

COMMISSION DES DROITS
DE L'HOMME DU CAMEROUN

Sous-Commission en charge
de la protection des droits de l'homme

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CAMEROON HUMAN
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**PRESS RELEASE ON THE GRUESOME MURDER OF
ABOUT TWENTY-SIX (26) CIVILIANS BY SECESSIONIST TERRORISTS**

The Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC) (*hereinafter "the Commission"*) was appalled and disgusted to learn of the killing of twenty-six (26) civilians, on 6 November 2023, orchestrated by secessionist terrorists. This intolerable, heinous, and despicable act occurred in Egbe-Kaw Village, Mamfe Central Sub-Division, Manyu Division in the South-West Region.

Informed of the situation, the CHRC immediately launched a preliminary investigation in compliance with the 7th indent of Section 7 of Law No. 2019/014 of 19 July 2019, which establishes the CHRC, organises it and governs its functioning. It would appear that, at about 3 a.m., on the fateful day, the inhabitants of the above-mentioned village were peacefully asleep when an arson was provoked by secessionist terrorists. These terrorists, lying in wait in the darkness, then opened fire on anyone – adults or children - who managed to escape the flames.

In all, the CHRC has recorded about twenty-six (26) innocent civilians killed in such a senseless manner, with no reason, and nine others currently injured and receiving care at local health centres. Additionally, over twenty (20) houses were destroyed in the arson. The people of Mamfe are deeply and permanently scarred by this utterly unnecessary and horrific bloodshed, perpetrated by faithless and lawless creatures emerging from the depths of evil.

In these tragic moments, ***the Commission shares*** the unbearable pain of the families of the twenty-six (26) civilians mowed down by human folly. The CHRC extends heartfelt condolences to the families grappling with these heart-breaking losses, assuring them of its deep compassion,

The Commission once more condemns in the strongest terms, such abhorrent acts of terrorism that nothing can justify,

The Commission recalls the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004, which "*condemns with the greatest energy, all acts of terrorism [...] irrespective of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed*",



The Commission commends the swift assistance provided to the families of the victims and the injured, and the investigation launched to identify and punish all those responsible, as ordered by the Head of State,

The Commission urges the competent authorities to speedily complete the investigations into this heinous act committed by secessionist terrorists so that the masterminds, perpetrators, accomplices and sponsors are tracked down wherever they may be, arrested, brought before the competent courts, and tried to the full extent of the law,

The Commission once again calls on those foreign powers that still have doubts about the terrorist nature of the deranged and bloodthirsty mobs that are causing death and devastation in the North-West and South-West Regions to reconsider their stance in the face of this new deliberate attack against innocent civilians, which can only be carried out by terrorists, either in Cameroon or elsewhere,

Such brutal and indiscriminate attack defies the values, principles, and rules of humanity. Its perpetrators constantly seek to create as many victims as possible to spread terror, to destroy public and private property on a massive scale and to attack the emblems and institutions of the Republic,

The Commission renews its call on all national, sub-regional, regional, and international **actors**, as well as bilateral and multilateral partners of Cameroon, to intensify their efforts to facilitate the arrest and trial of masterminds, perpetrators, accomplices and sponsors of these terrorist acts. They could, for this purpose, rely on their own national laws or relevant regional and international instruments,

The Commission reiterates, relentlessly, its appeal to the secessionist terrorists to put an end to the unspeakable suffering and senseless loss of life inflicted on the populations they claim to protect, and to cease the violence that has hindered the development of these two regions for seven years. The CHRC encourages them to lay down their arms and grasp the outstretched hand of the Head of State, His Excellency Paul BIYA, and join the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Centres,

The Commission reiterates that terrorist attacks violate all human rights and specifically, the right to life, the right to physical and moral integrity, the right to education, the right to health, the right to food, the right to security, the right to housing, freedom of movement, freedom to do business, the right to property, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, the right to a fair trial and the rights of all vulnerable groups.

Yaounde 10 November 2023

