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COI QUERY

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Question(s)	1. Legal framework 2. Treatment by authorities of former members of the armed forces who have voluntarily resigned
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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Cameroon

Voluntary resignation from the armed forces

1. Legal framework

Among the available public sources consulted within the timeframe for responding to this COI Query, no information could be found specifically regarding the law regulating the resignation from the armed forces.

According to Article 117 of the Decree 94/199 (7 October 1994) of the Public Function of the State, ‘resignation is a written act by which the servant indicates his unequivocal willingness to leave definitely the public service’¹ whereas the Article 10 (f) of the same decree states that ‘the general status does not apply to the military personnel’.²

According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Factbook, the Cameroonian Armed Forces (Forces Armées Camerounaises, FAC) are composed of the following entities:

- Army (L’Armée de Terre)
- Navy (Marine Nationale République, MNR, includes naval infantry)
- Air Force (Armée de l’Air du Cameroun, AAC)
- Rapid Intervention Battalion (Bataillons d’Intervention Rapide, BIR)
- Gendarmerie
- Presidential Guard.³

There is no conscription in Cameroon. The military service is voluntary for males and females aged between 18-23 and lasts four years. Additionally, it is required for the servants to have graduated from high school.⁴

Cameroon has signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and according to the UN, it has taken the following steps to ‘safeguard’ the protocol:

- ‘Recruitment is widely publicized in the media;

¹ Cameroon, Decret N° 94/199 Du 07 Octobre 1994, Portant statut général de la Fonction Publique de l’Etat, (unofficial translation by EUAA), n.d., [url](#), Article 117

² Cameroon, Decret N° 94/199 Du 07 Octobre 1994, Portant statut général de la Fonction Publique de l’Etat, (unofficial translation by EUAA), n.d., [url](#), Article 10

³ CIA, Cameroon, last updated 4 February 2022, [url](#)

⁴ CIA, Cameroon, last updated 4 February 2022, [url](#); UN Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000, [url](#), p.7



- Prior to admission to military service, reliable proof of age is required of all candidates, i.e., a certified copy of the candidate's birth certificate no more than three (3) months old;
- Candidates who are not eighteen (18) years of age or older must provide the written, informed consent of a parent or legal guardian;
- A background check is conducted to confirm the accuracy of the information provided by the candidate;
- Candidates undergo a medical fitness examination;
- During training, members of the defence forces are fully informed of the duties associated with military service;
- The defence forces provide the public with regular information on the duties associated with military service, through radio and television broadcasts as well in the print media.⁵

2. Treatment by authorities of former members of the armed forces who have voluntarily resigned

In an interview published in 2012, a former member of the Cameroonian Navy, who resigned from his position in 1983, said that the procedure he went through to resign from the armed forces was not too complicated. The former member of the Navy added:

'Everybody received a summons that we should appear before the Military Tribunal in Douala which we did. It is true you had to pass through many officers who had to interrogate you, here you pass in front of a Major, then you go in front of a Lieutenant, later you came back in front of a Chief Corporal, then, you are sent to another place where you meet a Colonel. Fortunately, we were just consistent in what we were telling them, so it wasn't complicated for us'.⁶

However, no further sources could be found to corroborate this information.

⁵ UN Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000, [url](#), p.7

⁶ Cameroon PostLine, I resigned from navy before Joining Journalism-George Arrey, 17 November 2012, [url](#)

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