



December 8, 2020

## **THE CONTINUING DEVASTATING HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS/AMBAZONIA**

Between the 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, yet another lockdown was called for by the leaders of the people of the Southern Cameroons to prove to the international community the complete rejection by the people of the Southern Cameroons of any political activities and elections organized in their territory by the Republic of Cameroon. In solidarity and conviction about their cause, Southern Cameroons / Ambazonian women joined in the lockdown. Lockdowns have become one of the only peaceful ways for the people of the Southern Cameroons to speak to the international community, which also explains why Women for Permanent Peace and Justice (WPPJ) would prefer this method of non-violent protest and communication than violence.

However, lockdowns, the ban on farm tools declared by the Cameroon Minister of Territorial Administration, the general insecurity and the continuing war, have exacerbated the already heightened risk that millions will die from famine and lack of access to health care. As long as the international community continues to neglect the conflict and peddle a narrative that has no relation to the facts on the ground, the situation can only be expected to deteriorate.

WPPJ, in its advocacy role as the voice of the suffering women and children in this and other conflicts, once more calls on the international community to assume its responsibilities of mediating an end to this conflict. In advance of the upcoming UN Security Council UNOCA hearings, the cry of WPPJ is to see concrete actions and not platitudes or appeasement by those who have the power to help resolve what everyone now agrees is a neglected but intractable war.

Notwithstanding the expected praises that will be heaped on Paul Biya by UN Special representative, Mr. Francois L. Fall of UNOCA for what some would call regional elections towards decentralization, WPPJ reminds the international community that these unilateral actions by the Cameroon government do not in the least address the root causes that the international community has been asking to be addressed. They are rather attempts to undermine the international calls for the root causes to be addressed in internationally mediated talks.

WPPJ hereby reiterates its position on the conflict:

1. The declaration of a ceasefire by Cameroon, withdrawal of its Battalion Intervention Rapide (B.I.R), and the dropping down of arms by the armed groups;
2. Release of all political prisoners held in relation to the conflict, and
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> party-mediated talks between the two warring parties addressing the root causes for lasting solutions.

**Cc:**

H.E. Christoph Heusgen, German Ambassador to the UN  
H.E. Nicolas de Riviere, France Ambassador to the UN  
H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, Nigerian President  
H.E. Simonetta Sommaruga, President Swiss Federation  
Dr. Jill Biden, First Lady of the United States, Mother, Educator  
H.E. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S., In-coming Ambassador to the UN  
Tibor Nagy, Assistant Secretary for U.S. Department of State's Bureau of African Affairs  
Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson, The African Union Commission  
Silencing the Guns in Africa  
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The Commonwealth  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
OCHA Cameroon, The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Cameroon  
Sebastien Nadot, French Parliamentarian  
Al Jazeera News  
Religious leaders

*Encl/ Statement by WPPJ on the Kumba Massacre, October 24, 2020*