



PRESS RELEASE ON EXTORTION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The Cameroon Human Rights Commission (abbreviated as “CHRC”, and hereinafter referred to as: “The Commission”) is appalled and outraged to learn that ill-intentioned individuals and some Civil Society Organisations are extorting money from citizens in return for addressing their complaints to the CHRC.


The CHRC resolutely condemns these practices and wishes to remind the public that, under Section 38 of Law No. 2019/014 of 19 July 2019 relating to the establishment, organisation and functioning of the CHRC, *“referral to and proceedings before the Commission shall be free of charge”*.

Therefore, the CHRC informs the national and international public that under this provision, all actions and procedures following any complaint or denunciation that the CHRC receives - written or verbal - including through the **toll-free number 1523**, are effectively free of charge and exempt from any fees, including stamp duty.

The CHRC wishes to warn all actors (individuals or associations) who indulge in such scams by exploiting their collaboration with the CHRC that the CHRC reserves the right to take legal action against them.

The CHRC urges the public to be vigilant and report in writing or verbally, these acts which aggravate the situation of complainants and damage the image and reputation of our country's sovereign human rights institution, to its Head Office and branches in the 10 (ten) Regions of the country, also using **the toll-free number 1523**.

The CHRC encourages and commends Civil Society Organisations and all other bona fide advocates who act on behalf of and for victims of alleged cases of human rights violations with responsibility and integrity.

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Commission des Droits de l'Homme du Cameroun
Le Président
The Chairperson
Cameroon Human Rights Commission
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James MOUANGUE KOBILA