



FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2025

Cameroon

15
/100

NOT FREE

<u>Political Rights</u>	6 /40
<u>Civil Liberties</u>	9 /60

LAST YEAR'S SCORE & STATUS

15/100 **Not Free**

A country or territory's Freedom in the World status depends on its aggregate Political Rights score, on a scale of 0–40, and its aggregate Civil Liberties score, on a scale of 0–60. See the methodology.

Overview

President Paul Biya has ruled Cameroon since 1982. His Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) has maintained power by rigging elections, using state resources for political patronage, and limiting the activities of opposition parties. Freedom of expression and civil society activism are restricted, and due process safeguards are routinely violated. A conflict between security forces and separatists in the Anglophone Northwest and Southwest regions is ongoing and has resulted in widespread civilian deaths and displacements.

Key Developments in 2024

- The 91-year-old president generated renewed speculation about his well-being and location when he disappeared from public view for more than 40 days in September and October. During his absence, the government prohibited any media discussion about his health. In November, a Roman Catholic archbishop echoed opposition leaders in calling on Biya, without naming him, to resign and make way for a new generation. Nevertheless, the president was expected to seek reelection in 2025.
- In July, CPDM lawmakers approved a proposal by President Biya to extend their mandate and postpone legislative elections from early 2025 to March 2026. Local council elections were similarly postponed, with the government arguing that it would have been difficult to hold them in the same year as the presidential and regional council elections.
- Independent media outlets, opposition parties, and civil society organizations continued to face suspensions, bans, and harassment throughout the year, with many individual journalists, politicians, and activists subjected to arbitrary detentions and physical attacks. A trial of 17 people charged with the 2023 abduction and murder of journalist Martinez Zogo, who had recently reported on corruption allegations involving the government and a prominent businessman, remained stalled at year's end. Also during the year, several young social media users were arrested or intimidated in reprisal for their commentary on the country's social and political situation.
- In August, authorities in the United Kingdom charged executives from the mining company Glencore with making corrupt payments to officials in Cameroon and other West African countries in connection with oil extraction projects. Among other prominent corruption scandals,

employees at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications claimed that their performance bonuses had been embezzled for years, and the ministry responsible for state property and land issues was accused of granting enormous land concessions to individuals or companies under fraudulent circumstances.

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For additional background information, see last year's full report.

Political Rights

A. Electoral Process

A1 0-4 pts

Was the current head of government or other chief national authority elected through free and fair elections?

0/4

A2 0-4 pts

Were the current national legislative representatives elected through free and fair elections?

1/4

A3 0-4 pts

Are the electoral laws and framework fair, and are they implemented impartially by the relevant election management bodies?

0/4

B. Political Pluralism and Participation

B1 0-4 pts

Do the people have the right to organize in different political parties or other competitive political groupings of their choice, and is the system free of undue obstacles to the rise and fall of these competing parties or groupings?

1/4

B2 0-4 pts

Is there a realistic opportunity for the opposition to increase its support or gain power through elections?

0/4

B3 0-4 pts

Are the people's political choices free from domination by forces that are external to the political sphere, or by political forces that employ extrapolitical means?

1/4

B4 0-4 pts

Do various segments of the population (including ethnic, racial, religious, gender, LGBT+, and other relevant groups) have full political rights and electoral opportunities?

1/4

C. Functioning of Government

C1 0-4 pts

Do the freely elected head of government and national legislative representatives determine the policies of the government?

1/4

C2 0-4 pts

Are safeguards against official corruption strong and effective?

0/4

C3 0-4 pts

Does the government operate with openness and transparency?

1/4

Civil Liberties

D. Freedom of Expression and Belief

D1 0-4 pts

Are there free and independent media?

0/4

D2 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to practice and express their religious faith or nonbelief in public and private?

2/4

D3 0-4 pts

Is there academic freedom, and is the educational system free from extensive political indoctrination?

1/4

D4 0-4 pts

Are individuals free to express their personal views on political or other sensitive topics without fear of surveillance or retribution?

1/4

E. Associational and Organizational Rights

E1 0-4 pts

Is there freedom of assembly?	0/4
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E2 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for nongovernmental organizations, particularly those that are engaged in human rights- and governance-related work?	1/4
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E3 0-4 pts

Is there freedom for trade unions and similar professional or labor organizations?	1/4
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F. Rule of Law

F1 0-4 pts

Is there an independent judiciary?	0/4
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F2 0-4 pts

Does due process prevail in civil and criminal matters?	0/4
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F3 0-4 pts

Is there protection from the illegitimate use of physical force and freedom from war and insurgencies?	0/4
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F4 0-4 pts

Do laws, policies, and practices guarantee equal treatment of various segments of the population?	0/4
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G. Personal Autonomy and Individual Rights

G1 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy freedom of movement, including the ability to change their place of residence, employment, or education?

0/4

G2 0-4 pts

Are individuals able to exercise the right to own property and establish private businesses without undue interference from state or nonstate actors?

1/4

G3 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms, including choice of marriage partner and size of family, protection from domestic violence, and control over appearance?

1/4

G4 0-4 pts

Do individuals enjoy equality of opportunity and freedom from economic exploitation?

1/4



On Cameroon

See all data, scores & information on this country or territory.

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Country Facts

Population

27,910,000

Global Freedom Score

15/100 **Not Free**

Other Years

2024

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