

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	299
Land:	Cameroun
Kilde:	#ReleaseThem (#RT)
Titel:	Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PAWED), Southern Cammeroon European Women (SCEW) E.V. og Victoria Relief Foundation (VRF). Shadow report
Udgivet:	Marts 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	1. maj 2024



#RELEASE THEM CAMPAIGN AND PARTNERS SHADOW REPORT REFERENCES IN CONNECTION TO THE REVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

#ReleaseThem Campaign (#RT) is a collective of individual human rights defenders and representatives of human rights organizations across Africa, Europe and the United States. With the mission of galvanizing local and international support for the release of all Prisoners of Conscience incarcerated in various detention facilities in Cameroon, and to bring necessary pressure to bear on the Government of Cameroon to respect the human rights of all prisoners regardless of the reasons for their incarceration. Initial work on the setup of the #ReleaseThem Campaign began in early 2021 and culminated in the commencement of the campaign activities in November of 2021.

Main activities

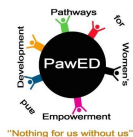
- Create awareness on the plight of prisoners through webinars, workshops, petitions and conferences.
- Profiling and building a database of prisoners
- Assessment of needs of Political Prisoners
- Carry out financial interventions to provide social welfare to Political Prisoners
- Work together with other human rights organizations, human rights defenders and international institutions to jointly advocate for the release of Political Prisoners and the respect of their rights as prisoners

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IN COLLABORATION WITH:

- PATHWAYS FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (PAWED),
- SOUTHERN CAMEROON EUROPEAN WOMEN (SCEW) E.V.
- VICTORIA RELIEF FOUNDATION (VRF)



SHADOW REPORT SUBMITTED BY #RELEASETHEM CAMPAIGN (#RT) PREPARED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN CONNECTION TO THE 4TH CYCLE OF THE REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

1. Introduction

#ReleaseThem Campaign (#RT) is a collective of individual human rights defenders and representatives of human rights organizations across Africa, Europe and the United States. It was set up with the mission of galvanizing local and international support for the unconditional release of all Prisoners of Conscience incarcerated in various detention facilities in Cameroon, and to bring necessary pressure to bear on the Government of Cameroon to respect the human rights of all prisoners regardless of the reasons for their incarceration. Initial work on the setup of the #ReleaseThem Campaign began in early 2021 and culminated in the commencement of the campaign activities in November of 2021.

Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED) is a Cameroon based organization that works to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and global, regional and national Human Rights Instruments on gender equality and women's effective and meaningful participation in decision making at all levels.

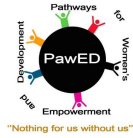
Southern Cameroon European Women (SCEW) e.V. is a human rights organization that was born during a Conference in Brussels organized by stakeholders from the English-speaking region of Cameroon that took place from 31st March – 2nd April 2017. It is an association that is made up of women across the European Continent, whose origin is English speaking regions of Cameroon

Victoria Relief Foundation (VRF) was founded in 2017 in the United States, State of Texas to identify ways to sustainably address the fast growing humanitarian challenges brought about by the deteriorating security situation in Southern Cameroon

This Report, also known as The Shadow Report, is prepared and submitted to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council and intended to be used in the Council's impending review of the Report submitted by the Republic of Cameroon, a UN Member State. The Shadow Report was prepared in March, 2023, to inform the review in April, 2023 By #ReleaseThem Campaign in collaboration with Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development, Victoria Relief Foundation and Southern Cameroon European Women e.V.

