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PETITION FROM THE KOUMASSI LOCAL BRANCH OF THE
"JEUNESSE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CAMEROUN" CONCERNING
THE CAMERCONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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COPY

JEUNESSE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CAMEROUN
P.O. Box 97 - DOUALA, NEW BELLS
KOUMASSI LOCAL BRANCH

Douala, 10 November 1954

To the Chairman of the Fourth Committee,
United Nations,
NEW YORK

Sir,

We have the honour to bring the following to your attention:

At this time, when our representative KINGUE Abel is about to leave the Territory to appear before you in order to defend the claims of our youth, the French colonialists are launching a savage campaign of persecution against the active members of the JEUNESSE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CAMEROUN. We shall give you only a brief account of what happens within a space of fourteen days:

On 27 October 1954, our friend FOZOO Ekabé, a member of the Executive Committee of the JDC on an official visit to this locality, was arrested at EBOLWA and arbitrarily accused of alleged "contempt of court".

At the same time, the judge at Dschang issued a summons to our friend

KINGUE Abel, a member of the National Council of the JDC and appointed in this capacity to present the case of the Jeunesse before the Fourth Committee at the United Nations.

On 1 November 1954, an attempt was made on the life of one of our active members at Maroua. Henchmen and armed guards brought in lorries belonging to the Administration took part in this incident.

On 5 November 1954, the hut of our friend Théodore MAGIP, the press officer of the JDC, was illegally searched and a considerable part of our records taken away. At the same time, Mrs. Lydie MATIP, a member of the National Council, was held in custody for five hours.

In the night of 5 to 6 November 1954, our friend MAHOB Charles, a member of the NDOG-BAT III Local Branch was murdered.

On 7 November 1954, at a meeting organized by the progressive organizations, UPC, JDC and UDEFEC, on private premises, the Administration let loose a swarm of armed guards and gendarmes on the crowd. They behaved with extraordinary brutality, breaking the limbs of our active members, seriously injuring others with their swords and arresting the leaders (photo enclosed).^{1/} It should be noted that some of them are still in prison at the time of writing and we request your intervention for their release.

In the night of 9 to 10 November 1954, one of our brothers was murdered on the Rue Ivy at Douala. Who killed this worker, Belinga Bekolo?

In short, we have already had two murders, and the active members of the JDC, the only genuinely anti-colonialist youth organization, are being persecuted relentlessly. It is common knowledge that it was the success of the progressive movements that led the French colonialists to commit murders in Madagascar and the Ivory Coast. We wonder whether the same colonialists have decided to do the same in the Trust Territory of the CAMEROONS.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: The photograph referred to has been placed in the Secretariat files and is available to members of the Trusteeship Council on request.

The United Nations must live up to its responsibilities and take urgent action to prevent our adversaries from continuing their attacks against our active members. The CAMEROONS must be unified and granted national independence in order to end this reign of terror. The youth of KOUMASSI openly endorse these two claims and authorize their friend KINGUE Abel, a member of the National Council of the JDC, to speak before the Fourth Committee of the United Nations and announces its support of the claims which Mr. Ruben UM NYOBE, the Secretary-General of the UPC, will lay before the United Nations.

We have the honour to be etc.

(Signed)

Secretary

LOCAL BRANCH OF THE JDC OF KOUMASSI

(Signed)

Chairman
