

PRESS PACKET: Global Initiative to end the Cameroons Colonial Conflict (Gi3C)

February 7, 2019 Press Conferences: Geneva, Johannesburg & New York City

Contents

1. Press Release: “Leaders Demand that the UN Human Rights Council Mandate a Fact-Finding Mission to English-Speaking Cameroon”
2. Petition to Permanent Representatives of Member and Observer States of the United Nations Human Rights Council
3. Speaker Bios:
 - Geneva:
 - Dr. Bernadette Ateghang, Ambazonia International Policy Commission
 - Dabney Yerima, Southern Cameroons National Council
 - Maximilienne C. Ngo MBE, Network of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa (REDHAC)
 - Julius Nde, Southern Cameroon Community Germany (SCCG)
 - Derek Brett, International Fellowship of Reconciliation
 - Johannesburg:
 - Patrick Ayuk, Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights
 - Gillian Ayong, Norwegian People's Aid
 - Mr. Joseph Dube, International Action Network on Small Arms
 - Johan Viljoen, Denis Hurley Peace Institute
 - Magdalene Moonsamy, Former MP & Human Rights Attorney
 - New York City:
 - Eben Egbe, Global Initiative (GI3C) Coalition Spokesperson
 - Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, International Fellowship of Reconciliation
 - Professor Matt Meyer, International Peace Research Association
4. Significant Articles:
 - June 12, 2018: “Ambazonians struggle for independence from Cameroon amid military takeover” by Phil Wilmot:
<https://wagingnonviolence.org/2018/06/ambazonians-struggle-independence-cameroon-military-takeover/>
 - July 19, 2018: “Violence and Nonviolence Intensify in Ambazonia” by Matt Meyer:
<https://www.forusa.org/blog/2018/07/19/violence-and-nonviolence-intensify-in-ambazonia/>
 - January 13, 2019: “The Ambazonia Crisis and Africa’s Unending Nightmare of Francafrique”
<https://ambazoniapocs.net/node/16>
5. More Information
 - SCCOP brochure
 - ambasa.org history brochure

Get more information and connect on social media at <http://globalinitiative3c.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Leaders Demand that the UN Human Rights Council Mandate a Fact-Finding Mission to English-Speaking Cameroon

Press Conferences to be held in three cities on February 7, 2019

PRESS CONTACTS:

Geneva: Dr. Bernadette Ateghang, +49 176 8655 4127

New York: Eben Egbe, +1 571 732 2212

Johannesburg: Patrick Ayuk, +27787216316

Email contact for all cities: info@globalinitiative3c.org

GENEVA, NEW YORK & JOHANNESBURG — On February 7, 2019, a dozen faith and civil society organizations from three continents will deliver a letter in advance of the UN HRC's 40th Session demanding that member states mandate an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of serious human rights violations in the conflict in the western region of Cameroon, known as "Southern Cameroons" or "Ambazonia." Press conferences will take place on February 7, in conjunction with the letter's delivery, in Geneva, New York City and Johannesburg.

Initiated by Southern Cameroonians living in South Africa, the United States and Europe, the letter has been championed by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) and endorsed by a broad-base and multifaith group of well-respected peace and human rights organizations, as well as grassroots organizations representing both English-speaking and French-speaking Cameroonians.

"The UN HRC has the power to cultivate the conditions for peace," said the Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. "We strongly believe that a UN HRC-mandated fact-finding mission would have the immediate effect of quelling violence and saving lives."

Reports of serious human rights abuses are circulating on a daily basis on social media, and only a tiny fraction of them are being reported or investigated with any rigor.

According to reports from former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the Cameroon government twice refused his office access to investigate these alleged crimes since the crisis began to escalate in 2017. The UN HRC can override this denial by mandating the dispatch of a fact-finding mission.

"Unaccountability empowers abusers and drives violence," added Johan Viljoen, Director of the Denis Hurley Peace Institute, another one of the endorsing organizations. "Southern Cameroonians need the UN HRC to intervene and uphold internationally-recognized standards of human rights."

The conflict has its roots in a decision to merge the former British-administered Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons with the former French colony of Cameroon, which in the eyes of most Southern Cameroonians was never implemented justly. Dissent against the Cameroon economic and military control over the English-speaking region has been expressed nonviolently for decades, and in the last two years has escalated into an armed conflict.

Press workers and concerned members of the general public are invited to learn more at the following Press Conferences:

- Geneva: 11am at the Swiss Press Club, Route de Ferney 106, The Pastoral, 1202 Geneva
- New York City: 11am, outside the UN Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. In case of rain, an alternative location will be announced.
- Johannesburg: 10am at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Cnr Nugget street & Saratoga Ave, Berea

More information will be posted soon at www.globalinitiative3c.org.



TO: Permanent Representatives of Member and Observer States of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Geneva, 7 February 2019

Call for the UN Human Rights Council to mandate the establishment of an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission or similar international mechanism to investigate serious human rights violations in the so-called Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

Your Excellencies,

We, the undersigned individuals and organizations, write to urge your delegations to support the call for the UN Human Rights Council to mandate the establishment of an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission during the 40th session of the UN Human Rights Council, or to initiate similar international mechanism, to investigate alleged serious human rights violations and abuses in the so-called Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

Since September 22, 2016, the Cameroon government has been carrying out a systematic and ruthless military campaign against the people of the English-speaking North West and South West regions. Initiated in 2016 to suppress peaceful demonstrations for the rights of the populations in the regions, the campaign has violated numerous provisions of international human rights law. It has forced more than 30,000 people to seek refuge in Nigeria and at least 437,000 to become internally displaced persons (IDPs) per the December 13, 2018, report to the UN Security Council by Ms. Reena Ghelani, director of U.N. humanitarian operations. This 40% plus jump in IDPs between June and December 2018 led Ms. Ghelani to warn that Cameroon is now “one of the fastest growing displacement crises in Africa.”

In a December 13, 2016 report¹, the Country Rapporteur for Cameroon and Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa, of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)'s Hon. Commissioner Reine Alapini-Gansou wrote:

The Special Rapporteur has received information that the strikes and protests are allegedly provoked by what has been dubbed, "the Anglophone problem," due to discontented Anglophone Lawyers, Teachers and Civil Society in English-speaking Cameroon legitimately and peacefully seeking a halt to: the gradual, but systematic destruction and obliteration of the Common Law Legal System and the Anglosaxon System of Education; the marginalisation and neglect by the administration of Cameroon of the two English-speaking regions of Cameroon; and the return to Federal system of governance.

In addition to expressing concern for the 9 peaceful protesters murdered across the regions in a September 22, 2016, protest, Commissioner Alapini-Gansou also expressed deep concerns over human rights violations that included:

killings of civilians; the deployment of armed military personnel, special security forces (BIR) and war machines to these two regions; the disproportionate and deathly use of force and violence to dispel peaceful and unarmed Lawyers, Teachers, Students, civilians and protesters in Bamenda, Buea and Kumba; the raping of students in Buea; the arbitrary arrests, detention and merciless beatings orchestrated by the police, gendarmerie, military and the BIR following strikes and protests that have been going on since October 2016.

In the months that followed, both nonviolent protests and government persecution of nonviolent protesters escalated. To prevent the people from reporting these abuses to the outside world, the Cameroon government cut internet access to the English speaking North West and South West regions for six months in the first half of 2017, and have since returned it only intermittently and at their arbitrary discretion.²

During an October 1, 2017, protest in particular, Amnesty International reported more than 20 peaceful protesters were shot dead, several severely injured and more than 700 arbitrary arrests by Cameroon forces.³

In response to these atrocities, and for the first time in four decades-long history of dissent, some within the Anglophone territory took up arms to defend their communities.

Since November 29, 2017, Cameroon forces have moved from attacking peaceful protesters and suspected protesters to a full out scorched-earth policy, part of the "war" declared by the President of Cameroon against those the state radio called "terrorists who seek secession." This escalation was in response to attacks on a military convoy and a police post by armed assailants.⁴

The "war" has involved mass atrocities against women, men, and children, with the burning of entire villages.⁵ In May, 17, 2018, the US Ambassador to Cameroon, Ambassador Peter Henry Barlerin, stated publicly that the Cameroon government is guilty of "targeted killings, detention without access to legal support, family, or the Red Cross, and burning and looting of villages".⁶

On June 1, 2018, in relation to attacks on teachers, students and schools by armed groups and government forces in the wake of further deterioration of the human rights situation in the region, the

Representative of UNICEF in Cameroon, and the Director of the Regional Office of UNESCO for Central Africa and Representative for Cameroon issued a joint statement⁷ indicating that:

UNICEF and UNESCO in Cameroon are therefore asking all stakeholders and leaders to immediately stop attacking schools, teachers and education officials and allow safe and unfettered return of all students to the classroom to continue with their studies and examinations.

Impartial, rigorous investigation is urgently needed in order to uncover the details and motives behind these reports. Only impartial, rigorous investigation can interrupt the cycle of escalating distrust of authority, and escalating misuse of authority.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has received multiple reports on these serious human rights violations. The former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein reported to both the 37th⁸ and 38th⁹ sessions of the UN Human Rights Council that the Cameroon government has continued to refuse his office access to investigate these alleged crimes.

The new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet reported to the 39th session that "there is still no mechanism in place which could envisage a halt in hostilities in the short term."¹⁰

We strongly believe that a UN HRC-mandated Independent International Fact-Finding Mission would have the immediate effect of quelling violence and saving lives. The establishment of an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission for Myanmar and Sri Lanka had the immediate effect of dissipating much of the violence on the ground.

We urgently appeal to the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council to address this situation during its 40th session by establishing an Independent International Fact-Finding Mission or a similar international investigatory mechanism, and communicating its plans for action as quickly as possible. We entreat the UN HRC not to allow the Cameroon government's noncooperation to have the last word. When such noncompliance is left uncontested, it threatens to undermine the entire infrastructure of international human rights law. Now a member of the UN HRC, the Cameroon government has a special, heightened responsibility to model accountable behavior. We entreat the UN HRC to not allow the Cameroon government to block this urgently needed process.