2. Background

During the last Universal Periodic Review of Cameroon (3rd Cycle – 30th session), 23 recommendations were made related to prisoners and these recommendations have not been implemented. This Report highlights the worsening non respect and negligence of the human



rights of political prisoners and should be reviewed alongside the report from the Government of the Republic of Cameroon during its Universal Periodic Review. One peculiarity about Cameroon which has also greatly motivated this report is the fact that many of its domestic laws are carefully crafted to reflect its obligations under the different international human rights instruments the State has duly ratified. However, the country does not respect and implement these very laws. Even the Constitution of the country is not adhered to and complied with, as the country is governed more by the issuance of decrees than by rule of the laws in force in the country; which is not unconnected with the political intention of concealing and covering up egregious human rights violations committed with impunity by the State and parastatal institutions. This Shadow Report covers, observed and documented violations in the following areas:

- Arbitrary arrests, usually without any warrant
- Unfair trials and continuous trial of civilians in Military Tribunals
- Arbitrary arrests and incommunicado detentions
- Widespread use of torture and other forms of degrading and inhumane treatment
- Enforced disappearances
- Summary executions
- Extra-judicial killings

3. Observed and Documented Violations

3.1 - Arbitrary arrests, mass arrests and arrests without (warrants) due processes.

Since 2016, thousands of arrests have been carried out by Cameroon's security forces, including the police, secret services, gendarmerie and the army in the conflict areas in Cameroon. As a rule, no arrest warrants are ever presented as individuals are simply rounded up or quietly whisked away, without due process. Hundreds of people have reported paying huge sums of money to security personnel as "ransoms" to secure their release after being threatened with accusations of terrorism. Knowing that such accusations entail being transferred to Yaounde to face torture, unfair trials and lengthy prison sentences, victims feel bound to pay. There are far too many cases of arrests without any warrant or due process to enumerate here, but examples include the case of **97 unarmed** youths arrested in Ekona in a raid carried out by Cameroon's security forces on **February 12, 2023**. These youths were summarily rounded up from their residences and some from the football field taking part in a tournament, without any due process and have since been detained incommunicado at the Buea Gendarmerie Legion.

A similar case is that of **190 youths** and a few elderly people from Matoh and surrounding villages who were summarily rounded up in a similar raid by Cameroon's security forces, between **March 2 and March 9, 2023**. The raids were executed at dawn to ensure a maximum number of arrests. The first 157 of them were arrested in the early hours of March 2 on the basis of an Administrative Order issued by the Senior Divisional Officer, SDO for Meme Division Mr Ntou'ou Ndong Chamberlain and the same Order was renewed severally after 15 days to perpetuate their detention without any Warrant or judicial process. At the time of writing this report, the victims were presently detained in horrendous conditions at the Kumba prison for more than 3 weeks without investigation nor proof of crime.



There is also the case of **41 motorbike riders** who were part of a funeral procession traveling from **Ndop** to **Oku**. They were abducted by the Cameroon military on **April 24, 2022**. After **3 weeks** of incommunicado detention and severe torture at the *Bataillon d'Intervention Rapide (BIR)* camp in **Bafut**, **23** of the motorbike riders were transferred to the Gendarmerie stations in Bamenda and later to the Bamenda Central prison where they are still being held in detention. The other **17** motorbike riders remain unaccounted for.

Dorgelesse NGUESSAN, a hairdresser and single mother who was moved to join the MRC-led protest about how regional elections were being organized. She was arrested and detained for over a year and then sentenced to five years in prison by a military court. It was her first ever protest. All of these raids and arrests are committed in contravention of the 2005 Cameroon Criminal Procedure Code, which stipulated in Section 31 and Section 32 that all arrests must be carried out on the basis of a warrant from a Judicial Officer, usually a Magistrate and that the Police or Gendarmerie officer effecting the arrest should *priori*, introduce himself/herself and provide justification for the arrest.

3.2 - Unfair Trials and continuous trial of civilians in Military Tribunals

Civilians arrested in the English-speaking North West and South West regions and transferred to prisons in the Francophone region are tried in military tribunals and in the French language - a language they most often do not understand or only partially understand. Most of them have been taken to the courts several times, left in the courtrooms all day without food and returned to their prison cells without any hearing or trial. This holds true for almost all the over 1500 Anglophones imprisoned in Yaoundé, in the Francophone part of Cameroon following their arrest and transfer from the Anglophone regions. Other (refugees) who were forcefully abducted and refouled to Cameroon have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 years to life imprisonment.

