching of a Human Rights Incident Reporting and Tracking Tool on the Armed Conflict in the Southern Cameroons](#)

By Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations | Webinar Date:
Wednesday, February 10, 2021 | Webinar Time: 2:00 pm Eastern

Behind every human rights violation in the Southern Cameroons is a victim and a perpetrator. If the people are ever to find justice and durable peace, it is



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imperative to document all the incidents of human rights abuse, the names of the victims, the perpetrators and accomplices as well as any evidence that corroborates reported cases. Thanks to technology, this sacred task is now made easy and possible. Together, we can ensure that every incident is recorded for posterity, and for international human rights stakeholders who have an interest in bringing this conflict to an end. After numerous consultations with international stakeholders including post actions following U.S. Senate Resolution 684, this new service tool has been established by the Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations. This tool documents and tracks all internationally recognized war crimes in the Southern Cameroons war and has as objective to ensure perpetrators of rights violations are held to account as well as prevent a culture of impunity that breeds more abuses to the civilian population.

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The panelists for this launching are:

1. **Marie Lamensch:** Project Coordinator, Montreal

Doctors Without Borders Ambulance Fired on in South-West Cameroon

By Doctors Without Borders | February 04, 2021

In the early hours of 4 February, a Doctors Without Borders ambulance was fired on by armed men while responding to a call in Muyuka, South-West Cameroon. The ambulance was hit and the accompanying nurse was injured. Doctors Without Borders condemns this attack on our colleague and a clearly marked ambulance. Healthcare facilities, including ambulances, are not targets. Following this attack, a second ambulance was dispatched to pick up the patient who is in critical condition and now receiving medical attention. Our colleague is also receiving medical attention and is currently recovering from their injuries. Doctors Without Borders' medical teams have been responding to the severe and ongoing effects of the crisis in North-West and South-West Cameroon since 2018. Our teams provide neutral and impartial medical humanitarian assistance through our emergency ambulance referrals, secondary level care, and a decentralized model of community care.

Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at Concordia University-Canada;

2. **Juliette Paauwe:** Senior Research Analyst, Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect;

3. **Dr. Kerry Whigham:** Assistant Professor of GMAP, Institute for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, Binghamton University, New York, Communications Officer for the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Visiting Scholar at Rutgers University's Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

4. **Abbas Sekyanzi Muluubya:** Project Officer, Africa Programs at the Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, New York;

Moderator:

Henry Atem: Steering Committee Member, Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations, Executive Director at the United States Center for Electoral Support (USICES) and directs the programs and projects of the organization globally.

United States Senate Resolution 684: The International Implications, Opportunities and Contribution of Parliaments to Peace and Security

By Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations | Webinar Date: Saturday, February 13, 2021 | Webinar Time: 11:00 am Eastern

The ongoing civil war in Anglophone Cameroon has been an epicenter of human right violations in Africa for over three years, with the



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potential of triggering instability across the border with Nigeria and the Gulf of Guinea. Fighting between Cameroon Government forces and separatists armed groups has resulted in the murder of over 3,000 reported civilians and thousands of others unreported or undocumented. More than 700,000 internally displaced persons, and over 70,000 refugees. More than one million children are out of school, over 400 villages razed, and

ICE Cancels Controversial Deportation Flight to Cameroon

By Marcia Brown | February 04, 2021

At the last minute yesterday, a scheduled deportation flight for at least 60 Black immigrants did not depart from Alexandria, Louisiana, for Cameroon as planned, but instead took off for Dallas without passengers. On Thursday afternoon, an ICE spokesperson said in a statement to the Prospect that allegations of misconduct and detainee abuse were being reviewed by the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Inspector General. Five Cameroonian asylum seekers who had protested their conditions in ICE custody last fall at Pine Prairie ICE processing center were said to be on yesterday's flight. Their potential deportations appear to be behind the flight's last-minute cancellation. ICE "decided to cancel Feb. 3 [sic] flight to allow any potential victims or witnesses an opportunity to be interviewed, and will conduct an agency review of recent use-of-force reports related to individuals on this flight, and issue any additional guidance or training as deemed necessary," the spokesperson said in a statement. The about-face comes as Alejandro Mayorkas, sworn in this week, takes the helm of DHS. While immigrant rights advocates saw this as a victory, it's not the only known deportation flight scheduled since Biden took office. Several other flights did take off, and another flight is scheduled for Jamaica later this month. However, many advocates and members of Congress had been angered about this particular flight to Cameroon, a country wracked with civil strife that could pose dangers for returning asylum seekers. Although President Joe Biden issued a 100-day moratorium on deportations, a Trump-appointed federal judge in Texas temporarily blocked the order. However, the judge's ruling does not preclude Biden from deciding how to enforce immigration laws. Advocates say Biden could order ICE not to deport asylum seekers, with the reasoning that each individual's case must be reviewed to ensure that the United States does not violate its international treaty obligations, which prevent countries from sending migrants back where they may be persecuted. Biden could also direct ICE to issue notices to appear to detained individuals, which would temporarily stop future deportation proceedings and mandate individuals' release. Individuals would then finish their legal proceedings outside detention.

more than two million are in need of humanitarian assistance. In January 2021 alone, the killing of at least 40 unarmed civilians including children, women and students in the English speaking parts of the country were reported. The passing of U.S. Senate Resolution 684 provides an opportunity to engage international actors towards a sustainable solution to the armed conflict in the English speaking regions of Cameroon. This virtual forum will explore the implications, leverages, and opportunities for international stakeholders to engage in achieving the objectives laid out in the resolution.

