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Women for Permanent Peace & Justice (WPPJ) welcomes and applauds the statement by the U.S., Belgium, and the U.K made on the February 14, 2023, on the 3rd anniversary of the Ngarbuh massacres for full accountability for the 33 innocent civilians killed including children and pregnant mothers in what is yet an uninvestigated and unpunished crime against humanity in Southern Cameroons.

WPPJ wishes to let the international community know that asking the government of the Republic of Cameroon (LRC) to carry out investigations and bring those responsible to justice is not the appropriate approach in seeking answers and guaranteeing transparent investigations and accountability for the following reasons:

LRC lacks the ability and the political will to carry out transparent investigations aimed at bringing justice for those massacred. LRC accepted responsibility for the heinous crimes, yet to date, the civilian and military commanders who deployed the soldiers and their militias remain free. Rather, some were publicly praised and later promoted to senior positions within the government and the military.

WPPJ reminds the international community that LRC does not have the statutory framework in its penal code to investigate and punish crimes against humanity.

Furthermore, LRC has demonstrated time and again that it will not accept international mechanisms or processes to resolve its war of choice in Southern Cameroons by addressing its root causes.

The Ngarbuh massacres, like similar massacres committed against innocent civilians in Bucha, Ukraine drew swift and immediate condemnations, investigations, and ICC referrals. We are hard pressed to understand the lack of an unequivocal international intervention to protect civilians in Southern Cameroons.

WPPJ calls on the US and Belgium, two countries that have universal jurisdiction, to exercise that obligation to investigate and punish the perpetrators of the Ngarbuh crimes or to bring the matter before the UN Security Council to make a referral to the ICC or any other international body with accountability mechanisms.

WPPJ decries the silence coupled with inaction by the international community for whom these crimes are simply to be left in the hands of the perpetrators. The military and accompanying militia knew that civilian settlements were to always be protected not attacked.

We again appeal to the civilized world that on the 3rd anniversary of the Ngarbuh killings and on behalf of all other victims in Southern Cameroons that the time for justice is NOW, and the time for a robust intervention is now.