A case of abuse of universally accepted standards of fair or equitable trial worth highlighting in this Shadow Report is Suit No 194/CRIM/2019 dated August 20, 2019 between *The People of Cameroon Vs Sisiku Julius AYUKTABE & (others* wherein the following canons of fair or equitable trial were violated:

- The Military Tribunal was incompetent to try (armless) unarmed civilians
- Accused persons were registered UNHCR refugees and asylum seekers abducted from Abuja Nigeria and illegally and forcibly renditioned (refoulement) under horrible conditions to Yaoundé without respect of due process and legal norms guaranteed by the Cameroon Constitution and other international treaties and conventions.
- Tried and sentenced by a panel of judges Lt Col MISSE NJONE Jacques Baudouin who were formally recused but imposed themselves.
- Victims were accused and tried for 8 felonious charges without defense lawyers as mandatorily provided for by Cameroon laws. They had more than 100 Defense lawyers led by Former Cameroon Bar Association President Snr Barr ETA BESONG Jr present in court but they were not given the opportunity to defend their clients.
- The said victims from English-speaking regions were tried and sentenced in the French language which they neither understand nor speak.
- The Tribunal imposed Cameroon citizenship which they openly and loudly denounced in open court during identification in total disregard of their right to a nationality of choice



recognised both by the 1968 Cameroon Nationality Code and other international (légal) legal instruments duly ratified by the government of Cameroon.

- The Tribunal tried and sentenced them without Arraignment.
- The prosecution witnesses who were Cameroon military personnel were not sent out of court and out of hearing as required by standard Judicial practice and Cameroon Criminal Procedures Code.
- The Tribunal made use of public address systems without proper legal procedures and justification.
- One of the Accused persons developed a malaise and collapsed during the proceedings but the Tribunal went ahead with the trial with him lying prostrate on a bench struggling for survival while proceedings continued through to judgment against him.
- The proceedings was a marathon trial of 19 hours nonstop that went on from midday of August 19, 2019 to 5.30am on August 20th when the ridiculous judgment of the Tribunal was delivered and Remand Warrants issued.

3.3 Arbitrary Arrest and Incommunicado Detentions

In Cameroon, the nature in which most individuals are arrested and eventually detained almost invariably makes their detention arbitrary. A majority of arrested individuals, especially in the conflict-affected English-speaking regions, are immediately remanded far beyond the 48 hours in custody without any warrant, without any due process and without any charges necessitating their detention. We shall mention just a few of the most egregious cases.

On **January 5, 2018**, Cameroon security forces, in collaboration with Nigerian special forces abducted 12 individuals of English-speaking extraction who were resident in Nigeria from Nera Hotel Abuja Nigeria. These were legal residents, refugees and asylum seekers in Nigeria. On **Jan 25, 2018**, 10 of those individuals, now referred to as the NERA 10, were illegally smuggled from Nigeria to Cameroon on a military cargo carrier, without any due process relating to extradition. They were detained at the *Secretariat d'Etat de la Defense* known as SED. For 11 months, they were denied access to family, lawyers or to an independent physician. They were not even allowed out of their cells except on the few occasions when they were extracted late at night to undergo interrogation. The NERA 10 were denied any contact with the outside world, even to news or reading materials, with the exception of a tiny Bible.

Similar to the NERA 10 case, on **January 31, 2018**, **37** other asylum seekers from the English-speaking North West and South West regions of Cameroon, who had been arrested in Taraba State in Nigeria in December 2017 were also unlawfully (refoulement in contravention of 1951 Refugee Convention and other laws) deported to Yaounde where they were equally held in incommunicado detention at SED. Illegally smuggled into Cameroon without any extradition hearings and without due process despite intervention by UNHCR Nigeria to stop their deportation. They were chained in pairs and crammed into tiny 3m by 3m cells, at least 14 persons per cell, such that every time one person went to the toilet or shower or moved around, another person moved with him/her. They were fed just once a day. **Every night**, they were taken out and severely tortured, beaten with clubs and iron bars by groups of up to **15 gendarmes** for 2 to 3 hours before bringing them back to their cells until sometime in **July 2018** when their chains were removed on the occasion of the visit of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The chains and padlocks had become rusty, they had to be broken off with



hammers while still on the legs of the detainees.