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The panelists for this forum are:

Opening Remarks:

Representative Karen Bass, Chairperson, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations, House Foreign Affairs Committee, United States Congress.

Panel 1: Overview of U.S. Senate Resolution 684 and Potential Next Steps 11:00 am Eastern Time

1. **John Tomaszewski ("JT")**: Lead Professional Staff Member on Sub-Saharan Africa at the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Panel 2: International Advocacy on Resolution 684: Prospects and Actions 11:30 Am Eastern Time

1. **Senator Beatrice Makori**: Member of the National Security, Defense and Foreign Relations Committee of the Kenyan Senate;

2. **Hon. Darren Bergman**: Member of the Foreign Relations and Cooperation Committee of the South African Parliament, Vice-Chair: Democracy, Governance & human rights, SADC Parliamentary Forum, Member of Liberal International Human Rights Committee;

3. **Hon. Sebastien Nadot**: Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Parliament;

4. Gambian MP: TBC

Panel 3: Salient Aspects of Resolution 684 for Ending the Conflict & Restoring Justice and Peace 12:20 pm Eastern Time

1. **Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh**: Senior Associate and Regional Director for West and Central Africa at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Member of the

CDN's Advisory Board;

2. **Dr. Chris Roberts:** Foreign Policy Analyst and Political Science Instructor, University of Calgary, Canada;
3. **Ms. Iffat Rahman:** Human Rights Advocate, Special Representative of the African Bar Association;
4. **Kyra Fox:** Research Assistant: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for the Prevention of Genocide.

Moderators:

Judith Nwana: Co-chair, Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations, Senior Telecoms Officer leading the delivery, contracts and vendor management of global telecoms links at the World Bank Group.

Henry Atem: Steering Committee Member, Coalition for Dialogue and Negotiations, Executive Director at the United States Center for Electoral Support (USICES) and directs the programs and projects of the organization globally.

[Cameroon Rejects Separatist Calls to Boycott Pope Envoy](#)

By Moki Edwin Kindzeka | January 30, 2021

English-speaking Cameroonians have ignored calls by separatists to close their businesses and protest a visit by an envoy of the Roman Catholic Church. Cardinal Pietro Parolin called for reconciliation among disgruntled Cameroonians and their government, though separatists accuse the church of being indifferent to their plight. Several hundred civilians turned out Saturday in Cameroon's English-speaking northwestern town of Bamenda to welcome Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's secretary of state. Forty-three-year-old Roman Catholic Christina Among says she turned out despite threats from separatists because she thinks her Church can help resolve the crisis. She says she wants Cardinal Parolin to ask Roman Catholics who are separatists, in the military or state officials to put down their guns so peace can return to the region. The Roman Catholic Church in Cameroon says it has more than 6 million followers, with more than 2 million in the restive English-speaking northwest and southwest. Before Cardinal Parolin arrived in Bamenda, separatist groups on social media asked all civilians to stay home and close their businesses to protest. In several audio messages circulated on social media, the separatists said their fighters will arrest anyone who turns out to listen to Pope Francis' envoy. One of the audio messages said to be from the interim government of Ambazonia, the state in which English-speaking separatists are fighting to break away, describes the Roman Catholic clergy in Cameroon as insensitive to the sufferings of English speakers. She says the Roman Catholic Church in Cameroon has failed to emulate clerics like the American Nobel Peace Prize winner Martin Luther King, who defended civil rights and fought injustice. She says all civilians should stay at home to let the world know that the Roman Catholic Church and Pope Francis have been indifferent to the killings in the English-speaking western regions. She says it is unfortunate the pope's envoy met with Cameroon President Paul Biya instead of comforting victims of the separatist crisis caused by Biya. Most businesses have remained open. Chris Anu, who calls himself the secretary for communication of the interim government of Ambazonia, has acknowledged on social media that the interim government does not want the pope's envoy in Bamenda. He said it will be useless for Cardinal Parolinto to visit Cameroon and listen only to government and Catholic clergy he describes as not being sincere. The Roman Catholic Church, in a news release, said it has always stood for justice and encourages both separatists and the military to declare a cease-fire. The release said human lives and property should be preserved and that sincere dialogue should be opened by both parties in the conflict. Cardinal Parolin says he told President Biya Friday that violence is not a solution to the separatist crisis. "We touched the different points about conflicts, especially about the situation in the north and southwest of the country," Parolin said. "What we are looking forward to is reconciliation and peace, especially in this present situation where there are many other crises starting from the COVID crisis. It is important to achieve peace. It is the only condition to grow and to achieve sustainable development everywhere.