



C'est une initiative judiciaire portée par les chercheurs en criminologie de l'université l'Oxford contre le régime de Paul Biya et soumis au parlement britannique.

Les chercheurs de cette institution universitaire dans un rapport de plusieurs pages, consulté par 237actu, recommandent au parlement britannique de veiller à ce que la justice internationale soit appliquée sur les crimes commis contre la minorité anglophone.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que le régime de Yaoundé est visé. Accusés de génocide et de crimes contre l'humanité sur les populations du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest, Paul Biya, et huit officiels camerounais font déjà l'objet d'une plainte déposée à la Cour pénale Internationale(CPI) par des personnalités se proclamant du « Southern Cameroon » a été adressée à Fatou Bensouda, Procureur de la Cour Pénale Internationale(CPI), pour l'ouverture d'une enquête internationale sur des allégations de génocide et de crimes contre l'humanité.

Voici le rapport de l'université d'Oxford soumis au parlement Britannique

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112. The Report thus advances the following specific recommendations:

- a. **Support efforts to stop the violence:** For the British Government to take appropriate measures to ensure an end to the human rights abuses. In this respect, the African Union's strategy of 'silencing the guns', which aims to end all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, violent conflicts and prevent genocide on the African continent, including in Cameroon, should be supported.
- b. **Support conflict resolution:** For the British Government to take an active role in supporting the peace negotiations between the francophone and anglophone parties, and to take deliberate steps to ensure minority voices and concerns are given fair treatment. This includes not preventing the remit of the dialogue and affording space for historical grievances to be considered so that the Anglophone Problem might finally find resolution. It is pertinent that the British Government adopt a decolonial approach in the conflict resolution process, which necessitates moving beyond surface-level engagement with the tensions.
- c. **Support the initiatives of peacebuilders:** For the British Government to support non-governmental organisations and researchers based in Cameroon to facilitate dialogue between communities and political actors and to support participatory efforts to reach long-term solutions for societal peace and reconciliation. While the September 2019 dialogue initiative by the Cameroonian Government is, in principle, a positive step, it is necessary to ensure dialogue is more participatory across the demographics and existing intersections of marginalisation in Cameroonian society.
- d. **Ensure a return to the rule of law:** For the British Government to work towards ensuring a return to the rule of law in Cameroon. It is the absence of meaningful legal accountability for perpetrators of human rights abuses that have contributed to acts of retaliation and revenge by communities. These measures should include monitoring of criminal justice proceedings related to the Anglophone Crisis and ensuring that the right to a fair trial is respected, especially for anglophone minority defendants in light of the historic and ongoing abuses documented in this Report. Victims of human rights violations must be provided with appropriate remedies that include access to justice and reparations including compensation.

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- c. *The inadequacy of the 2019 dialogue as an elite driven process:* Despite the initiation of the September 2019 dialogue, there is evidence that human rights abuses continue. Further, the dialogue reflects a lack of group-level initiatives with affected communities and appears to be dominated by those in the upper echelons of Cameroonian socio-political life. Insufficient attention has been given to understand the views and experiences of the wider anglophone Cameroon public.
- d. *Lack of accountability for human rights abuses:* There is a historic pattern of gross human rights violations, rejection of international human rights rulings and state impunity in Cameroon. There remains a pervasive culture of impunity through the lack of accountability for human rights abuses by Cameroonian State forces and armed separatist groups in the anglophone regions. Indicative of the accountability deficit is the rejection of, and the non-responses to, United Nations and African Union findings on the human rights abuses relating to the Anglophone Crisis.
- e. *Lack of remedies for human rights abuses:* For those human rights abuses perpetrated since 2016, there is little evidence that remedial measures have been taken by the Cameroon State in the form of equal and effective access to justice; adequate, effective and prompt reparation for harm suffered; and reparation mechanisms.
- f. *Implications for conflict in the Sahel region:* The failure to resolve the Anglophone Crisis may unintentionally exacerbate other conflicts within the Sahel region, including the fight against Boko Haram. This could lead to a further and significant deterioration of security and stability in the Sahel region.

6. Specific Recommendations

- 111. In endeavouring to respond to and resolve the Anglophone Crisis and the human rights violations that have been perpetrated, the Report offers the following recommendations to the British Government. While these recommendations are specifically directed to the British Government, it is pertinent that their realisations be pursued through existing multilateral efforts, as spearheaded by the African Union and United Nations. The British Government should also consider realising these recommendations through multilateral organs, including the Commonwealth and the United Nations Security Council.

several major secessionist leaders to participate. Indeed, even after the recommendations were published, a number of armed resistance leaders have called the dialogue nothing more than a performance aimed at returning to the unjust status quo and reconfirmed their position that only complete secession will end the conflict.¹³⁰

5. Pressing Concerns

110. In light of the human rights abuses documented in this Report, the following pressing concerns are identified:
- a. *Escalation of the Anglophone Crisis: A historical view of the Anglophone Problem into the present indicates that the divisions instituted by the colonial boundary of the British and French Allied Forces have intensified over the decades and escalated into the current state of violence. Moreover, evidence received from the ongoing conflict indicates that the levels of violence, degree of human rights abuses and resistance may be increasing. Photographic evidence of the conflict has continued to be received up until the day of submission of the Report, which indicates that the conflict is prevalent and ongoing.*
 - b. *Complexity of issues fuelling the Anglophone Crisis: The international community has, in its response to the Anglophone Crisis, at times not shown a meaningful appreciation of the deeper complexities of the tensions. An analysis of the materials received concerning the Cameroon civil conflict indicates several complexities. The conflict cannot easily be seen through the simplistic lens of francophone versus anglophone, although these tensions are acute. In addition to the Cameroon State, there are various factions of anglophone resistance, and there is further evidence of organised vigilante community action. There are also underlying religious tensions, inter-ethnic group tensions and land tensions. Of note, the tensions in this conflict are deeply historical and have been woefully unaddressed to date. Failure to afford these historical grievances a platform risks fuelling discontent and is likely to undermine the prospect of sustainable solution.*

¹³⁰ Al Jazeera 'Cameroon releases 333 prisoners amid national dialogue: Rebel leaders dismiss president's limited amnesty, calling for release of thousands of people imprisoned since 2016.' (October 3rd 2019). <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/cameroon-releases-333-prisoners-national-dialogue-191003182000375.html> (Last Accessed October 15th 2019).