There is also the case of 11 individuals and a 24 year old lady and her **15 months old son** who were arrested in Calabar, Nigeria in January 2018. They were deported to Yaounde on **March 10, 2018 and detained incommunicado**. The 9 young men were locked up in one cramped cell while the mother and her son were locked up in a separate cell. They were denied access to sunlight, to family, lawyers and medical treatment, with the exception of the baby. On **May 20, 2018**, on the pretext that the 9 were trying to escape, they were taken out and badly tortured from midnight right up to 5:00 am in the morning and were later transferred to underground cells without lighting, toilet facilities or running water tortured every night between 10.00pm and 4.00am. On the occasion of the visit of the ICRC in **July 2018**, Rachel and her son, Caleb were hurriedly transferred to the underground cells for the duration of the visit. These incarceration without access to family, lawyers, or medical treatment also amounts to arbitrary and incommunicado detention.

3.4 Widespread use of torture and other forms of degrading and inhumane treatment

In Cameroon, the use of torture in executing arrests and in detention is widespread and practiced as a norm with impunity. All branches of the Cameroon security services have, as far back as when Cameroon became a sovereign State, used torture as a weapon to intimidate, discouraged and quell down any form of dissent and popular uprisings against the State. Cases of torture and other forms of degrading and inhumane treatment are far too many to enumerate. Some have been documented and widely publicized by National and international human rights organizations such as National Commission for Human Rights, Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group and Amnesty International. Others have also been documented in annual human rights reports published by the US and Canadian governments and the University of Toronto Canada on Cameroon. Here again, we shall mention just a few cases.

Herman Suiye, a 52 year old Laboratory Technician working with St Elizabeth Catholic Hospital Shisong since 2001 was, on **November 8, 2021**, while he was traveling by night bus to Bamenda, abducted at a checkpoint called Komto on the outskirts of Yaounde at around **10.30pm**. He was taken by his abductors to the Cameroon military base where he was **blindfolded** and both his hands and feet bound together. He was then taken to an unknown location, which he later discovered to be the **Military Headquarters** in the Ngoa Ekelle neighborhood in Yaounde also known as Quartier Général. He was **tied to a pole and left outside on a veranda all night** while mosquitoes feasted on him without him being able to fend them off. He was refused permission to ease himself and he **urinated in his pants** and sat³ in his own urine all night. In the morning, still blindfolded, he was taken to an office where he was accused of working with separatist fighters. He was **beaten with machetes** and hit severally on the head until he **bled from his ears, nostrils and mouth**. His feet and buttocks were beaten until they bled and blistered. He was **not given any food or water for three days** as he remained blindfolded and both hands and legs bound up and he sat awoke on the bare floors throughout. After 5 days, with his **head badly swollen and his buttocks and the soles of his feet getting rotten from blisters and sores and oozing pus**, a doctor was allowed to treat him and give him medication. After that, they continued to mete out the same treatment of incessant



beatings on a daily basis until he was transferred on **November 19, 2021** to another detention facility called **SEMIL** in Yaounde. He was not given any food or water and was **severely beaten on a daily basis** until he was transferred to SED on **November 26, 2021** without access to family and a lawyer.