Accept, Your Excellencies, our Highest Regards:

- Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humains en Afrique Centrale (REDHAC) — Cameroon
- The Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (CHRNA) — Cameroon
- International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)
- CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
- Denis Hurley Peace Institute (DHPI) — South Africa
- Pax Christi International
- BPFNA ~ Bautistas por la Paz (Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, Inc.)
- Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Matt Meyer, Secretary General, International Peace Research Association (IPRA)
- Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
- Muslim Peace Fellowship
- Zagros Center for Human Rights — Switzerland
- Sam Soya Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (SSCDHR) — South Africa
- Truth Telling Project — USA
- Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA)

REFERENCES:

1. African Commission on Human and People's Rights, *Press Release on the Human Rights Situation in Cameroon Following strike actions of Lawyers, Teachers and Civil Society*, 15 December 2016, <http://www.achpr.org/press/2016/12/d340/>
2. UNOHCHR, *UN expert urges Cameroon to restore internet services cut off in rights violation*, 10 February 2017, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21165&LangID=E>
3. Amnesty International, *Cameroon: Inmates 'packed like sardines' in overcrowded prisons following deadly Anglophone protests*, 13 October 2017 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/10/cameroon-inmates-packed-like-sardines-in-overcrowded-prisons-following-anglophone-protests/>
4. IRIN, *Cameroon government 'declares war' on secessionist rebels*, 4 December 2017, <https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/12/04/cameroon-government-declares-war-secessionist-rebels>
5. BBC, *Burning Cameroon: Images you're not meant to see*, 25 June 2018 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-44561929>
6. U.S. Embassy Cameroon, *Ambassador Barlerin's Statement to the Press*, May 17, 2018, <https://cm.usembassy.gov/ambassador-barlerin-s-statement-to-the-press/>
7. UNITED NATIONS, *CAMEROON: JOINT STATEMENT OF UNICEF AND UNESCO ON ABDUCTION OF EDUCATION PERSONNEL AND ATTACKS AGAINST SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH-WEST REGION OF CAMEROON*, 1st June, 2018, <http://cm.one.un.org/content/unct/cameroon/en/home/presscenter/communiques-de-presse/cameroon--joint-statement-of-unicef-and-unesco-on-abduction-of-e.html>
8. UNOHCHR, *High Commissioner's global update of human rights concerns: 37th session of the Human Rights Council*, March 7, 2018, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=22772&LangID=E>
9. UNOHCHR, *High Commissioner's global update of human rights concerns: 38th session of the Human Rights Council*, June 18, 2018, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23206&LangID=E>
10. UNOHCHR, *High Commissioner's global update of human rights concerns: 39th session of the Human Rights Council*, September 10, 2018, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23518&LangID=E>

Global Initiative to end the Cameroons Colonial Conflict

SPEAKER BIOS: February 7, 2019

Geneva:

Dr. Bernadette Ateghang, Ambazonia International Policy Commission

Dr. Bernadette Ateghang is Founder and Chair of the Ambazonia International Policy Commission (AIPC). AIPC's mission is to use systematic and targeted diplomacy through the power of argument to free the oppressed people of Southern Cameroons / Ambazonia and other oppressed people of the world. Dr. Ateghang has been participating actively within the human right bodies in Geneva over the last 2 years to create awareness towards the crisis in Southern Cameroons.



Dr. Ateghang is also Founding Member and Vice Chair of Southern Cameroons Congress of the People (SCCOP), a revolutionary movement that brings together Southern Cameroonians committed to liberate the people of the Former British Southern Cameroons from colonialism and the existential threat of the eradication of its identity. SCCOP advocates a vision of a Southern Cameroons where her people shall be treated with respect, dignity and have the opportunity to compete globally. SCCOP takes lessons from the notion that "Freedom is not given. It is taken! And that true freedom must belong to the people."

As one of the leading women within the Southern Cameroons / Ambazonia decolonisation quest, Dr. Ateghang has served as Secretary for Strategy and Coordination within the Southern Cameroons Governing Council and later on as Director of Protocols and International Relations at the Presidency of the Interim Government of the Federal Republic of Ambazonia. She has been on diplomatic missions to the United Nations in Geneva, European Union and the African Union.

Dabney Yerima, Southern Cameroons National Council and Ambazonia International Policy Commission



Dabney Yerima is an advocate of self determination for unrepresented peoples, a human rights and peace crusader. He is a passionate political activist and a philanthropist. This passion originated from his close relationship with his grandfather who was the Chairman of the Cameroon Anglophone Movement. When he was a little boy, his grandfather told him about the true history of Ambazonia (Southern Cameroons), which was not taught entirely in the schools of the Republic of Cameroon. He urged him to always fight for justice and equal opportunities for all when he became a man. He has grown up to become the Interim National Secretary General of the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) and the Under Secretary of Home Affairs and Resource Mobilization of the Interim Government (IG)

of Ambazonia. The IG in which the SCNC is one of the stakeholders is fighting for the total restoration of the statehood of the Federal Republic of Ambazonia.

Besides this, Mr. Yerima is the Chairman of the board of Reach In Charitable Organization (RICO). RICO is and has been changing the lives of orphans and widows in the North West region of Cameroon. He is a theologian and his messages on self and spiritual development and part of RICO are being aired on some radio stations in the North West region of Cameroon. These messages have recently earned RICO the North West Team Gold award.

Maximilienne C. Ngo MBE, Network of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa (REDHAC)

The Director of the Network of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa (known by its French acronym, REDHAC), elected since 2010 in Congo Brazzaville, Maximilienne Ngo MBE, is a household name on issues of human rights. She started her advocacy for respect of human and people's rights in 1990.

Since then, she has held several positions in different right groups; Deputy Secretary General, PRODHOP, Secretary in charge of advocating for the creation of REDHAC in Kigali Rwanda, Member of the coalition for the creation of an African human rights court, worked towards obtaining an observer's status in the African Commission of Human and Peoples Rights.



The Award-winning human rights defender through REDHAC has since 2012 been working with UN mechanisms. REDHAC has been able to partner with the Geneva-based Centre for Civil and Political Rights, working together to end arbitrary arrests and detention among others.

She is a member of a plethora of international organizations, an Amnesty International trainer on techniques of monitoring and reporting rights abuses in Africa, winner of several awards.

Julius Nde, Southern Cameroon Community Germany (SCCG) and Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights – Europe



Hailing from Mankon, Bamenda, Southern Cameroon, Julius Nde is a social justice and equality revolutionist and activist in the fight for the freedom and liberation of the people of southern Cameroon/Ambazonia. He has over 15 years of experience in international development, working to support the disadvantaged people of Africa, Europe, USA, South America and China. He currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Southern Cameroon Community Germany (SCCG) in Hamburg and the Acting Director of the Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights, Europe office. Julius holds a Bachelor's degree in History/Education and Political Science from Bayero University, Kano; a Master of Business Administration from the University of Professional Education, The Hague; a Professional Diploma of Development Instructor from kwa-Zulu Natal Experimental College, Durban; a micro-MBA in

Business Management from the Business Place in Johannesburg; a Master Class certificate in EU fundraising from EADI in Bonn; and a Master of Law and Business (MLB) from Bucerius Law School in Hamburg. As an advocate for human rights and freedom for the Southern Cameroons, Julius has been actively engaged in conferences, summits and demonstrations in Europe, as well as in fundraising campaigns to humanitarian projects organised by the Southern Cameroonian community in Germany and the Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights – Europe.

Derek Brett, International Fellowship Of Reconciliation (IFOR)

Derek Brett has a long history of anti-war organizing and is a world leader in efforts to pass international treaties via the UN bodies to protect the right of conscientious objection to military service. As IFOR's main representative to the UN at Geneva for close to a decade, Brett has made numerous written and oral submissions to multiple UN institutions including UNESCO, the UN General Assembly, and various UN Human Rights Council Sessions in defense of the rights of conscientious objectors in various countries including the UK, Germany, Ukraine, Israel and Slovenia.



Johannesburg:

Ms. Magdalene Moonsamy, Women's Justice Foundation

Ms. Magdalene Moonsamy is a former member of the South African Parliament, an International Human Rights lawyer and founder of the Women's Justice Foundation. A lifelong champion of social justice and human rights, Magdalene is an advocate in the Solidarity Forum for the oppressed people of Western Sahara and Palestine. She has held multiple leadership roles including as the ANC Youth League's (ANCYL) spokesperson and Treasurer General of Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). In 2016, she resigned from her role in the EFF and the parliament to go into private legal practice at Magdalene Moonsamy Attorneys, which has as its top legal service the defense of women's rights. In 2017, she received the award for best female politician from the South African Politicians Awards.



Patrick Ayuk, Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights



Mr. Patrick Ayuk is a human rights activist, a development practitioner, the director of the Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights, and the founder of the Global Leadership and Development Nexus. Patrick is also a doctoral research fellow with research foci on management and leadership development especially in building inclusiveness in highly diverse organizations, through inclusive leadership, at the University of North West. He previously worked as an expert for culture and education, international tutor, and facilitator in Management and leadership development, and corporate governance at higher institutions of learning in China, Finland, and South Africa respectively.

Gillian Ayong, Norwegian People's Aid and Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights

Gillian is a human rights activist who currently works as the manager for Norwegian People's Aid in South Africa. She is a board member for Sam Soya Center for Democracy and Human Rights fighting to protect the rights of Ambazonians at home and abroad. She is also a member of Southern Cameroons Congress of the People (SCCOP) and a core member of its women's caucus leadership. Her experience spans 15 years in the development and human rights field where she worked for media freedom with Panos Institute South Africa, Children's Rights with Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, conflict transformation with Action for Conflict Transformation, Women's Rights with Dynamic Ladyz. She is also part of the African Union election observer mission and have been an election observer in several African countries. Her expertise spans along human rights, democracy, governance, project management as well monitoring and evaluation. As an advocate for human rights she engages at all levels including SADC, African Union and the United Nations.



