



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Cameroon: Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 30 September 2010

Information required on the Cameroon Democratic Union

The Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada state:

"Founded in 1991 (Europa 2004 2004, 996; Mutations 27 Sept. 2004; Political Parties of the World 2005, 105), the UDC is led by Amadou Ndam Njoya (ibid.; Europa 2004 2004, 996; EIU 28 Oct. 2004). The party holds 5 (ibid. 21 Feb. 2005; Political Parties of the World 2005, 106; Elections Around the World 10 Feb. 2005) of the 180 seats in Cameroon's National Assembly (ibid.), making it the third largest party (EIU 28 Oct. 2004), behind the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) (149 seats) and the Social Democratic Front (SDF) (22 seats) (Elections Around the World 10 Feb. 2005; EIU 21 Feb. 2005). The UDC won all five seats in Amadou Ndam Njoya's department (ibid. 28 Oct. 2004; Political Parties of the World 2005, 106), which led the Economist Intelligence Unit to label him a "regional player" on the Cameroon political scene (EIU 28 Oct. 2004)." (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (6 May 2005) Cameroon: The Cameroon Democratic Union (Union démocratique du Cameroun, UDC), including its structure, organization, membership card and the treatment of its members by government authorities (May 2005))

BBC News reports:

"Mr Njoya is a Muslim, who heads the Cameroon Democratic Union (UDC). His party has support in the Muslim-dominated northern regions, where 20% of the country's 16m people live." (BBC News (8 October 2004) Q&A: Cameroon's presidential election)

The United States Department of State reports:

"There were more than 180 registered political parties in the country. Fewer than 10, however, had significant levels of support, and only five had seats in the National Assembly. The ruling CPDM held an absolute majority in the National Assembly; opposition parties included the SDF, based in the anglophone regions and some major cities. The largest of the other opposition parties were the National Union for Democracy and Progress, the Cameroon Democratic Union, and the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon." (United States Department of State (29 September 2010) 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Cameroon)

The CIA World factbook states under the section Political parties and leaders:

"Cameroon People's Democratic Movement or CPDM [Paul BIYA]; Cameroonian Democratic Union or UDC [Adamou Ndam NJOYA]; Movement for the Defense of the

Republic or MDR [Dakole DAISSALA]; Movement for the Liberation and Development of Cameroon or MLDC [Marcel YONDO]; National Union for Democracy and Progress or UNDP [Maigari BELLO BOUBA]; Progressive Movement or MP; Social Democratic Front or SDF [John FRU NDI]; Union of Peoples of Cameroon or UPC [Augustin Frederic KODOCK" (CIA (15 September 2010) *The World Factbook – Cameroon*)

The United Kingdom Home Office (Border and Immigration Agency) states:

"Democratic Union of Cameroon
Gained legal status in April 1991
Leader – Adamou Ndam Njoya" (United Kingdom Home Office (Border and Immigration Agency) (16 January 2008) *Country of Origin Information Report – Cameroon*)

Africa News reports:

"Although the opposition did not take part in the elections, six other opposition parties participated. In October 1997 Cameroon's main opposition parties -Social Democratic Front, National Union for Democracy and Progress, and Cameroon Democratic Union boycotted the elections. But the incumbent president Paul Biya of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement won the election with 92.5%. The closest runners-up were Henri Hogbe Nlend, candidate of the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon (2.5%) and Samuel Eboua (2.4%). After the election, Biya appointed Nlend Minister of Scientific and Technical Research. While boycotting elections dilutes the legitimacy of the elected leader, it has not rendered any election a nullity in Africa." (Africa News (31 May 2010) *Uganda; Does Election Boycott Help IPC?*)

References

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Human Rights Watch
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Lexis Nexis
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Google
United Kingdom Home Office
Freedom House

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.