

Human and Peoples' Rights Violation in Ambazonia

Cameroon claims that Ambazonians joined them in 1961, a claim which cannot be proved. Even then, Ambazonians did not join them as individuals but as a nation. The two nations that are purported by Cameroon to have joined must have the right to discuss the terms on which they are living together. But this is precisely what Cameroon rejects and claims that Ambazonians can only speak as individuals, while LRC speaks as a nation! Cameroon claims Ambazonians can never again speak as a nation! To enforce this view, Cameroon has systematically denied Ambazonians every single right that belongs to them as a people. Even as individuals, they have no right to question the illegal occupation of their territory by Cameroon. The systematic denial of these rights and the violent enforcement of assimilation is what makes it impossible for any co-existence to continue. I remind the reader that the African Commission On Human and Peoples' Rights in its 2009 ruling in Communication 266/2003 declared Ambazonians a People under the African Charter.

There is simply no hope of co-existence of Ambazonians and LRC for the reason that Ambazonians have no right of freedom of thought, of expression or of Assembly as a people within the context of one Cameroon. No foreigner is aware that Ambazonians have no right to assemble as a people; they have no right to speak as a people; they have no right to think as a people; they have no right to question the terms on which Cameroon is ruling them. As you know, only the relationship between a slave and his master is without terms. That is exactly the relationship between Ambazonia and Cameroon!

Cameroon is fully aware that it is a colonial power in Ambazonia; is in illegal occupation of Ambazonia and the only way to prevent its fraud from being dismantled is to prohibit all discussion on its illegal

occupation of Ambazonia. Cameroon and its president have banned all discussion on federation and on anything that remotely resembles any autonomy for Ambazonians!

Here is a list of some of the rights that Ambazonians are banned from enjoying and which are systematically enforced as Cameroon's policies:

1. **Assimilation:** Cameroon abolished the English language as the Language of the territory and imposed French in its place. The English legal and educational systems were gradually being uprooted and replaced by the French system until the revolution of 2016. Even then, Cameroon is bent on assimilation and conquest of Ambazonians. It dubs its project of assimilation with the name "bilingualism" to deceive the world and those who go by words. Integration in Cameroon terms is converting Ambazonians into French-speaking Cameroonians. So there is simply no hope of any change of policy in sight, because they are incapable of changing. To assimilate Ambazonians is an unrelenting national policy. Even as the war is going on, they are continuing with their assimilation as if nothing is happening.
2. **No right to legal protection:** Soldiers of Cameroon loot, murder, rape, burn down settlements, and commit the worst atrocities in all impunity. There are neither any questions asked nor any investigations. Not even their parliament or Senate has given a second to discuss the war declared by their dictator on Ambazonia. Ambaonian lives are meaningless in Cameroon. Even those wounded by the terrorist Cameroon soldiers are dragged from the hospitals and killed!
3. **No right of peaceful assembly:** Ambazonians cannot meet in their territory in any capacity as a people to discuss their own matters. Frightened that any meeting will lead to questions about the illegal occupation, Cameroon has done everything to prevent the people from any assembly. The people have been able to meet in defiance of government bans only twice in 57 years, under extraordinary circumstances. All meetings need government approval and the government systematically refuses any meeting of the people under threat to national unity.

4. **No right of expression:** Ambazonians cannot address the Cameroon government as the one people who voted in the 1961 Plebiscite! Cameroon no longer recognizes Cameroon as made of two distinct nations. For LRC, Ambazonians can only express themselves as individuals, but never as the other partner to the purported union. Even as individuals, they have no right to refer to their own nation, Ambazonia, or question what Cameroon does to them. Cameroon has the right of life and death over them and their territory! No one is allowed to express any opinion that touches on the assimilation and illegal occupation of Ambazonia by Cameroon. Everyone is forced to sing false national unity and so-called integration. Those arrested are charged with secession, threat to national unity, terrorism and destabilization. Most are tried in military tribunals and jailed.
5. **No right of freedom of thought:** Upon occupation, names of towns were changed; Plebiscite Day was changed to Youth Day; the two stars on the flag were dropped and replaced by one; the name of the country was returned to the name of Republique du Cameroun; no one is allowed to think in terms of the two states or to question Cameroon's illegal occupation of Ambazonia. The Ambazonian educational and legal systems have been flooded with magistrates and teachers transferred to rush the process of assimilation. The whole educational, legal and cultural system of Ambazonians was designed to be brought down when the revolution erupted. But Cameroon has not even seen anything wrong with its policies. It is still enforcing them.
6. **Arbitrary arrest and detention:** Southern Cameroonians can be stopped anywhere and their phones searched for any content on the Ambazonian problem. Anyone with anything on their phone concerning Ambazonia is promptly arrested, detained and often imprisoned or released on payment of exorbitant sums. The intimidation of Ambazonians to extort money from them has become a new trade.
7. **Looting, burning of settlements, rape, torture, disappearances, extortion and many more crimes** are now simply routine.

The international community has no clue about these entrenched violations when they speak of Ambazonia patching up with Cameroon! Let them tell us how the people of Ambazonia can live in a country in which they are denied all these rights,

and in which the government is completely incapable of reversing its heinous policies. No decentralization is possible, not only because we are dealing with colonization, whose cure is never decentralization, but because Cameroon is incapable of seeing Ambazonians have freedom of assembly and freedom of thought. Its nightmare is that any such freedoms will reveal their slave status and Cameroon will have no answer but to finally let them go. Cameroon has erected itself as a god for the Ambazonian people: Ambazonians cannot breathe until Cameroon allows them to breathe; they cannot speak until Cameroon allows them to speak; they cannot complain until Cameroon allows them to complain!

The challenge is on Ambazonians to bring these facts to the attention of the international community so that everyone can see clearly that there is simply no hope of a life in one country. Fortunately, each people have their own internationally defined territory so there is no reason for further conflict. Since international organisations want to speak in terms of human rights rather than the territorial violations of Cameroons, we have a chance here to properly articulate the problem in the terms they would understand and accept.

Please spread as widely as possible.

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