



## ANGLOPHONE CRISIS : SENATOR HENRY KEMEN OF GAMSEY MURDERED BY ARMED MEN IN THE NORTHWEST REGION OF CAMEROON

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Douala- Bamenda-Buea, January 13, 2022 **The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC):**

has learned with great sadness of the assassination of Mr. Henry Kemende Gamsey, senator elected under the colors of the Social Democratic Front (SDF), opposition political party founded in May 1990 by Ni John Fru Ndi, its president, by separatist militants.



#### The facts:

On January 11, 2022, around 8:00 p.m., the lawyer at the Bar of Cameroon and Senator Kemende Henry Gamsey was killed at his home in Bamenda, capital of the North-West region, and his wife kidnapped and driven to an unknown destination and his vehicle taken away.

Fervent defender of human rights and the Anglophone cause, Senator Kemende Henry Gamsey, in a letter, had questioned the President of the Republic in March 2019. He asked the latter if "the government was winning or losing the war in the Northwest and Southwest.

In this letter, the elected official denounced the management of this crisis, which has only become bogged down, leaving many victims on the ground.

REDHAC deplors this murder, which confirms that the war in the North-West and South-West regions will not end with arms, but through an inclusive dialogue that will bring all stakeholders to the table.

REDHAC calls on the government, especially President Paul Biya, to be more realistic and urges him to set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, without which all the conflicts that are raging in Cameroon will not end.

**From all of the above,**

#### **The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC):**

- ✓ Very saddened, firmly condemns these heinous crimes perpetrated by armed men and sends its sincere condolences to the family so sorely tried;



- ✓ Denounces the assassinations, the physical and moral torture sessions as well as the inhuman and degrading treatment inflicted on the targeted authorities;
- ✓ Protests against the assassinations of lawyers, senators, traditional chiefs, civilians, teachers and other human rights defenders who are only doing their job to defend human rights;

### **The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) recalls :**

- ✓ That no claim, no matter how legitimate, can justify the murders, horrors, exactions and other human rights violations committed in the regions in conflict.

### **Consequently, REDHAC calls on all parties to the conflict to :**

The scrupulous respect of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which, in its articles 3 and 5, stipulates: article 3: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person", article 5: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

### **To the Government of Cameroon, REDHAC :**

- ✓ Recalls once again that its regalian responsibility is the protection and security, in all circumstances, of the territory and the populations living there;
- ✓ Recommends that it take all appropriate and urgent measures to ensure the security of senators, lawyers, traditional chiefs, civilians, human rights defenders, including humanitarian workers in conflict areas.

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