

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

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DE L'HOMME DU CAMEROUN

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

CAMEROON
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE ON THE GRUESOME MURDER OF JOURNALIST MARTINEZ ZOGO

The Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC) was appalled to learn of the murder of Arsène Salomon MBANI ZOGO, commonly known as *Martinez ZOGO*, a committed journalist and unparalleled polemicist, station manager of the Yaounde-based radio *Amplitude FM* and host of the famous programme *Embouteillages*, whose lifeless body was found at Ebogo III around Soa, in the Mefou-et-Afamba Division on 21 January 2023, before being taken to the mortuary of the Yaounde Central Hospital.

The CHRC strongly condemns this barbaric and retrograde act which seriously undermines the fundamental right to life, the right to physical and moral integrity, as well as freedom of opinion, freedom of expression and freedom of the press, all of which are protected by the Preamble to the Cameroon Constitution and by african and international human rights instruments duly ratified by our country or which Cameroon has adhered to or supports.

The CHRC - which has taken up the matter on its own motion and whose Observation, Investigation and Alert Unit has conducted a visit at *Amplitude FM*, at the home of the deceased and some units of the Forces of Law and Order - commends the promptness with which investigations were conducted by the appropriate authorities and eagerly awaits the outcome of the ongoing investigations into this emblematic case of serious human rights violation.

The National Human Rights Institution of Cameroon urges the competent authorities to search further and more actively for all those who ordered, perpetrated, aided and abetted this despicable crime, for them to be held accountable before the courts and for such barbarity not to happen again in our dear and beautiful country.

The Commission shares the deep and heart-rending grief of Martinez ZOGO's family under these dramatic circumstances and extends its deepest sympathy to them. The CHRC also shares the indignation and concern of the entire communication family, to whom it extends its deepest condolences. Finally, the Commission shares the deep sorrow of the national, regional and international human rights movement, which is experiencing some of the darkest moments in its history.

Yaoundé, 23 January 2023



James MOUANGUE KOBILA