Joseph Dube, International Action Network on Small Arms



Mr Joseph Dube is the Africa Coordinator of IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms). A South African activist for social justice, he started working on preventing gun violence in 1994, becoming involved with Gun Free South Africa at an early stage. Confronting the reasons people wanted guns in one of the world's most violent societies, Joseph persuaded communities of 40,000 people to find alternatives to violence by declaring gun-free zones, enabling them to reclaim spaces such as schools, health facilities and shops. During the campaign for a tough new gun law, Joseph bridged the gap between communities and parliament, empowering people from marginalised communities to understand how Parliament works, and how to make a submission or presentation. The highlight was an unprecedented situation where the

whole parliament applauded Samuel Kobela, who spoke no English, for his speech on the need for the gun law. After leaving Gun Free South Africa in May 2004, Joseph joined Amnesty International in South Africa to coordinate campaigns including Stop Violence Against Women, Refugees and MSP (Control Arms) in South Africa, Sudan and Swaziland. He joined the IANSA secretariat in February 2005.

Johan Viljoen, Denis Hurley Peace Institute

Johan Viljoen is the Director of the Denis Hurley Peace Institute, of the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference. He previously served as SA Country Director of Jesuit Refugee Service, and was Program Manager for the Catholic Church's HIV/AIDS ARV treatment program for 15 years.



New York City:

Eben Egbe, Spokesperson for the Global Initiative to end the Cameroons Colonial Conflict



Eben Egbe is the main spokesperson for the emerging Global Initiative to end the Cameroons Colonial Conflict. He has been an active participant in the movement against neo-colonial control of Ambazonia (Southern Cameroons) since the 1990s when he was a leader in the Ambazonian student movement. Because of the crackdown against student leaders, he had to go into exile in 1998. Since then he has done human rights work with folks from the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), the Iranian Socialist Party (Jonbesh), Zapatista solidarity networks, and the global indymedia movement. In 2004, he helped launch the Indymedia Africa Working Group, which has organized six independent media convergences around Africa. He has also helped to shape The Way Forward Network and the

Ambazonia Prisoners of Conscience Support Network. Eben is currently is a PhD candidate at the University of Minnesota's Department of Scientific Computation in the College of Science & Engineering, where his research is focused on open science tools for software engineering.

Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, International Fellowship of Reconciliation

The Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson is the current Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA (FOR-USA), the oldest interfaith peace group in U.S. history. She assumed this distinguished post in

September 2018, becoming the 26th Executive Director for FOR-USA. In her new role, Rev. Dr. Jordan-Simpson will continue to build on a legacy of faith and commitment to justice to advance FOR-USA's mission. She brings a great deal of experience in nonprofit leadership, board management, fund development and program management. Her professional experience includes more than 20 years of executive leadership in the social services sector.

More recently, Rev. Dr. Jordan-Simpson served for 6 years as Executive Pastor at Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York. She received her ordainment from the Church in 1989 and served as Associate Pastor from 1995-2012.

Previously, as Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund-New York from 2007-2012, Rev. Dr. Jordan-Simpson advocated to address New York's cradle-to-prison pipeline crisis, close abusive youth prisons, and redirect resources to invest in youth and their communities.



From 1999-2004 she served as Executive Director of Girls Incorporated of New York City, leading the expansion of the urban Girls Inc. model program, partnering with youth agencies in all five boroughs to expand gender equity training and quality gender specific programming. Prior to this, Rev. Dr. Jordan-Simpson served as Executive Vice President at the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, where she facilitated the creation of the first SCORE @ Restoration Plaza, revitalized community arts and cultural institutions and created after school education and youth leadership programs.

Rev. Dr. Jordan-Simpson currently serves on the boards of a community foundation and several nonprofit organizations. She has completed board service in higher education, and received a Certificate in Not for Profit Management, Executive Level from Columbia Business School Institute (for Not for Profit Management). Rev. Dr. Jordan-Simpson earned a Doctor of Ministry with distinction from Drew Theological Seminary, a Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary (NYC), and a B.A. from Fisk University.

Professor Matt Meyer, International Peace Research Association



Matt Meyer is an internationally noted historian, educator, author and organizer, elected in 2018 as Secretary-General of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA, the world's leading consortium of university-based professors, scholars, students, and community leaders). Meyer is the Senior Research Scholar of the University of Massachusetts/Amherst's Resistance Studies Initiative, a position he has held since retiring from 30+ years as tenured educator and teacher-trainer for the New York City Department of Education. He is also active with the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) and the War Resisters' International (WRI), serving as Chair of IFOR's Financial Advisory Committee, Co-chair of FOR-USA's National Council, and Africa Support Network Coordinator for WRI.

Meyer's life-long pursuit of bridging gaps between academics and activists has included service as Chairman of the Consortium on Peace Research, Education, and Development (COPRED) and Founding Chair of the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA), both main North American affiliates of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA). Before becoming IPRA's Secretary-General, a post he proudly shares with Kenyan scholar Christine Atieno, Meyer served as an IPRA Executive Council member and as IPRA's Main United Nations Representative. Meyer was also National Chair of the US-based War Resisters League, making him second only to A.J. Muste—“dean of the

US peace movement” —in serving as elected leader of both WRL and FOR-USA, the historic peace organizations spanning over one hundred years of consistent struggle. He also serves as a Board member of the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute.

Meyer is author or editor of over a dozen books and one hundred chapters and articles, including the newly-released *Connecting Contemporary African-Asian Peacemaking: From Satyagraha to Ujamma* (2018), co-edited with India scholar Vidya Jain; and *White Lives Matter Most and other “little” white lies* (2018), with a Foreword by Sonia Sanchez. He was senior editor of the two-volume series *Seeds of New Hope: Pan African Peace Studies for the 21st Century* (2008, 2010) and his first book, *Guns and Gandhi in Africa* (2000, co-authored with Pan-African pacifist Bill Sutherland), included a Foreword by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu noting that Sutherland and Meyer “have looked beyond the short-term strategies and tactics which too often divide progressive peoples...They have begun to develop a language which looks at the roots of our humanness.”

Fellow Nobel Peace laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina, in his Introduction to Meyer’s encyclopedic anthology *Let Freedom Ring* (2008) on contemporary movements to free political prisoners, noted that “Meyer is a coalition-builder,” one who “provides tools for today’s activists” in his writings and his work. Meyer has also co-edited and authored major works on contemporary movement-building, including *Look for Me in the Whirlwind: From the Panther 21 to 21st Century Revolutions* (2017), co-edited with dequi kioni-sadiki; and *Oscar Lopez Rivera’s Between Torture and Resistance* (2013), in partnership with Luis Nieves Falcon.

Meyer is an Editorial Board member of the juried professional journal *Peace and Change* and the popular web-based news-site *Waging Nonviolence*. He is part of the local anti-imperialist collective Resistance in Brooklyn and works closely with both Africa World/Red Sea Press and PM Press.

WAGING NONVIOLENCE

PEOPLE-POWERED NEWS & ANALYSIS

BLOG

Ambazonians struggle for independence from Cameroon amid military takeover

ORIGINAL ARTICLE AT

[HTTPS://WAGINGNONVIOLENCE.ORG/2018/06/AMBAZONIANS-STRUGGLE-INDEPENDENCE-CAMEROON-MILITARY-TAKEOVER/](https://wagingnonviolence.org/2018/06/ambazonians-struggle-independence-cameroon-military-takeover/)

PHIL WILMOT JUNE 12, 2018

Embed from Getty Images



A demonstrator carries a sign calling for the liberation of detained activists during a p... [see more](#)

AFP | STRINGER

Northwestern and southwestern Cameroon have seen relentless bloodshed over the past few weeks. Something akin to civil war has broken out since factions of a separatist movement in English-speaking areas adopted violent tactics — including abductions and guerilla-style attacks — following years of nonviolent struggle against the Francophone government headed by despot Paul Biya.

Anglophone Cameroon — which is affectionately known to its inhabitants as Ambazonia — declared independence from Cameroon on October 1, following industrial strikes against government marginalization of Anglophone citizens. Biya's government, as in the past,

cracked down swiftly. Since declaring independence, Ambazonia has seen periodic waves of arsons, killings and pillaging of villages. The displaced likely amount to more than 100,000.

After a May 25 attack by Biya's forces in the small town of Menka in the Anglophone Northwest Region — during which about 30 civilians were killed — politicians, leaders and local residents gathered to express disgust at the killings carried out by the military. During this open dialogue, 76-year-old Ni John Fru Ndi — a celebrated politician among Anglophones and the founder of the Social Democratic Front opposition party — told representatives of Biya's government, "If I were 50 years old, I would be fighting in the bush."

While the Anglophone minority is enraged by Biya's refusal to grant Ambazonia autonomy, the Francophone majority isn't particularly enthralled with him either, particularly after 35 years in power. "Bad governance is the common grievance Anglophones and Francophones share," said Bergeline Domou, a French-speaking activist and politician with the Cameroon People's Party. "Cameroonians face over 30 years of governance without goals. Our health system is a catastrophe. Our education system only produces more unemployed. To that you add harassment, embezzlement, violence and control of people's freedoms."

Ambazonians form a nation

Although interim president Sisiku Ayuk Tabe formed his cabinet in exile, Ambazonia is not without its own symbols. Passports, currency, a flag and a national anthem have all been created.

Meanwhile, the Southern Cameroons Broadcasting Corporation, or Ambazonia TV, has been popularizing the secession struggle since early 2017. The station launched in defiance of a ban by the Ministry of Communications. This helped bring tens of thousands to the streets in support of independence a week prior to the declaration.

"[Ambazonia TV] has been a major source of information to the population about the calling of ghost towns, boycotts and tax resistance," said Dzebam Godlove Ayaba, an organizer with the youth movement Draufsicht in the Bamenda area of Ambazonia. "The channel also shows images of military violence, sensitizing the Anglophone people."

