



PRESS RELEASE

SCA Germany e.V. calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Southern Cameroonians leaders and all other Southern Cameroonians illegally detained in Cameroon in connection with the crisis in the Southern Cameroons.

On 5th January 2018, the leaders of the self-proclaimed independent state of Ambazonia, including Sisiku Julius AyukTabe and nine of his cabinet members were abducted at Nera Hotel in Abuja, allegedly by Nigerian Secret Service Department and detained under inhumane conditions in an underground bunker until they were dumped in a military aircraft with hands tied and no safety, and refouled to Cameroon together with 43 asylum seekers from the Southern Cameroons. In Yaoundé, they were kept incommunicado under inhumane conditions in the torture chambers of SED Gendarmerie for eight months before their families and lawyers could hear from them. Their refoulement violates all international humanitarian norms.

On 21st August 2019, the military court charged them of terrorism and secession and sentenced them to life imprisonment in what many legal experts have described as a sham trial. This politically motivated judgement is contrary to the decision of the Abuja Federal High Court of 1st March 2019, which found the abduction and refoulement to Cameroon illegal under National Refugee Act, section 35 of the Nigerian constitution and article 12 of African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and ordered their return to Nigeria and a compensation of 5 million naira each as damages. We have taken note that this case has received too little international attention.

On another note, the proprietor and wife, and four members of the teaching staff of *Mother Francisca Bilingual International Academy Fiango* in Kumba are being held in military detention and charged with terrorism and capital murder amongst others after unidentified armed men stormed the school and killed seven pupils on the 24th of October 2020.

Since the beginning of the so-called "Anglophone crisis" in October 2016, over 4000 persons from the English-speaking regions have been arrested and are being held in different detention centres mostly in francophone Cameroon under inhumane conditions with no trial.

SCA Germany e.V. condemns with the strongest terms these arbitrary detentions and human rights violations and calls for the immediate and unconditional release of the Southern Cameroons leadership in detention and all other detainees in connection with the so-called "Anglophone crisis".

SCA Germany e.V. calls upon the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Nations, African Union and the International Community to take responsibility and contribute appropriately to finding a lasting solution to the root causes of this ongoing conflict.

SCA Germany e.V. reminds the international community that the crisis in Southern Cameroons, described by the Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary General, Jan Egeland, as the most neglected humanitarian crisis of the world, would lead to a destabilization of the whole Gulf of Guinea if not addressed to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned. We are afraid that any solution that does not address the root causes of the problem would only worsen the situation. SCA Germany e.V. also believes that the so-called "Swiss-led process" has been a failure and therefore a reputable and a neutral organisation or third party would be recommended.

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