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PETITION FROM MR. JEAN-CLAUDE TOUNKAM CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council)

Tounkam, Jean-Claude
Nkongsamba,
Mungo Region

Petition

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Sir,

I have the honour respectfully to welcome you to our country, the Cameroons, wretched as it is as a result of repression by the French Government since 24 May 1955, or through the effects of an unspeakable war.

It is astonishing to find in a country under United Nations trusteeship, like the Cameroons; that the French Government has embarked on a war to exterminate the population working for its benefit, quite deliberately killing those who oppose its injustices, i.e. the leaders and supporters of the National Movement. Not having achieved its purpose completely, the repression continues in the form of wholesale imprisonment, etc. Yet the French Government undertook to administer this country without resorting to violence. There is no question that the French Government in the Cameroons has violated the principles of the United Nations Charter in this country which has been exploited right and left, and where vast profits are made out of the labour of the poor Cameroonians.

In the Cameroons, the French Government of Roland Pré has sent to prison widows with infants in their arms. In the prisons, men, women and infants in arms, their huts wrecked, are a prey to diseases of every sort. When will their plight, our plight, my plight be relieved by you, the United Nations?

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To deceive or divert the attention of the Visiting Mission when it arrives in the Cameroons, the French Government is now, as a sequel to the May disturbances, adopting the cunning move of creating new sections and appointing a few Africans as sectional chiefs for the bush, setting up quartier committees with African chairmen and members, and establishing municipal mixed communes, subdivisional rural communes and a Government Council.

We protest vehemently against all this; it should have been done before the uprisings. All the measures now being taken were urged by the Cameroonian National Movement, which for its pains saw its members butchered, imprisoned or scattered - some of them in fact are still missing.

Please pay no attention - yes, of course they will show you faked photographs taken by French citizens with no regard for Cameroonian opinion, with a view to squeezing dry the poor people spared by God and your just cause from their bullets.

The French Government and its lackeys turn everything to account, now that they have arbitrarily used the pretext of the Decree of January 1936 to dissolve the National Movement, which represents the just cause of the Cameroons before the United Nations.

When all is said and done, the Cameroons is not a French colony, but a country under the trusteeship of the United Nations.

Though at present we are ignorant of the fate of the Cameroonians in the chana convoys and private Nkongsamba carriers, we request the liberation of our fellow countrymen wherever they are imprisoned.

We urge energetic action on your part so that the UPC can resume its activities.

Liberty, equality and fraternity. We are not asking for anything unreasonable, since these are well established principles, nor are we asking why one Cameroonian should be set against another, brother against brother or sister against sister, mother against her child, father against his son or son against his father.

What the advocates of liberty, equality and fraternity are practising against us is butchery - in other words, the only argument is force, according to our trustees the French.

We count on you, Mr. Secretary-General. Our goal is the unification and immediate independence of our country the Cameroons, in accordance with the proclamation issued.

I have the honour, etc.

(Signed)

Nkongsamba, ^{1/} 25 August 1955

1/ Note by the Secretariat: This communication was sent from Kumba, Cameroons under British Administration.