

Arrêté en novembre 2016 après une manifestation pour le respect des droits des anglophones, Mancho Bibixy est accusé d'« actes terroristes » et risque la peine de mort.

Suite à la rencontre de l'avocat Agbor Nkongho avec la FIDH (Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme) à Paris le 2 mars 2018 où il a informé l'organisation de la détention, des accusations et du procès inéquitable de Mancho Bibixy, l'Organisation mondiale contre la torture (OMCT) a demandé simplement au gouvernement camerounais de libérer Mancho Bibixy immédiatement et sans condition.

URGENT APPEAL - THE OBSERVATORY**CMR 001 / 0418 / OBS 042**

Arbitrary detention /

Judicial harassment

Cameroon

April 9, 2018

The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a partnership of FIDH and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in **Cameroon**.

Description of the situation:

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the ongoing detention and judicial harassment of Mr. **Mancho Bibixy Tse** (known as BBC), journalist newscaster of *Abakwa*, a local radio programme aired on *Bamenda FM* through which he has reported on the rights of the Anglophone minority in Cameroon with a focus on their social and economic marginalisation. He has also been working in close collaboration with the civil society consortium to document rights violations in North-West Cameroon and to protect vulnerable people in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

According to the information received, on April 13, 2018, Mr. Mancho Bibixy will appear before the Military Tribunal in Yaoundé, where he is facing charges of "secession", "terrorism", "rebellion", "inciting civil war", "spreading false information through social media", "attempting to change the constitutional regime", "outrage to a public body" and "failure to hold his ID card" under the 2014 terrorism law and which carry the death penalty.

Mr. Mancho Bibixy had been arrested on January 19, 2017, while at a friend's house. Armed soldiers climbed up the house's fence while shooting in the air and forcibly opened two doors. He was arrested and hooded without having a chance to dress up, take his shoes or his ID card. He was further beaten and taken to a vehicle.

He is currently detained at the Kondengui central prison, a maximum-security prison in Yaoundé, where he does not have regular access to his family. Since the beginning of his detention, his health has deteriorated and has been further weakened by a hunger strike he started on June 7, 2017 to protest against his poor detention conditions and which lasted for a week. He is currently sharing an overcrowded cell with 15 other inmates with poor access to hygiene facilities and is suffering from back pain.

Since the beginning of his trial on February 1, 2017, hearings have been postponed more than fourteen times, for different reasons including a request from the Prosecutor, who required more time to gather evidence, bank holidays and the absence of the judges.

The Observatory fears that the ongoing judicial harassment against Mr. Mancho Bibixy comes in retaliation to his peaceful and legitimate human rights activities, in particular in the context of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, in which he has led several peaceful protests demanding for the rights of the Anglophone population to be respected¹.

Consequently, the Observatory strongly condemns the arbitrary detention and judicial harassment of Mr. Mancho Bibixy and urges Cameroonian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release him as well as to put an end to all forms of harassment, including at the judicial level, against him.

¹ See FIDH Press release, "Death toll rises in Anglophone regions after severe repression" published on October 8, 2017.