There is the case of **Asa'ah Patrick Ndangoh**, a businessman and opposition politician of the SDF party based in Bamenda in the North West region. He was abducted on **June 15, 2017** in front of the Guarantee Express Agency in Nkambe, by a contingent of 12 men from the Cameroon Military. He was thrown into the back of a police truck where he was **repeatedly gun-butt, punched, slapped and kicked everywhere** and anywhere on his body as he lay curled on the bone-bare metallic/iron-partitioned floor-bed of the truck and driven to the Secretariat of National Security in Nkambe. After 2 hours of interrogation by the police commissioner, in the absence of counsel, he was handed over to 4 policemen who took him into a vacant room, threw him to the floor and proceeded to **punch and kick** him, concentrating on his soft tissues. They took turns kicking and hitting him with **open fists, cutlasses and rubber batons**. The ordeal continued for over 30 minutes before he was thrown into a cell without any food or water for days. On **June 21, 2017**, he was transferred to the Judicial Police station in Bamenda where he was held in a tiny holding cell for 2 weeks. A policeman assigned to interrogate him told him there was **no case** against him and that if he could come up with **CFA 1 million**, he would be exonerated and released. When he responded that he had nothing on him as the police in Nkambe had confiscated everything he had, he was transferred to the National Judicial Police headquarters in Yaounde. He was detained in horrendous conditions with 14 other inmates, all from the North West and South West regions of Cameroon. After 2 weeks of detention, he and 12 other detainees were transferred to SED in Yaounde when they threatened to go on a hunger strike to protest the conditions of their detention. At SED, the 13 of them were detained in a tiny rodent-infested underground bunker. The bunker has **no lights, no running water, a broken toilet and the floor was continuously wet with water sipping through the walls and from the ground**. Needless to say it had no beds or mattresses. After about a week of detention in the bunker, the commanding colonel asked them to write a letter of apology to Paul Biya, the Cameroon President. When they wrote that they had been kidnapped and tortured by his forces, and were not aware of any crime they had committed, the infuriated colonel had them **whipped** and thrown back into the bunker and told them they had missed their last chance of ever living to see what the world looks like. After a disconcerting video of their condition of detention leaked out on social media, the officers at SED dragged them out at midnight to an empty field on their campus and threatened to kill all of them there and dump their corpses if no one owned up to masterminding the video. To save the others, **Mr Asa'ah** owned up that he was responsible and the others knew nothing about it. He was dragged into an empty room and strapped from his torso to his legs on a bench, using electric cables, buckets of ice-cold water were poured over him and a chair was fastened across his waist to hold him firmly. Fifteen different gendarmes took turns torturing him, especially, on the soles of his feet, his buttocks and upper back with large metal matchets until he lost consciousness. This continued all night as he went in and out of consciousness. When he regained consciousness in the early hours of the morning, he found himself on a concrete floor in a pool of freezing cold water into which he had been dumped, and left to die. Because of the video, their families knew where they were and swarmed the SED headquarters and so they were forced to reunite him with his co-detainees and given 10 minute family visits on alternate week days. On **October 12, 2017**, when he had



become too ill to withstand any more punishment, he was transferred to the Kondengui Maximum Security Prison in Yaounde. He has since received 4 blood transfusions and extensive physical therapy to survive the ordeal. **Mr. Asa'ah** is still remanded in prison, he has never been charged and is awaiting trial after more than 5 years.

3.5 Enforced Disappearances

The cases of enforced disappearances is likely to be in the hundreds each year, especially with the start of the Boko Haram incursion in 2014 and the escalation of the socio-political crisis in the English-speaking North West and South West regions in 2017. Far too many cases go unreported because there is no entity collecting data of enforced disappearances and no effective reporting mechanism in place. There are many reported cases of parents, siblings or lawyers moving from one detention facility to another making inquiries about their family members and in most instances, they get threatened, abused and turned away. Furthermore, the existence of hundreds of detention facilities, both documented and undocumented makes searching for missing family members a herculean task. Lastly, the extensive and widespread practice of incommunicado detentions, which can sometimes extend for years is used to mask many cases of enforced disappearances while at the same time giving families hope that their missing family members will eventually turn up. There are many reports from suspects who have come through incommunicado detention from some of the undocumented detention centers, especially in military camps about cellmates being extracted at odd hours of the night to unknown destinations and they never returned. There are also many reports by farmers of mass graves discovered in the vicinities of some of the detention centers especially, in the North West and South West regions. We have mentioned a few cases of enforced disappearances, knowing that the true magnitude of the problem may never come to light unless an independent commission of inquiry is set up to properly investigate and report the realities based on substantial evidence.

