

UNITED NATIONS  
TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



Distr.  
RESTRICTED

T/PET.5/R.11  
12 August 1955  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

UNSIGNED PETITION FROM THE SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE  
"UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN" AT DOUALA  
CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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UNION DES POPULATIONS DU CAMEROUN

CAMEROONS BRANCH OF THE RASSEMBLEMENT DEMOCRATIQUE AFRICAIN

SECRET COMMITTEE OF THE UPC

Douala, 24 June 1955<sup>1/</sup>

The Secretary-General,  
United Nations,  
New York.

Sir,

We have the honour respectfully to send you this petition requesting you to use your powers as quickly as possible to save the lives of hundreds and hundreds of Cameroonians who are at present being subjected to unheard of tortures in the prisons of the Territory of the Cameroons, and the lives of those who are being hunted and arbitrarily prosecuted by the Administering Authority.

Our only misdeed is that we ask for our country's unification and independence and oppose the assimilation of the Cameroons in the French and British colonial empires.

At the beginning of 1955, the French Government sent as High Commissioner to the Cameroons under French Administration Mr. Roland Pré, who, immediately upon his arrival in the Territory, acted upon a well-prepared plan and initiated in the Cameroons a policy that was contrary, flagrantly contrary, to the Charter of the United Nations, the Trusteeship Agreements, human rights and the French Constitution.

1/ Note by the Secretariat: This communication was sent from Paris, France.  
55-20338

Throughout the Territory there is unprecedented persecution; the active members and leaders of our progressive movements are being prosecuted in the courts, people are being imprisoned and terrorism is rife. In the North, whole concessions containing hundreds and hundreds of huts belonging to active members of the UPC, the JDC, the UDEFEC and the CGT trade unions have been burnt down by the Administration, leaving numerous families destitute of shelter and of everything.

From North to South, from East to West, there has been an increase in the number of cases in which indigenous officials, including Mr. Houmie Félix Roland, the President of our national movement, have been transferred to other areas. The campaign of persecution is still in progress. The administrative chief of the Territory has reached the West. Thus, a peaceful UPC meeting organized by patriots on private premises in the Mbanga Subdivision was attacked by armed police forces commanded by the local Chief Subdivisional Officer. Countless cases of death, injury and material damage are reported. At Loum, Nknogramba, etc., the massacres and arrests are still going on.

On 22 May 1955, the pro-Administration puppet political movements organized a so-called public lecture on the premises of Mr. MBOCK Vincent, chief administrative officer, in the Koumassi district of Douala. Although widely advertised by hand-bills and invitations, the lecture was attended by very few people. The agenda adopted was printed in big letters: "FRONT NATIONAL ANTI-COMMUNISTE". Plain-clothes men provided by the Administration were there to keep order. In short, all this was done with the idea of translating into action the statement made by Mr. Roland Pré, the High Commissioner, at the opening of the last session of ATCAM to the effect that African opposition movements must be created. At that lecture, the organizers themselves started the disorders by attacking people who were passing by the place where the lecture was given. It was all thought out beforehand. The Administration's part in the proceedings was to charge and arrest all those who did not share its policy, the policy of assimilation.

On 23 May 1955, the Administration intensified its campaign of persecution. Thus on 24 May, it brought in detachments of armed police from French Equatorial Africa and from all parts of the Territory. On 25 May 1955, troops attacked the

Cameroonian population of Douala which had assembled in front of, and on the road leading to, the office of the UPC. A military aeroplane dropped bombs, thus killing and wounding countless people.

On 26 May 1955, the office of the UPC was destroyed from top to bottom by the armed forces of the Administration.

On 27 May 1955, a large number of our patriots, both men and women, were arrested and taken to the North, where they are suffering an endless succession of tortures. The active members being tracked down with the help of supporters of the "Front National Anti-communiste". They go with Administration agents from house to house arresting the supporters of Cameroonian unification and independence or destroying their dwellings. In these tragic circumstances, all the active members of our progressive movements have left home, leaving their families behind.

Our people therefore request the prompt assistance of the United Nations in this alarming and grievous situation.

The Secret Committee of the UPC,  
Douala

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