While such high-level tech resistance is not common among African political movements, Ambazonia has a special asset working to its advantage. The southwestern area of Ambazonia called Buea is home to a number of universities and functions as a convergence point for developers, hackers, coders, entrepreneurs and creatives. At least 30 high-tech startups are headquartered in the area — which is also known as Silicon Mountain — and an annual conference attracts hundreds from Ambazonia and other parts of Africa.

As a likely result of its success, Biya's regime has shut down internet access in Buea for months at a time on several occasions since early 2017. Members of the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium — a coalition with many members pushing for succession — fought one of the earlier internet blackouts (as well as the arrests and crackdowns by the state that took place during it) by mobilizing "ghost town" actions. People stayed at home and businesses remained closed. Some blocked trucks exporting timber and petroleum to Francophone Cameroon.

The government then banned the consortium and arrested President Felix Agbor Nkongho and Secretary General Fontem Neba. As the consortium was squelched, a communiqué was hastily issued, designating members of the diaspora with sufficient internet access to preside

over the campaign. These new leaders in the United States and Belgium were briefed on the nonviolent nature of the Anglophone struggle.

“The diaspora funds the struggle and provides enormous coordination and social media presence,” said Emmanuel Abeng, a diaspora activist originally from Bamenda. “More impactful decisions can’t be made [by diaspora leaders] because their boots are not feeling the actual heat on the ground.”

Ambazonia’s citizens aren’t waiting for outside leadership, even if it has played a crucial role. On September 22, just before Biya was about to address the United Nations, tens of thousands flocked to Bamenda’s streets with plants symbolizing peace. They converged at the palaces of traditional leaders, recognizing them as authoritative rulers, instead of Biya’s government.

Repression intensified after violent tactics

The patience of some Ambazonians has worn thin over the past several months, as government repression continues to escalate. While the majority have stuck with nonviolent resistance, a violent flank of separatists have armed themselves, using guerrilla tactics to abduct and kill agents of Biya’s government. This has enabled Biya to brand the military occupation of Ambazonia as a struggle against terrorism. And scorched-earth tactics have increased since late 2017 as a result.

Reliance on violent tactics has also enabled prosecution of nonviolent leaders as terrorists. In one instance just after the massacre in Menka, radio journalist Mancho Bibixy was sentenced to 15 years in prison for terrorism, hostility, secession, revolution and insurrection.

“Supporters of the accused have attended every session at the military court in Yaounde,” said activist Edna Njilin. Meanwhile, Francophone allies are stepping up their game at this time of crisis, offering pro bono legal support to those sentenced, spearheading hashtag campaigns like #FreeAllArrested and #BringBackOurInternet.

Shortly after the May 25 massacre, French-speaking activist and politician Bergeline Domou joined 30 Francophone women in a visit to the northwest to stand in solidarity with victims. “We were there to let them know that we too are facing difficulties under this government,” he said. “Acting together is a necessity. We used to have many moderates, but today more and more are giving their support to the secessionists.”

TOPICS: MILITARISM BOYCOTTS PROTESTS AFRICA BLOCKADES TELEVISION
SECURITY AND POLICE SELF-DETERMINATION DEMOCRACY MEDIA

Phil Wilmot is director of Solidarity Uganda, an organization that trains and helps organize East African movements for civil resistance. He researches, consults, and writes about movements throughout Africa and is also author of "A Wolf Dressed in Sheepskin: A White Guy's Dilemma in a Ugandan Jail Cell."

Waging Nonviolence content falls under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

Site designed and developed by Social Ink [+]

Violence and Nonviolence Intensify in Ambazonia

July 19, 2018 [Leave a comment](#)

The Central African country of Cameroon—whose tourist slogan for years was “all of Africa in one country”—presents itself as a unifier of diverse environments, languages, and culture in this nation located in the middle of the continent. The last weeks in Cameroon, however, suggest the worst of conflict, corruption, and colonialism, primarily relating to the country’s intensifying repression against the English-speaking minority in the region of Ambazonia, little-known even to Africanists and anti-colonial academics from the Global North. Despite the efforts of Ambazonian scholars based in the U.S., and a trickle of not-always-helpful information from Amnesty International and the BBC, the escalation of military violence over the past few months, and especially a new “scorched earth” burning of entire villages since last May and several massacres in the first half of July, have gone largely unnoticed even by human rights experts.

On the evening of July 11, 2018, five students were separated during a round-up by government military forces at the University Center in the town of Bambilli, allegedly for not having identification cards. Bambilli is a college town north in the Ambazonian territory. Though [BBC reported on the incident](#), they did not make the connection to the pattern of attacks on Ambazonian students, activists, and community leaders which have worsened over the past year. Three days later, ten more unarmed Ambazonians and one Ghanaian pastor who was working with them were slaughtered in the town of Batibo.

Though this news may never have surfaced if not for the connection to clergy in Ghana, organizations such as the [Network for Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa](#) have begun to analyze, document, and report on these incidents. [Several Pan-African groups](#), including affiliates of the prominent [Network of African National Human Rights Institutions](#) (which share a collegial relationship with the [Pan African Nonviolence and Peace-building Network](#)), have raised growing concerns about military-perpetrated, government-instigated violence in the area which makes up the southern border of Cameroon and Nigeria.

Nonviolence has always been the strategy and philosophy of choice there, with the decades-long freedom slogan focusing on the logic of Ambazonia freedom, by “the force of argument, not the argument of force.” In 1961, the United Nations Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons voted for full independence from colonial Great Britain, and neighboring Francophone Cameroon quickly incorporated the territory into its own “United Republic” of Cameroon. Since that time, a mass, unarmed civil resistance movement has declared its desire for full independence, given its distinct languages (English and Indigenous African), culture, history, and geographic base. In 1984, when Cameroon President Paul Biya removed the

“United” from the official name of the country, an even more intense crisis ensued. “All this time, however, from the 1960s until 2017,” noted Eben, U.S. facilitator of the [Ambazonian Prisoners of Conscience Support Network](#), “barely a single stone was thrown as part of our resistance. Armed resistance was never a tactic we engaged in.”

Following a series of lawyer-led uprisings which began on October 1, 2016, escalating nonviolent civil resistance, and a massive general strike in September 2017—met with gunfire from Cameroon government helicopter gunships—some Ambazonians did initiate an armed struggle on October 1, 2017, [declaring independence and setting up a government in exile](#). Cooperation between the governments of Nigeria and



Cameroon might play a negative role in the aspirations of Ambazonians, as Nigeria handed over some who were taking refuge there, and who now make up a growing political-prisoner population in Cameroon.

Nigeria's inability to resolve their "Boko Haram problem"—the Islamist fundamentalist-military movement with close ties to Iraq—also plays a role. Nigeria can push Boko Haram forces across the border into Cameroon, and Cameroon in turn attacks both Boko Haram military units and Ambazonian independence activists as if they represented the same "nuisance" to the common people. It is the ordinary civilian, however, who is most caught between governments, militaries, and borders. A horrifying video of Cameroon soldiers murdering two women, a young child, and a baby—apparently in mid-July and because their families allegedly had ties to Boko Haram—has begun to go viral and gain the condemnation of Amnesty International. In an eerie flash-back to words uttered fifty years ago in Vietnam at the heinous My Lai massacre, one soldier can be heard asking his commanding officer: "Are we going to kill the children too?"



Ironically, Amnesty—widely seen as the unquestioned expert on human rights in the region—has been slow and significantly misguided in reporting the facts of events in the region. An incredibly detailed and well-documented critique of the June 2018 Amnesty International report on "Anglophone Cameroon" spotlights ways in which the respected organization has misunderstood and distorted the reality of Ambazonian life and struggle. The popular refrain that there "is violence on both sides" not only gives too much emphasis to a very limited armed struggle, dismissing the decades of previous history, it also ignores the fact that the last two years have seen a sharp increase in the breadth and scope of nonviolent civic engagement on the part of Ambazonians, both in the territory and in diaspora. An entire network of home-front media producers has congealed around a Southern Cameroon TV project, dozens of diaspora organizations have formed and successfully pressed for attention from local and national politicians, the Southern Cameroons Congress of the People was formed as a political party, and a veritable social media army has begun to link refugees, political prisoners and their supporters, home front organizers, and those living abroad.

Independent internationalists might be especially confused by the July 19, 2018 briefings and commentaries issued by Human Rights Watch (HRW). On the one hand, their poignant report "These Killings Can Be Stopped" recounts in 59 detailed pages how the area "is slipping into a protracted human rights crisis in the largely Anglophone North-West and South-West regions that border Nigeria." It documents how, for the past two years or so, the Cameroon government has responded to demonstrations, legal challenges, and unarmed protests with "heavy clamp-downs," "repression and arrest," and "abuse" which likely caused a radicalization on the part of the Ambazonian freedom movement.



On the other hand, in HRW's summary press release sent out the same day, "Cameroon: Killings, Destruction in Anglophone Region," they misleadingly and inaccurately assert that "in response to protests and violence by armed separatists, government forces have killed civilians, used excessive force against demonstrators, tortured and mistreated suspected separatists and detainees, and burned hundreds of homes in several villages." Want to find evidence that the HRW summary press release is inaccurate? Read the HRW full report! The poor attempt to be "even-handed" tragically dilutes HRW's basic good point: these killings *can and must* be stopped—by support for justice-seeking nonviolent campaigners and a condemnation of government-based military violence and oppression.

The crisis in Ambazonia—like so many anti-colonial crises that seem to be escalating in this age of neocolonialism—cannot easily be resolved, especially by traditional military or diplomatic means. As grassroots women's and social groups inside the country and supporters or allies in the Diaspora continue to put pressure on

the colonial regime, unarmed civil resistance is the best hope for lasting change. But change cannot take place without clear, pro-justice, international attention and support—which so far has been sadly lacking.