There is also the case of **17 motorbike riders** who were abducted as part of a group of 40 motorbike riders on **April 24, 2022** by the Cameroon military (BIR) when they traveled as part of a funeral convoy from Ndop to Oku. They were reportedly transferred to a Military Camp in Bafut after over 6 weeks of incommunicado detention by the Cameroon military at their camp in Ndop. While 23 members of their convoy are currently detained in horrendous conditions in the Bamenda central prison, the fate and whereabouts of the remaining 17 remain unknown. Family members, lawyers and even international human rights groups have called on the government of Cameroon to make their whereabouts known, to no avail. Their case represents enforced disappearance by the State of Cameroon.

There is the well documented case of **Samuel Wazizi**, a TV journalist and presenter. He was arrested on **August 2, 2019** by Cameroon security forces in Buea in the South West region.. He was accused of speaking critically about the Cameroon government's handling of the conflict in the North West and South West regions. He was transferred to a military camp in Buea in the South West regions where he was detained incommunicado. He was never seen or heard from again. The Cameroon military later reported that he had died. Even his body was never handed over to his family. The case of Samuel Wazizi represents the most egregious abuse of state authority imaginable. His arrest and detention without due process of the law and without a trial was arbitrary. He was held in incommunicado detention. His disappearance and reported death represent cases of both enforcement disappearance and summary execution by a state party.



3.6 Summary Executions

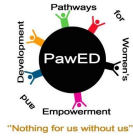
With the outbreak of the violent conflict in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon in 2017, the number of incidences of summary executions by the Cameroon military personnel skyrocketed. In **Babessi village**, a small community in Ngoketunjia, there are over 40 documented cases of summary executions by the Cameroon military between 2018 and 2022. When this is extrapolated to the over 500 villages that the Cameroon military personnel have occupied or raided since the conflict escalated in 2017, the numbers are likely to be truly horrifying. To mention just a few from Babessi village:

on **January 23, 2021** at about 2:00pm local time, four teenagers named **Aloysius Ngalim, Fon Blaise, Takayuki Nelly Mbah**, and **Salle Sadam** aged between 16 and 18 years, were shot in an uncompleted building in Bamenda in the North West Region. Two of the boys were reported to be students at Government Bilingual High School Downtown, Bamenda. Residents of the neighborhood filmed and circulated over social media an amateur video on how the bodies of the boys were dragged by the soldiers and dumped by the roadside. The summary execution of the four teenagers was reported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and CHRDA, affirming that the boys were killed by the military.

In the afternoon of **January 10, 2021** at about 2:00 pm local time, the Cameroon military and state security forces invaded and committed the summary execution of nine (9) unarmed civilians in **Mautu village**, Fako Division in the South West Region, comprising of seven men, a woman and a child. The names of those killed are; **Tambe Ann** (50 years), **Ngoto Valentine Akama** (32 years), **Tambe Daniel** (32 years), **Obenegwa David** (30 years), **Egoshi Lucas** (25 years), **Takang Bruno** (22 years), **Ndakam Pascal** (22 years), **Takang Anyi Roger** (20 years) and **Shey Keisa** (6 years). Four other civilians sustained severe bullet injuries.

On **February 14, 2020**, Cameroon government forces killed **21 civilians**, including **13 children** and a **pregnant woman** in the **village of Ngarbuh** in the North-West region in a reprisal attack against the population accused of supporting separatist fighters. The Ngarbuh incident was widely reported by Human Rights Watch, and also by a United Nations Press Statement of February 21, 2020 in which four senior UN officials (Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Virginia Gamba; Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten; Special Representative on Violence against Children Najat, MaallaM'jid; and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng) issued a joint statement deploring the human rights abuses committed against civilians, including women and children, in the South-West and North-West regions of Cameroon. The said UN officials stated: "We are deeply concerned about reports of violence, including the 14 February attack on Ngarbuh village in the Northwest region that left 23 civilians dead, including 15 children."

There is the case of 65 years old **Vehh Vide Joseph** and two others named **Tiensinka** and **Bamenda Ngosin** from Babessi village. Sometime around **February 2020**, the Cameroon military on patrol encountered them on their way to the farm. All three were shot to death after they surrendered. Vehh's wife came to get his body, she was arrested and taken to the Gendarmerie Brigade in Babessi. All her money was confiscated and she was badly tortured. She was released after 8 hours. The killing of Vehh Joseph and two others represent a case of



summary executions by a state party.

