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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Cercle de Recherche sur les Droits et les Devoirs de la Personne Humaine, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[10 February 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Paul Biya's State terrorism in Cameroon: update of two major crises shaking the country

1. Anglophone crisis and violent repression since 2016

On February 11, 1961 a referendum was held in British Cameroon to determine whether the populations of the former British colony wanted to enter Cameroon or Nigeria. At the end of this vote, the Northern part of British Cameroon joined Nigeria while the South merged with the former French Cameroon. Since then a certain groups of the Southern part dispute the results of this referendum. These challenges have reached their peak in 2016.

At the end of 2016, the crisis began with peaceful demonstrations by teachers and lawyers in the South West and North West (mainly Bamenda and Buea) protesting against working conditions unsuited to their legal culture (common law) and their language (English), being reminded that laws applied in these regions are not systematically translated into English and that English-speaking schools are assigned to French-speaking teachers who cannot speak English. The government's response has been a violent repression, with mass arrests of leaders and members of the consortium set up for dialogue, rapes and violence by law enforcement officers are criticized. These generated the radicalization of the movement and separatist groups seized the opportunity to emerge. The most extremists demand secession under the Ambazonia label and the more moderate of the anglophones demand the federation, but all are unanimous in rejecting the state in its current form.

To date, refugees have settled in Nigeria, the bush and Francophone regions according to the Ayah Foundation.

According to estimates by the Ayah Foundation to date:

- 120 villages were partially or totally burned with a large majority in the Southwest;
- at least 10 people were victims of arson, including "Mami" Apih, an 85-year-old octogenarian who was burned alive in Kwakwa, a locality in the Meme Division in the Southwest region;
- about 500,000 are currently displaced in other regions;
- About 50,000 are refugees in Nigeria, mostly from the Manyu Division (near Nigeria);
- About 600 have been killed, mostly civilians and officials, and there are obvious difficulties in accurately recording the dead and missing;
- About 1000 are detained and many schools and public buildings have been burned.

The situation of refugees in Nigeria is very worrying, most living with very little income. Women and girls are the most vulnerable. Many of them are victims of sexual abuse exposing them to unwanted pregnancies and other sexually transmitted diseases.

This crisis takes on the shape of civil war in the face of the obsession of the ruling power not to hold an inclusive national dialogue as demanded by the United Nations, the African Union and the international community.

2. Electoral Crisis

The Presidential Electoral process on October 07th, 2018 was corrupted with irregularities.

Irregularities during the electoral campaign

The electoral campaign was characterized by numerous violations of the Electoral Code in the sole interest of the incumbent, Paul BIYA. The campaign rallies of the opposition

nominees, and particularly the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) were often forbidden. e.g.: on the 22nd and 23rd of September rallies in Douala Bonaberi and Kribi. The CRM militants were assaulted; On October 1st in Ebolowa (East Region), the CRM militants were insulted and attacked, private properties damaged. Voter lists were not published at each polling station before polling day, and in the Northwest and Southwest Anglophone populations boycotted the vote.

Irregularities on the election day (October 7th, 2018), and beyond

In a locality names Ngalan (South Region) towards Ebolowa, the observer for the candidate Maurice Kamto was ejected from the polling station protesting the fact that only the ballots of the incumbent were available at the time to choose. On the 9th of October, two days after the election, to retaliate, a commando of death visited him in his house after midnight. They went to the matrimonial bedroom, open fire, and he was shot in presence of his wife and thirteen-month child both critically abused.

A CRM leader name Okala EBode, (deputy treasurer) was sadly astonished that someone else has voted and signed at his place. He complained, he was attacked by the police, arrested, and jailed for 8 days before being charged, and discharged under caution.

CRM legal representatives and observers in Makenene, Bafia, Baham, Kribi, Mbouda, Vellé, Sangmelima, Ebolowa and other cities were assaulted and expelled from polling stations.

