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PETITION FROM MR. FRANCOIS BEPA CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS  
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the  
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DSCHANG

Bansoa, 26 December 1956

Bepa François  
c/o Unikamerun, P.O. Box 20  
Bamenda

To the President of the United Nations

Sir,

I have the honour respectfully to inform you of our situation.

Since May 1955 the French have scattered my entire family. Up to now the number of persons killed by the French in my family is seventeen. The French treat us worse than beasts here.

Since the disorders of 1955 they have never laid down their arms; they are always to be seen going through the villages and killing Kamerunians. The soldiers do not remain in their camp, they are always at war. But in spite of that what we want can be summed up in only four words:

THE IMMEDIATE UNIFICATION AND COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE of the Cameroons.

During the elections of 23 December 1956 the French made use of a clever trick: since the population had refused to vote they went to every polling place in the Dschang Subdivision with twelve trucks full of soldiers. In each polling place each soldier received twenty-five to thirty voting cards (since the people had refused these cards they were piled up in the polling place), thus enabling him to vote several times.

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The soldiers also forced the population to vote. Any one who refused was seized, beaten and taken to prison. Zotcha Bernard, and Tagouan Michel are still in prison for that reason.

At Balessing a pregnant woman (Zanfack Marie) refused to vote and the Dschang Police Commissioner beat her to death on the spot. When the soldiers voted the name inscribed on their cards was marked off in the register, which had been taken to the polling place.

It would take me days to tell you of all our troubles. Please put yourself in our place.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) illegible

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