There is the case of 46 year old **Towku Saagu**, a motorbike rider from Babessi village. Towku was married and a father of 6 children. Sometime around **July 2019**, he went to repair his motorbike around Moumbe roundabout in Babessi. The Cameroon military showed up and picked him up for no reason. He was taken to the Gendarmerie Brigade where he was badly beaten and put on a *Balansoar* (a torture device to expose his legs) where he was severely tortured. He was then hung up on his hands. The military turned away relatives who attempted to visit him with food. Later, the military said he had been transferred. His decomposing body was later found at a nearby village with multiple gunshot wounds to the head and body. His death represents a case of summary execution by a state party.

There is the case of 4 young men, **Bawo Kunyi, Mamuda Tienkiyo, Abubakar Chefogo and Elvis Tacha**, all from Babessi village. Sometime around **August 2019**, they were arrested by the Cameroon military and later found dead with their hands tied behind their backs. The military had **shoved** the barrel of their **guns** into their **anuses** and **fired into their entrails** and the bullets had **blown their brains** out. Their deaths represent cases of summary executions by a state party.

3.7 Extra Judicial killings

Since the outbreak of the conflict in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon, thousands of people have been arrested/abducted with some recorded cases of deaths after the arrests or abductions. Just to name a few of such cases:

As recently as **January 17, 2023**, another journalist/TV Presenter, **Arsène Salomon Mbani Zogo**, popularly known as **Martinez Zogo** was abducted and brutally murdered by the forces of law and order among other perpetrators and his horribly mutilated body was only found five days later on **January 23, 2023** dumped on the playground in one of the neighborhoods in Cameroon's capital city of Yaounde. Some arrests have been made in relation to the killing of **Martinez Zogo** but justice is yet to take its rightful course.

In **March 2023**, the notorious military personnel commonly known as, **Moja Moja** who is also a local Chief of one of the villages in Fako Division, South West region of Cameroon killed two civilians and publicly exposed the dead bodies; trampling and desecrating them as he filmed and proudly showcased his actions over media platforms. Till date he is still a free man. The authorities in Cameroon have deliberately turned a blind eye to the crimes of this notorious military personnel and therefore, condoned and encouraged his many other actions, which he commits almost on a daily basis with impunity.

4. Conclusion

Contrary to the reports submitted by the Cameroon government authorities on the state of human rights (especially the rights of prisoners in Cameroon), the situation is quite dire. The government of Cameroon hasn't made any progress in investigating cases of torture, extra judicial killings mass arrest reported with evidence thus empowering perpetrators to commit with impunity many more human rights abuses.



These and other violations of judicial process are highlighted against Cameroon and appropriately sanctioned by the Nigerian High court and the UN Human Rights Council Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Communication 59/2022 dated September 02, 2022 calling on Cameroon inter alia for immediate release and Compensation of the victims. Cameroon has since ignored this decision.

This report only constitutes the tip of the iceberg of the wanton and uncontrollable actions and operations of Cameroon's military and other state security forces under the watch and supervision of the country's political leadership. **#ReleaseThem Campaign (#RT)** is available to conduct more extensive research and provide evidence of the above issues should the need arise.

5. Recommendations

As recommendations, #ReleaseThem Campaign requests that the UN Human Rights Council considers the following:

1. An independent fact-finding mission to Cameroon, to specifically investigate human rights issues of prisoners in all the detention facilities across the country;
2. Consider looking at the greater human rights situation in the country, including cases of enforced disappearances, mass killings, mass rape and dumping, extortion through arbitrary arrests by security forces, among others.
3. Allow for independent human right organizations to conduct in-depth research and publish the findings on the situation of human rights and especially, the rights of prisoners in Cameroon and,
4. Recommend tough measures to the UN Security Council so that appropriate actions could be taken in bringing the conflict the North and South West Regions of Cameroon to an end and lasting peace and justice restored



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