SHARE THIS POST



MATT MEYER

Matt Meyer is an internationally-recognized author, organizer, academic, and educator who currently serves as national co-chair of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. As former national chair of the War Resisters League, he is second only to A.J. Muste—“dean of the U.S. peace movement”—in having been elected to the top position of both historic organizations. Meyer is also senior research scholar at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst Resistance Studies Initiative, the United Nations main representative of the International Peace Research Association, coordinator of the War Resisters’ International Africa Support Network, and a member of the board of advisors of Waging Nonviolence.

The Ambazonia Crisis and Africa's Unending Nightmare of Francafrrique

Since September 22, 2016, the French neocolonial regime in Cameroon has been carrying out a systematic and ruthless military campaign against the people of the English-speaking communities in Ambazonia, also known as “Anglophone Cameroon” or the former UN Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons. Initiated in 2016 to suppress peaceful demonstrations for the rights of the populations in the regions, the campaign has violated numerous provisions of international human rights law and has forced more than 30,000 people to seek refuge in Nigeria and more than 437,000 to become internally displaced persons (IDPs),¹ as reported to the UN Security Council by Ms. Reena Ghelani on December 13, 2018. The urgency of this situation cannot be understated — there has been close to a 40% jump in IDPs between June and December 2018, leading Ms. Ghelani to warn that Cameroon is now “one of the fastest growing displacement crises in Africa.”²

In this article, we will summarize the origin and details of the current crisis; then discuss the historical and political-economic context of French neocolonialism and how it relates to Ambazonia; and finally turn to the problem of lobbyists, media distortion and the obstruction of global action.

I. The Current Crisis in Brief

Ambazonia is a territory located between Cameroon and Nigeria in West Africa. Since 1961, it has been under military occupation by Cameroon and most people consider it to be a part of Cameroon. But an extreme majority of Ambazonians reject the legitimacy of the Cameroon regime and its military control. This dissent is often rendered in terms of the different in language: In Ambazonia, the dominant colonial language currently spoken is English, because just prior to the current regime it was administered by the United Kingdom. This region is often referred to as Anglophone Cameroon. During the same period, the rest of what is commonly known as Cameroon was under French control, and because of this the dominant colonial language spoken there is French. This region is often referred to as Francophone Cameroon.

When Ambazonians consented to merge in a UN-administered plebiscite in 1961, the specific understanding was that each territory would keep its constitution, laws, and public institutions as well as its ability to conduct business in French and English, respectively. But this understanding was not honored, and instead the French-Cameroon regime has since moved in direct and underhanded ways to dismantle and defund “Anglophone” institutions and replace them with centrally controlled institutions.

As a result, a situation has developed of social stratification, where those who don't have access to “Francophone” culture are treated as second class citizens.

For decades there have been waves of protest over this “stepchild” status that is forced on the people of Ambazonia. Most of these protests have been led by students and teachers, in response to efforts by the Cameroonian regime to dismantle Ambazonia's effective and popular network of parent-teacher associations, and to require testing in French. Until very recently, this movement has been entirely nonviolent, with one of its dominant slogans being “The Force of Argument, not the Argument of Force.”

The most recent wave of protests, which began in September 2016, was initiated in large part by lawyers, who

were responding to an attempt to dismantle the Ambazonian common law–based judicial system and replace it with the French colonial civil law system, as well as to force trials to be conducted in French.

In a December 13, 2016, report, the Hon. Commissioner Reine Alapini-Gansou, Country Rapporteur for Cameroon and Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, wrote the following about the conflict:

“The Special Rapporteur has received information that the strikes and protests are allegedly provoked by what has been dubbed, “the Anglophone problem,” due to discontented Anglophone Lawyers, Teachers and Civil Society in English-speaking Cameroon legitimately and peacefully seeking a halt to: the gradual, but systematic destruction and obliteration of the Common Law Legal System and the Anglosaxon System of Education; the marginalisation and neglect by the administration of Cameroon of the two English-speaking regions of Cameroon; and the return to Federal system of governance.”³

The French Cameroon military responded to these peaceful protests with lethal force and human rights abuses, as detailed in this report. In addition to expressing concern for nine peaceful protesters murdered across the regions in a September 22, 2016, protest, Commissioner Alapini-Gansou also expressed deep concerns over human rights violations that included:

“killings of civilians; the deployment of armed military personnel, special security forces (BIR) and war machines to these two regions; the disproportionate and deathly use of force and violence to dispel peaceful and unarmed Lawyers, Teachers, Students, civilians and protesters in Bamenda, Buea and Kumba; the raping of students in Buea; the arbitrary arrests, detention and merciless beatings orchestrated by the police, gendarmerie, military and the BIR following strikes and protests that have been going on since October 2016.”³

In the months that followed, both nonviolent protests and government persecution of nonviolent protesters escalated. To prevent the people from reporting these abuses to the outside world, the Cameroon government cut internet access to the English speaking North West and South West regions for six months in the first half of 2017,⁴ and have since returned it only intermittently and at their arbitrary discretion.

During an October 1, 2017, protest in particular, Amnesty International reported more than 20 peaceful protesters were shot dead, several severely injured and more than 700 arbitrary arrests by Cameroon forces.⁵

In response to these atrocities, and for the first time in four decades–long history of dissent, some within Ambazonia have resorted to defend their communities with force. Also at this time, a coalition of organizations issued a “declaration of independence” — which Ambazonians understand to be a restoration of the independence they had prior to the union with Cameroon — and set up an Interim Government in exile.⁶

On November 29, 2017, in response to attacks on a military convoy and a police post by armed assailants, President Paul Biya of Cameroon declared “war” on those the state radio called “terrorists who seek secession”.⁷ These attacks have since been used as justification for a full out scorched-earth policy against the communities of Ambazonia, including systematic rape and other mass atrocities against women, men, and children, and the

burning of villages as reported by BBC.⁸ Some 106 villages have been burnt per the last count in August 2018 by the Centre for Human Rights & Democracy in Africa (CHRNA).⁹

On January 5, 2018, Julius AyukTabe, known for championing a nonviolent approach to Ambazonian resistance, and his senior aides were illegally abducted by the Nigerian secret service at the Nera Hotel in Nigeria. These activists, who became known as the “Nera 10”, were subsequently handed over to Cameroon, along with 37 other asylum-seekers in violation of non-refoulement, a fundamental principle of international law which forbids a country receiving asylum seekers from returning them to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution. The 37 asylum-seekers are still being held incommunicado as at the time of writing, while the Nera 10 were only allowed limited access to lawyers and family visits after nine months of incommunicado detention and a grueling international campaign. Condemnations and calls by the UNHCR¹⁰, the US State Department¹¹, Amnesty Nigeria¹², and others for the respect of the rights of the 47 forcibly returned from Nigerian custody to the Cameroonian authorities have been ignored by Cameroon officials.

At least 1,300 activists and journalists¹³ have been imprisoned, according to Barrister Nsoh Fru, the lead lawyer for the Nera 10. Some are being tried in military courts which is a violation of international law, and some have been sentenced for terrorism and other unjustifiable charges.

In May, 17, 2018, the US Ambassador to Cameroon stated publicly that the Cameroon government is guilty of “targeted killings, detention without access to legal support, family, or the Red Cross, and burning and looting of villages.”¹⁴

Since March 2018 the Cameroon government has refused the requests from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to access the affected communities to investigate reports of international crimes.^{15, 16} The government has also blocked access to these communities for the press, human rights organizations as well as humanitarian organizations.^{17, 18}

Calls for an end to the violence and for dialogue by the UN, the UK, Germany, Sweden¹⁸, the Netherlands, the US Ambassador¹⁴, the US Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs, the U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations¹⁷, a US Congressional hearing¹⁹, multiple letters from US Congressional representatives and senators²⁰, as well as representatives from other countries, human rights organizations, and Cameroon civil society organizations and leading political figures have simply been ignored by the Cameroon government.

Alarming, a recent report by the International Crisis Group²¹ indicates that the Cameroon regime is utilizing both military units and paramilitary militias in its war against the Ambazonian people. This report substantiates numerous grassroots reports and footage. As reported in the International Crisis Group’s 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019 report²¹, and confirmed by the Cameroon president in his 2018 end of year speech²², the Cameroon government is determined to crush what it considers “an Anglophone insurgency rather than tackle the grievances fueling” the so-called Anglophone crisis.

II. The historical and political-economic context of French neocolonialism (la Françafrique)

As pan-African activists, we are all too aware of the narrative of Africa as the “Dark Continent,” peopled by an uncivilized people, doomed to repeat spirals of “tribal conflict” as is inevitable for such allegedly non-rational peoples. Versions of this lie continue to occupy an outsized role in framing mainstream discourse and policy on Africa and people of African descent. Accordingly, it is important for us to take a moment to clarify that none of these words should be misunderstood to be encouraging the “Dark Continent” narrative in anyway, shape or form. Far from being the “Dark Continent”, Africa:

- has produced 23 Nobel prize winners
- has 6 of the world’s 10 fastest growing economies in the world, including the #1 fastest growing: Ghana.²³
- has 3 countries in the top 5th of the 2017 Democracy Index, including Mauritius at number 16, Cape Verde at 23 and Botswana at 28. By contrast, the United States and Italy are at number 21, while France occupies position 29, Belgium position 32 and other so-called western democracies are further down the ranking.²⁴

Yet there is a serious problem going on now in Africa, which we call neocolonialism.

Most of us are made to believe that colonialism is a system that ended several decades ago, and that all colonized lands in Africa and the rest of the Global South are now independent. But this is a simplification. Neocolonialism is not an epitaph or a metaphor, it is a real political economic system that is wreaking havoc in many parts of the world.

In particular, Africa is under the thumb of a particularly vile form of neocolonialism that has become known amongst activists and scholars as “Françafrique,” and was propelled into popular awareness by French activist and economist François-Xavier Verschave in his 1999 bestseller *La Françafrique, le plus long scandale de la République*.²⁵

Françafrique was tellingly rendered in a discussion between Bill Sutherland (African American civil rights icon and unofficial ambassador of Nkrumah’s pan-African movement between the peoples of Africa and the Americas) and Kenneth Kaunda (prominent Gandhian activist and the first president of Zambia):

Sutherland wondered: “if, given Africa’s continuous crisis and malaise despite their best efforts for more than half a century, there might be a devil in Africa?”

