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TWO PETITIONS CONCERNING THE ARREST OF MR. ANATOLE KAMINY  
IN THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with article 85 of the rules of  
procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

I.

Douala, 14 January 1958.

Madame Kaminy Anatole,  
P.O. Box 90, New-Bell,  
Douala (Cameroons)

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations, New York (USA)

Sir,

I have the honour respectfully to appeal to you to intervene in the sad case of my husband Kaminy Anatole who was arrested during the night of 10 to 11 January 1958 who is to be transferred to a place where the fate which awaits him causes me considerable anxiety. He is accused of having reorganized the dissolved movement (UPC). I shall hide nothing from you Mr. Secretary-General:

1. My husband, who is the President of the Association of Cameroonian Notables, is not a member of the UPC movement but shares their point of view. That point of view consists simply of claiming the fundamental human rights (freedom of speech, freedom to work in peace for the good of all, the justice and fairness which he himself displays, the abolition of all racial discrimination of whatever origin, and equality of rights and duties).

2. My husband is not a politician but a worker who asks nothing more than to be able to carry on his occupation in peace and quiet. And if at times he wins the sympathy of all, that is because he is an honest worker who has been deprived of every possibility of working because of arrests, detentions and convictions,

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often with little justification; during this period all his working materials and furniture have been sold by auction without any pity for the children for whom we are responsible. As a result of such bad treatment he has become unemployed. This situation has gone on too long; we cannot endure it any longer. I have three children for whom I am now entirely responsible and the life we have been leading since my husband's troubles began is not an enviable one.

I would beg you kindly to intercede with our administration to ask it to give my husband a clear guarantee that he may resume his work. He has himself already made requests to this effect but has so far received no reply.

I appeal for your intervention and I believe that, thanks to that spirit of humanity you have so often demonstrated elsewhere, our lot will be improved and my husband will be set free again.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) illegible

Madame Kamyny Anatole

II.

Association of Cameroonian Notables,  
P.O. Box 90, New-Bell, Douala (Cameroons).

The Association of Cameroonian Notables, being met in ordinary session on Sunday, 12 January 1958, as is its wont, took note of the fact that its President, Mr. Kamyny Anatole, had been arrested the night before and taken to the Judicial Police.

The members present deemed it advisable to seek information from the representative of the High Commissioner at Douala, but as the latter could not be reached we approached, instead, the Chief of the Wouri Region, who gave us the relevant information.

Considering that the charge against Mr. Kamyny Anatole bears upon the documents which were seized at Boumyebel,

Considering that a number of Cameroonians were once members or supporters of the UPC and are now living in peace,

Considering that Mr. Kaminy Anatole has been imprisoned a number of times since May 1955,

Considering that his case was dismissed in April 1956,

Considering that Mr. Kaminy Anatole is still troubled by judicial proceedings instituted against him in May 1955,

Considering that Mr. Kaminy Anatole and Eyidi Bebey are two members of our Association and were members of our delegation to the United Nations in February 1956,

Considering that Mr. Kaminy Anatole and Dr. Eyidi Bebey requested the French representative to the United Nations to guarantee their freedom of speech,

Considering that Cameroonian public opinion could interpret their arrest as the suppression of the Cameroonian's right to submit petitions,

Considering that the Administering and Trustee Authority ought, by virtue of its responsibilities, to guarantee the liberty of all its citizens regardless

We believe that the Administering Authority should take the necessary steps to improve a situation which is becoming daily more disturbing, and we protest strongly against all repressive measures taken against Cameroonians who want only to work in peace,

And we request the following:

1. The return of our working documents, for the Chief of the Wouri Region has told us that he sees no objection to the Association of Cameroonian Notables continuing its work "in a calm atmosphere";
2. That proceedings against our two members, Mr. Kaminy Anatole and Mr. Eyidi Bebey be stopped so that they may resume their occupations;
3. The cessation of all proceedings and arrests which merely create a rift in Franco-Cameroonian friendship, which is dear to us all.

Douala, 12 January 1958

signed by:

Vice-President:

(Signed) illegible Nyambe Etienne

(Signed) illegible M. Samo

(Signed) illegible Ousmanou

(Signed) illegible Manguelle David

(Signed) illegible Tchamtchoume Hans

(Signed) illegible Abah Ondoua

(Signed) illegible Wentomde Pascal

(Signed) illegible Kessou Gustave

(Signed) illegible Djila Jean

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For distribution to:

The High Commissioner of the French Republic in the Cameroons

The representative of the High Commissioner, Douala

The Chief of the Wouri Region

The Prime Minister of the Cameroons

The President of the Cameroons Legislative Assembly

The Secretary-General of the United Nations

The President of the Council of Ministers, Paris

The Minister for Overseas France

Mr. Jules Ninine, Deputy for the Cameroons

The President of the International League for the Rights of Man.

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