Results not in conformity to the people vote and violent repression of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly

Despite the difficult electoral campaign, the election was tainted with violence and massive fraud. Maurice Kamto elected with 39.74% vs the incumbent Paul Biya 38.47%. The Constitutional Counsel after 3 days of post-electoral dispute, decided to declare Paul Biya the winner going against the people choice.

Maurice Kamto instituted a pacific resistance, and protests are ongoing in Cameroon. Often the rally is repressed with harshness and massive violence by the police.

On October 27th in Douala, 59 peaceful militants were arrested. We witnessed excessive violence during arrestations, and mobility with the outcome of 10 wounded, 3 badly injured, 1 brain trauma in a coma for 3 days.

On October 28th, 2018, 18 peaceful protesters were arrested. Disproportionate violence committed on protestors during arrestation, and transportation. They were retained two days without notification of the charges. Some didn't have the right to drink and eat for two days. Families and lawyers' access denied.

On November 4th in Bafoussam, 38 people are arrested with 19 during the protests and they were assaulted on their way to the police station.

The 19 others were arrested in the city by simple suspicion they are militant of the Cameroon Renaissance movement (CRM) walking towards the point of assembly for the protest and were all detained 1 to 4 days without formal custody notification.

In front of the physical and moral assaults, Maurice Kamto still claiming his stolen victory, instructed CRM militants to inform the authorities about future marches. All the notifications received refusal notice by over 100 administration authorities. Maurice Kamto then confirmed pacific white marches in Cameroon and abroad to protest the electoral hold-up, the ongoing crisis in the North and South West region and corruption of public funds which led to the withdrawal from Cameroon of the African Cup of Nation organisation in 2019. The watchword is respected on January 26th, 2019. The protesters faced the same disproportionate violence as usual, but this time, they innovated by using assault weapons, tears gas, truncheon and gunstock on sited protesters. The embassies of Paris and Berlin were stormed by Cameroonians in fury against the violent repression of demonstrations in Cameroon.

In Dschang, (university city in the West region), 15 protesters are summoned on the 26th of January 2019 and deported on the night of the 28th to Yaoundé.

In Bafang, 7 arrested on the 26th of January 2019. On the 28 of January 2019, the lawyer acting on their behalf was arrested, and all deported to the nation capital unknown location.

In Bafoussam, the harvest yielded 37 individuals on the same day and all deported during the night of January 28th, 2019.

In Bagangté, 3 people are summoned and deported to Yaoundé on the 28th of January 2018.

Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon, same disproportionate use of force against pacific protesters. Barrister Michele Ndoki (Vice President of Women CRM) gun fired 3 times on her left thigh and carried to the hospital. M. Celestin Djamien (CRM National Secretary for Human Rights) gun fired twice on his left thigh and moved to a hospital. On the 28th, Celestin Djamien is kidnapped by arm forces from the medical institute and deported to Nation capital GSO (army special operations forces) where he is deprived of treatment.

In total, 30 individuals badly injured by the government police force and 6 others wounded by gunshots. Many others were arrested, mauled before being released.

In Yaoundé, 15 protesters arrested and sent to the main prison “Nkondengui” where they remain detained.

During the night of January 28th, Maurice Kamto and several leaders of the CRM are arrested in a private home with a raid excuse. In total, 100 people suspected to have been part of the Pacific marches on the 26th of January in Douala were hunted on the same night in a hospital, houses, included other 5 wounded and deported to the Nation capital Yaounde without medical assistance.

Some people are detained in prison with criminals who have been charged for serious crimes.

CRED demands to the Human Rights Council to engage with other Cameroon citizens to free the Nation from Paul Biya’s state terrorism, to take concrete measures to put an end to this terror regime murdering people in two major regions, killing hopes, aspirations and dreams of the children of Cameroon.

Note: CRED will organize a parallel event during the 40th session to demonstrate these facts.

Hilaire BELL

President of CRED