To which Kaunda replied: “There is a devil in Africa! That devil is called France.”²⁶

For Africans in Former British colonies, as well as for most activists and allies in non-French speaking countries across the globe, Kaunda’s statement does not compute. We are too used to focusing on the “big bad guy” and France doesn’t seem like him. But for Africans who have experienced life within the skeleton of France’s colonial legacy, these words ring true without explanation. Starting with what some scholars now describe as the *Genocide of the Bamileke in Cameroon*²⁷ in the 1950s, followed by the systematic assassination of pro-independence leaders (including Ruben Um Nyobe and Felix Moumie of Cameroon, Barthélemy Boganda of Central African Republic, Outel Bono of Chad, Sylvanus Olympio in Togo²⁸ and Thomas Sankara in Burkina Faso²⁵) and accompanied by other forms of coercion and threats, France managed to maintain the essential components of its colonial infrastructure intact while appearing to comply with the shifting international consensus reflected in the 1960 UN resolution calling for an end to colonialism.²⁹ Whereas many pro-independence leaders in former British colonies went on to lead their countries after independence (for example, Kwame Nkrumah in

Ghana, Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya, Milton Obote in Uganda, and Kenneth Kuanda in Zambia), France handed control to their former colonial staff and called it “independence”. These former colonial staff were then made to sign bilateral agreements with France which amongst other things granted France:

- the right to permanently station troops in these countries,
- the right to control the economies of these countries starting with monetary policy — for which France has maintained its colonial currency, the Colonies Françaises d'Afrique (CFA) Franc, which is still used as legal tender to this day, albeit with cleaned up names, the Central African Franc and the West African CFA
- the right to keep 100% of the foreign reserves of these countries in the French treasury,
- the right to determine education policy at all levels,
- access to no-bid public contracts,
- the right of first refusal for mineral and natural resources exploitation,
- the obligation to intervene militarily in these countries if invited by those nominally in charge of the new countries — or in the event that such a so-called-leader is incapacitated, the resident French ambassador can make such a request,
- and much more...^{30, 31}

In the cases where their brutal suppression of all inklings toward self-government failed, they behaved punitively toward the new regimes. The most famous example of this is in Haiti, where they imposed a crippling debt on the new government that they said was owed to them to cover the loss of their slaves, and pressured the international community to demand that they pay. In Guinea Conakry, when it became clear that they had lost the war with the independence movement, the French took everything they could on their way out of the country. French military commanders systematically oversaw the complete evisceration of assets they couldn't take with them — like public infrastructure, down to burning all books and medication, destroying public buildings — including nursery schools, primary schools and research centers, unstringing electric wires, uprooting railroad tracks, shooting dead all farm animals, food reserves were burnt or poisoned, and tearing up pavement and throwing the asphalt into the sea.³¹

France has since maneuvered to extend FrancAfrique to the former Portuguese, Spanish and Belgian colonies in Central and West Africa as those countries retreated following the end of colonialism.

- Guinea-Bissau (a former Portuguese colony), and Equatorial Guinea (a former Spanish colony) now also use the CFA franc as their legal tender.
- In the former Belgian colony the DRC Congo, French troops twice overran popular uprisings seeking to unseat the kleptocracy of Mobutu Sese Seko, first in 1977 with 1500 troops from Morocco, and again in 1978 with a battalion of French special forces.^{32, 33}
- In the former Spanish colony Angola, the largest state-sponsored bribery scandal in African history unfolded in the 1990s when, just after the country had emerged scathed from a brutal 8-year civil war, 42 top French officials conspired to defraud the African country to the tune of US\$790 million. The horrifying spectacle, which became known as the Angolagate Scandal, involved senior French cabinet members, the minister of interior, and President François Mitterrand himself.^{34,25}
- In the former Belgian Rwanda, France trained, funded, and supported a Hutu militia to defend the dictator Habyarimana against the pro-democracy movement in 1994. The militia went on to perpetuate the fastest-paced genocide in recorded history.^{35,25}

While Former British colonies have been less affected by French interference, they are by no means untouched. France has had to use more underhanded methods of control. For example:

- In Sudan, activists who had taken too seriously French rhetoric on the need for democracy were stunned in 2014 when the US imposed a record \$9 billion fine on the French bank BNP Paribas for violating international sanctions designed to stop genocidal and anti-democratic behavior.³⁶
- In Egypt, France — in violation of international law — has supplied the El-Sisi regime with deadly weapons for use in crackdowns.³⁷
- In Nigeria, France was the international champion for the Biafra War, not the Biafran people. France was the main supplier of weapons to the Biafran Army — including Panchard armored vehicles, two B-26s bombers, Alouette helicopters, and pilots as well as mercenary fighters. At the same time as stoking the flames of war in Nigeria, declaring “Biafra Week” on March 11-17, 1969, France declined to formally recognize Biafra — which was the one thing that Biafrans needed the most in their struggle.³⁸ Then, having blackmailed their way into huge oil concessions from the Northern-dominated federal government with their support for Biafra, France switched sides and betrayed the Biafrans to the government — in exchange for increased access to Nigerian oil.³⁹ Two years after the end of war, with the country still recovering from the devastation, in a move reminiscent of economic hitmen, France makes its biggest investment yet in Africa by opening the first ever Peugeot Automobile plant in Africa, in Kaduna, the capital of the former Northern region. While Kaduna had neither a trained workforce, market or raw materials for car production like iron, copper or aluminum, it had access to the northern elite that overwhelmingly dominate the Nigerian political class.⁴⁰ Four years later French oil company Elf emerged as the biggest winner in the 1974 issuing of new oil leases by the Nigerian government.³⁹

As a result of these policies and practices, France has emerged as the overwhelming dominant power in “post-colonial” Africa.

The oppressive effects of these policies and practices are stark. Despite having 6 of the world’s 10 fastest growing economies, with huge reserves of natural and mineral resources, as well as dramatic advances in democracy since the end of the cold war, the economic and political conditions in the 23 Francafrigue countries remain exceedingly bleak:

- Per that 2017 Democracy index, 5 of the world’s 10 most authoritarian regimes are in Africa and all 5 are Francafrigue countries. Additionally, 19 of the 23 Francafrigue countries — i.e. more than 70% — dominate the bottom ranking of the index as the worst dictatorships.²³
- Per data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), 8 of the 25 conflicts around the world that caused between 100 and 999 deaths in 2018, were in Francafrigue countries.⁴¹ In other words, less than 5% of the world’s population that makes up the Francafrigue territories accounted for more than 30% of the world’s conflicts.

III. Ambazonia and Francafrigue

The crisis in Ambazonia is one of these conflicts. In fact, Ambazonia is uniquely positioned with reference to this neocolonial apparatus because it is the only country to have experienced life in a former British colony and life in a former French colony. For this reason, the uprising currently unfolding in Ambazonia is best understood as a popular movement against French neocolonialism.

For those who lack an awareness of Francafrigue, the conflict in Ambazonia seems to be “between Anglophones and Francophones,” and is often narrated as a clinging to colonial era identities. Why do Ambazonians defend their infrastructure and insist on their right to conduct business in English? Why don’t they want to join with their “brothers” in Francophone Cameroon? This is the question that the power-holders in Cameroon ask, and it is a question that many observers in the international community wonder about as well. “Why can’t those Africans just get along with each other?” asks the media.

But to those who understand the severity of Francafrigue, it is clear that colonialism has never ended, but only changed form.

To understand this perspective fully, it is necessary to examine the full colonial history:

- in 1858, Ambazonia was colonized by the British, led by Alfred Saker.⁴²
- in 1887 it was given to the Germans as a way to assuage relations between the two European countries
- in 1917 it was taken from the Germans after they lost World War I, and returned to the British as the “League of Nations Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons”
- in 1945, when the United Nations was created, it became a UN Trust Territory, still under British administration.

The plan at this stage was that the Trust Territory phase would end with independence. Yet there were competing agendas at play that ultimately would derail this intention.

Following the end of each World War, the international moral consensus against colonialism grew, a reality reflected in the name “Trust Territory.” Many administrators of the colonies during this time took seriously the task of “preparing the colonies for independence.” In Ambazonia, they worked in cooperation with the indigenous community to build hundreds of effective public institutions, such as parent-teacher unions and farmers cooperatives. These institutions went a long way toward dismantling the unilateral control implemented during the previous stage of colonialism, and returned a great deal of power and resources to the people.

One fruit of this empowerment work was that in 1954, Ambazonia experienced a peaceful transfer of power from one elected prime minister (albeit with limited authority) to another. In fact, this was the first such peaceful transfer of power in post-colonial West Africa. The memory of that experience of effective democracy is still strong within Ambazonian society.

Yet during this time Britain was still benefiting economically from their colonies. Neither Britain nor France wanted to lose the economic benefit they got from these colonial relationships. So during this time, efforts were also made behind the scenes to identify ways to keep enough political control over the region so as to be able to continue to extract the resources they wanted at minimal cost.

It was based on this logic that the power-players in London determined that full independence was not an option for Ambazonia. Also driven by fear of the influence of communist organizing in Ambazonia, they decided that an independent nation in this location would be too difficult to control. The latter motive is documented in a declassified cable sent by the then US Consul General in Nigeria on May 11, 1959.⁴³

In 1961, the UN gave the Ambazonian people the choice between joining Nigeria as a state or joining Cameroon as a partner in a two-state confederation.

Faced with this choice, the Ambazonian people opted for Cameroon in a UN-administered plebiscite. The specific proposal that the people approved was for the creation of a confederacy between the two countries, in which each region would retain its Constitutions, language, and autonomous public institutions like Parliament, Judiciary, and others — all of which would be legalized at a Treaties Conference that was to include both UN administering authorities, Britain and France.

But this vision would never be realized. Almost immediately, the Cameroon regime began to violate the Ambazonian constitution and behave toward the Ambazonian people like a colonizer, not like a partner or a “brother.” In specific:

- It acted to undermine parliamentary process and eventually unilaterally disbanded the Ambazonian Parliament.
- It orchestrated the deposing of the pro-independence Ambazonian Prime Minister Augustine Ngom Jua, and eventually assassinated him.
- It disbanded the local police units, replacing them with French Cameroon military forces.
- It gutted and eventually closed down the Public Works Department, and commandeered its heavy duty civil construction machinery which has previously been used cooperatively by local councils for road maintenance and repairs.
- It shut down the network of farming cooperatives, as well as a range of other cooperatively run training and financial management organs which saw to the health, empowerment and economic effectiveness of the farming communities.
- It began a decades long effort to undermine the power of the widely popular parent-teacher association network, which has been resisted every step of the way by movements of teachers and students.
- It undermined and closed down almost every single industrial infrastructure that had fueled economic growth and employment opportunities in Ambazonia, including two naturally deep seaports, four airports, all railway lines, the public airline company Cameroon Air Transport which had been the fastest growing airline in West Africa at that time, the public electricity corporation Powercam which at the time was a pillar of economic growth and energy self-reliance, the national bank and a cooperative credit union league, and many others.
- It has since located all new economic projects in French Cameroon, including even building an oil refinery (Sonara) that pipes oil out of Ambazonia and into Francophone controlled zones where all economic transactions are managed.
- It has assimilated or impeded the celebration of almost every indigenous festival and local cultural tradition.

This pattern of development — and intentional underdevelopment — can only be described as colonial, and it has led to a massive gulf in economic activity between Ambazonia and Cameroon. The goal of all this behavior is clearly to make the indigenous populations of the colonial territories into completely helpless subjects, robbed of all forms of power and human dignity.

Horrible as all this is, most Ambazonians do not understand this as primarily a betrayal by Cameroonians. Most Ambazonians understand the current regime in Cameroon to be effectively under French control.

Like most former French colonies, Cameroon does not print its own money, but rather uses the Paris-controlled Central African Franc.

Paul Biya, who has controlled Cameroon since 1975, marched in the streets of Paris AGAINST the independence of his country when he was a student. He then went home and worked his way up within the ranks of the French colonial government, eventually earning the top position there, and was finally handed the reigns from his former colonizers. Considering these two roles in succession, he is arguably the longest reigning dictator in the world.

By his own words, Biya is an unapologetic puppet of neocolonialism — as he declared to the local press in La Baule, France, in June 20, 1990: “I cannot disagree with the opinion of President Mitterand that I am the best student of France.”⁴⁴

To critics of Francafrique, these words speak volumes.

From the evisceration of Ambazonian infrastructure, to the shooting of unarmed protesters, to the disappearance and incommunicado imprisonment of movement leaders, to the burning of villages, French Cameroon under Biya’s leadership appears to be continuing in the Francafrique tradition.

For this reason, we refer to the regime as “the French neocolonial regime in Cameroon.”

IV. Lobbyists and the Obstruction of Global Action

How does a situation like this persist in today’s world? How does the Cameroon regime escape international consequences for its atrocities?

One of the main reasons is the impact of lobbying and media manipulation. The Cameroon government is paying multiple large PR firms (including Mercury LLC, Goodworks International LLC, Squire Patton & Boggs^{45,46,47}) to influence media coverage and lobby against policy actions that would hold the regime accountable for their systematic abuses.

They are planting stories, editorials and letters to the editor that polish the image of the government and portray the Ambazonian movement as dominated by violent terrorists. Influenced by these reports, much coverage of the conflict ignores or simplifies the complex political-economic history and the decades of nonviolent organizing. Most coverage accepts the government’s way of referring to the resistance rather than calling the movement groups by the names they use for themselves. Until very recently²¹ all reporting has completely ignored the streams of grassroots reports of rogue paramilitary forces acting with impunity.

Unfortunately, many sympathetic politicians and even some international human rights groups have been upholding these narratives. In addition to economic interests, the pressure to support Cameroon’s position is high due to the investment that the international community has in its partnership in the war against Boko Haram.

But these distortions and lies are clear to those with firsthand experience. The Ambazonian diaspora is working hard to counter these lies, and to expose the political context that gives them traction. You can help with this by following APOCS on twitter [@apocsnet](https://twitter.com/apocsnet) and re-tweeting messages that directly counter misinformation and call out ill-informed reporting.

We are in the process of amalgamating suggestions on specific calls for action. Please check our TAKE ACTION tab for more information on this soon.

Thank you for helping to uphold the rights and dignity of Ambazonians, and of all people!

REFERENCES:

1. Norwegian Refugee Council, *Conflict in Cameroon's Anglophone regions forces 430,000 people to flee*, <https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/conflict-cameroons-anglophone-regions-forces-430000-people-flee> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
2. United Nations, *Special Representative Stresses Need for New Strategies to Tackle Root Causes of Insurgency, as Security Council Considers Situation in Central Africa* <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13618.doc.htm> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
3. African Commission on Human and People's Rights, *Press Release on the Human Rights Situation in Cameroon Following strike actions of Lawyers, Teachers and Civil Society*, 15 December 2016, <http://www.achpr.org/press/2016/12/d340/> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
4. OHCHR, *UN expert urges Cameroon to restore internet services cut off in rights violation*, 10 February 2017, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21165&LangID=E> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
5. Amnesty International, *Cameroon: Inmates 'packed like sardines' in overcrowded prisons following deadly Anglophone protests*, 13 October 2017 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/10/cameroon-inmates-packed-like-sardines-in-overcrowded-prisons-following-anglophone-protests/> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
6. Azad Essa, "Cameroon's English-speakers call for independence." 01 Oct 2017 www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2017/10/171001123925310.html
7. IRIN, *Cameroon government 'declares war' on secessionist rebels*, <https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/12/04/cameroon-government-declares-war-secessionist-rebels> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
8. BBC: *Burning Cameroon: Images you're not meant to see* <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-44561929> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
9. Journal du Cameroun: *CHRD publishes shocking list of military atrocities in Cameroon's NW, SW regions*, <https://www.journalducameroun.com/en/chrda-publishes-shocking-list-military-atrocities-cameroons-nw-sw-regions/> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
10. UNHCR: *UNHCR condemns forced returns of Cameroon asylum-seekers from Nigeria*, 01 February 2018 <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2018/2/5a731fcf4/unhcr-condemns-forced-returns-cameroon-asylum-seekers-nigeria.html> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)

11. US State Department Press Statement: *Cameroonian Anglophone Detainees* (5 February 2018)
<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/02/277988.htm> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
12. Amnesty Nigeria: *Cameroon: Ten arrested Anglophone leaders at risk of unfair trial and torture if deported from Nigeria*
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/01/cameroon-ten-arrested-anglophone-leaders-at-risk-of-unfair-trial-and-torture-if-deported-from-nigeria/> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
13. Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Mancho Bibixy Abakwa FM Radio | Imprisoned in Cameroon | January 17, 2017 <https://cpj.org/data/people/mancho-bibixy/index.php> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
14. U.S. Embassy in Cameroon, *Ambassador Barlerin's Statement to the Press, May 17, 2018*,
<https://cm.usembassy.gov/ambassador-barlerins-statement-to-the-press/> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
15. OHCHR, High Commissioner's global update of human rights concerns: 37th session of the Human Rights Council, March 7, 2018,
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=22772&LangID=E>
(accessed Jan 7, 2019)
16. OHCHR, High Commissioner's global update of human rights concerns: 38th session of the Human Rights Council, June 18, 2018,
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23206&LangID=E>
(accessed Jan 7, 2019)
17. US, *Remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on the Central African Region*, 13 December 2018:
<https://usun.state.gov/remarks/8845> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
18. Sweden, *Swedish statement at the UN Security Council Briefing on UNOCA*, 13 December 2018:
<https://www.government.se/statements/2018/12/swedish-statement-at-the-un-security-council-briefing-on-unoca/> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
19. US House Subcommittee Hearing: *Crisis in the Republic of Cameroon*, 27 June, 2018:
https://youtu.be/kyi_gCwOjDw
20. Chris Van Hollen et al, *Democratic Senators Raise Alarm Over Human Rights in Cameroon*, 07 December 2018:
<https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/12-7-18%20Cameroon%20oversight%20letter%20FINAL.pdf>
21. Crisis Group: *10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019*
<https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/10-conflicts-watch-2019> (accessed Jan 7, 2019)
22. Presidency of Cameroon, *Head of State's New Year Message to the Nation*, 31 December 2018:
<https://www.prc.cm/en/news/3280-head-of-state-s-new-year-message-to-the-nation-31-december-2018>
23. Samira Sadeque, *The top 10 fastest growing economies in 2018*, Quartz
<https://www.theatlantic.com/charts/BJOKD67VG> (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
24. The Economist, *Democracy Index 2017*
https://pages.eiu.com/rs/753-RIQ-438/images/Democracy_Index_2017.pdf (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
25. Verschave F, *La Françafrique, le plus long scandale de la République*, Stock (1999)
26. Sutherland B & Meyer M, *Guns and Gandhi in Africa*, Africa World Press, Trenton, NJ (2000)
27. Deltombe T, Domergue M, Tatsitsa J, *La guerre du Cameroun: L'invention de la Françafrique (1948-1971)*, éditions la Decouverte (2016)
28. Boissouvier C, "Togo: qui a tué l'ancien président Sylvanus Olympio?" *Jeune Afrique*, 18 janvier 2013:
<https://www.jeuneafrique.com/138661/politique/togo-qui-a-tu-l-ancien-pr-sident-sylvanus-olympio/>
(accessed Jan 6, 2019)

29. United Nations, *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples* <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>
30. Les Accord des Cooperation: <https://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/1976/08/BOURGI/33874>
31. Mediapart: *France/Françafrique: Les servitudes et crimes de la France en Afrique* <https://blogs.mediapart.fr/jecmaus/blog/011117/francefrancafrique-les-servitudes-et-crimes-de-la-france-en-afrique>
32. Martin Meredith, "The Fate of Africa: From the Hopes of Freedom to the Heart of Despair," *Public Affairs*, 2005, p525
33. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas P. Odom, "[Shaba II: The French and Belgian Intervention in Zaire in 1978](#)" [Archived](#) 9 June 2007 at the [Wayback Machine](#): <http://www-cgsc.army.mil/carl/resources/csi/odom2/odom2.asp> (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
34. Angolagate <https://www.economist.com/node/12630028> (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
35. Génocide au Rwanda : un ordre officiel de l'Elysée accablant pour Paris, http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2017/06/27/genocide-au-rwanda-des-revelations-sur-le-role-de-la-france_5151690_3212.html (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
36. French Bank sanction on Sudan sanctions violations <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bnp-paribas-settlement/u-s-imposes-record-fine-on-bnp-in-sanctions-warning-to-banks-idUSKBN0F52HA20140701> (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
37. Amnesty, *Egypt: France flouts international law by continuing to export arms used in deadly crackdowns*. 16 October 2018: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/10/egypt-france-flouts-international-law-by-continuing-to-export-arms-used-in-deadly-crackdowns/>
38. Olawoyin, *Historical Analysis of Nigeria–Biafra Conflict* (1971), pp 137-139.
39. Giwarau Fola Tunde, *History of Nigerian Petroleum industry* (2011) https://giwaraufolatunde.files.wordpress.com/2011/03/ptdf_revision1.pdf (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
40. PSA: redémarrage de la production au Nigéria, <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-eco/2014/07/16/97002-20140716FILWWW00236-psa-redemarrage-de-la-production-au-nigeria.php>
41. Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) <https://www.acleddata.com/data/>
42. Underhill Edward Bean, *Alfred Saker, Missionary to Africa*. London (1884): <https://archive.org/details/alfredsakermissi00unde>
43. US Consul General to Lagos, Nigeria, (DESPATCH N0. 440 FROM LAGOS. DOC. NO. 751U.00/5-1159—(NOW DECLASSIFIED!)
44. L'AFRIQUE POLITIQUE 1999. Entre transitions et conflits, By Centre d'étude d'Afrique noire (Institut d'études politiques de Bordeaux), Karthala
45. Megan R. Wilson, *Washington Image Upgrade Worth \$100,000 a Month for Cameroon*, <https://about.bgov.com/blog/washington-image-upgrade/> (accessed Jan 6, 2019)
46. Government of Cameroon on PR Offensive in the United States <https://efile.fara.gov/docs/5414-Exhibit-AB-20070720-6.pdf>
47. The New York Times Sells Cameroon for \$250,000 <https://www.dibussi.com/2007/07/the-new-york-ti.html#more>

This article was written by Eben Egbe and Amy Dalton in consultation with the APOCS Net Team.

What if, in a moment of better luck or greater wisdom, that nation several decades ago, and that of numerous others, it affected the use of the label "American" more responsibly?



British colonial administration in the Caribbean. The volume traces the history of British administration in the Caribbean from the 17th century to the 1970s, and includes a chapter on the Caribbean in the 21st century.

room and more emphatically considered to be a part of the museum, but a major benefit of embracing a liquid architecture is the dynamism of the museum program and its exhibits content.

the act of understanding this phenomenon and one of them are Americans eyes. The dominant national language spoken in America is English, due to British former colonisation of the territory, while the dominant language in rest of Canada is French.

domestic market to maintain the industry and boost the political line that they have reached by while French controlled Germany was to prepare the French export market, including in America.

the interests of the French speaking francophone public, and the interests of English speaking anglophone francophones.

For nearly 20 years, there's been a lot of talk about all-male fraternities. In 1990, the American Psychological Association (APA) issued a statement that all-male fraternities are "harmful" to the psychological development of their members. And in 1995, the APA's Council on Men and Gender At Issues issued a report that all-male fraternities are "harmful" to the psychological development of their members.

to find a good, reliable medium of exchange and a way to make the exchange process more efficient.

the same time, the fact that the same person can be both a victim and a perpetrator of violence is also a reality that must be taken into account. This is why it is important to have a clear understanding of the different types of violence and the people involved in them.

Why don't Americans want to join the rest of the European population and become one country?

But, from the democratic perspective, centralism has many added, but only original faults. In a large part, all that has been handed down and further passed on to the masses has been the more human:

- In 1911 it was owned by the British.
- In 1957 it was given to the Germans.
- In 1947 it was taken from the Germans after this last World War I and returned to the British.

* Die Qualität der Daten ist ein entscheidender Faktor für die Genauigkeit der Ergebnisse.



the way at this stage would hardly, most likely, please would, and with riskier, e.g., fluctuations, more complex, and in the end, all of them, would, most likely, then, too.



Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	

THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS DECOLONIZATION CASE (2)

Unwarranted plebiscite takes place.

Our people vote to have independence then join French Cameroon.

Based on the majority Yes votes (66%), the UN sets October 1, 1961 as the Independence Day of the Southern Cameroons.



The United Nations votes on the independence of the Southern Cameroons. 64 Yes, 23 No, 10 abstain.

THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS DECOLONIZATION CASE (3)

The process of joining does not take place. French Cameroon secretly plans to recolonized the Southern Cameroons. Fails to allow for unity negotiations to take place, fails to engage and then submit Union Treaty at the UN Secretariat. Legally joining impossible.

Apr.-Sep. 1961

Eve of October 1, September 30, 1961-The Cameroon military moves into the Southern Cameroons and we officially become a re-occupied and recolonized people.

Sep. 30, 1961

Sep. 30, 1961

The UNION Jack is lowered and the British leave the Southern Cameroons after having prepared grounds for our recolonization. Instruments of power illegally handed over to Ahmadou Ahidjo of French Cameroon.

Oct. 1 1961

Souther Cameroons could not celebrate independence as an occupied people, terrorized by the occupier. The people's independence is stolen.

HISTORY PART 1-RIGHT TO CITIZENSHIP

January 1, 1960 – The Republic of Cameroon attains independence. The direct implication of this is that all within its geographical boundary immediately acquire Cameroon nationality. No one out of that geographical space under international law can be called a Cameroonian or acquire Cameroon nationality until specific treaties were negotiated, terms agreed on and signed.

October 1, 1960 – Federal Republic of Nigeria attains its independence.

Note – The Southern Cameroons UN Trust Territory under United Kingdom administration is still not independent.

THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS DECOLONIZATION CASE (1)

1959 - 1961 the united Kingdom ensures the Souther Cameroons does not have independence.

February 11, 1961 - The Southern cameroons was forced to achieve independence by joining either Nigeria or French Cameroon. So the plebiscite question was phrased to achieve two things:

- > First independence in keeping with UN Resolution 1514
- > The joining

What went wrong? Southern Cameroons remains colonized till this day.

THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS AMBAZONIA DECOLONIZATION STRUGGLE



The Federal Republic of Ambazonia

Address: State House, Buea

Website: www.ambasa.org

E-mail: info@ambasa.org

FAKE FEDERATION ON FRENCH CAMEROON'S TERMS OF OPERATION: 1961 - 1972

Over this period, the French Cameroon government ensured:

1. The Southern Cameroons government is dissolved without the voice of our people.
2. The Southern Cameroons parliament is dissolved.
3. The Southern Cameroons House of Chiefs is dissolved.
4. Almost all Southern Cameroons corporate head quarters are moved to French Cameroon.
5. Southern Cameroons biggest corporations are forced to pay local taxes to French Cameroon municipalities.

THE FORM OF THE ILLEGAL UNION IS ILLEGALLY BANISHED

French Cameroon government unilaterally decides to change the Federal nature of state to a unitary state in violation of Section 47 of their own constitution – The French Cameroon Federal Constitution.

They change the country's name illegally to United Republic of Cameroon made up of the two countries – The Southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroon.

February 4, 1984: Mr Paul Biya unilaterally changes the name of the country made up of the two people's to The Republic of Cameroon.

Southern Cameroons disappears!
Have we been effectively assimilated and erased from the map of Africa?
The people say NEVER.

1984 – TILL DATE: THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN CAMEROONS/AMBAZONIANS STAND UP FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE (1)

1984 – 1990: Southern Cameroons' leaders stand up for independence. They are arrested, brutalized, jailed, killed, etc.

The 1990s: Southern Cameroon elites get together, advise the French Cameroon government to immediately return to the Federal nature of state or risk seeing Southern Cameroons unilaterally declare their independence.

1995: The people of Southern Cameroons petition the UN.

2002: The Nigerian High Court in Abuja orders the Federal Government of Nigeria to place the self-determination case of the Southern Cameroons people before the UN General Assembly.

2003: The people of Southern Cameroons petition the African Commission on Human & People's Rights: Note ACHPR verdict in 2009.

October – November 2016: Lawyers and then teachers go on strike under the theme – Enough with the Assimilation; Give us Federation or we will declare our independence.

1984 – TILL DATE: SOUTHERN CAMEROONS AMBAZONIANS STAND UP FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE (2)

Cameroon government brands leaders terrorists and secessionists, bans the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) and the Consortium of Southern Cameroons Trade Unions.

January 16 – 19, 2017: Key leaders are arrested – Penn Terrence Khan, Barrister Agbor Balla, Dr Fontem Neba, Mancho Bibixy and so many of our people & several other leaders escape into exile.

With French Cameroon outrightly refusing dialogue that addresses the root causes of our recolonization quest, the people of the Southern Cameroons prepare for the restoration of their independence.

October 1, 2017: HE Sisiku Ayuk Tabe with the masses of our people declare the restoration of independence of the Southern Cameroons and renames the country the Federal Republic of Ambazonia.

Dec. 4 2017 French Cameroon declares war over Ambazonia (Ambazonia has no army to defend itself)