



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON : INSULTS, HATE SPEECH AND DEATH THREATS AGAINST MR.  
JEAN FRANÇOIS CHANNON : PUBLICATION DIRECTOR OF THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "LE  
MESSENGER".

Douala-Cameroon: REDHAC Press Release N°020/14072022

Douala, July 14, 2022: The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) has learned of the situation faced by Jean François CHANNON in the exercise of his profession as a journalist



### The facts

During the night of July 7, 2022, two individuals tried to attack Jean François CHANNON who was returning home. Fortunately, the vigilance and especially the dexterity of his driver allowed him to escape the ambush that was set for the Director of Publication. The attackers, visibly armed, tried to catch up with the vehicle but in vain.

As a reminder, in its issue of Monday November 22, 2021, the newspaper "Le Messenger" published an article on the case between Mr. Robert ATANGANA, former Mayor of Yaoundé VI and the company Cana Bois and Nassar Bou Hadir. Subsequently, the said newspaper carried out investigations and followed up this case in court in order to give the right information to the public opinion.

But for some time now, the Director of Publication of the daily newspaper Le Messenger has been the victim of insults, hateful comments and death threats for having published about this case. "For some time now, I have been receiving a lot of death threats and hate messages simply because the newspaper Le Messenger reported the facts about the case between Robert Atangana and Cana Bois. We have done our job as journalists and will continue to do so without hesitation"; these words of Jean François CHANNON show the dangers to which he is exposed and the risks of the profession of journalist in Cameroon. Also, the Facebook account answering to the name of "Anaïs Ongomo" which regularly broadcasts insults against this journalist is also the proof of the cyber attacks of which many human rights defenders and journalists are victims on a daily basis.

From all of the above,

REDHAC :

- Expresses its support for journalist Jean François CHANNON and encourages him in his profession whose contribution is of paramount importance for the construction of a democratic society concerned with human rights;



- Condemns the insults, hateful comments and death threats against him;
- Protests against the persecution of the profession of journalist;
- Demands that Jean François CHANNON as well as all journalists who are victims of threats and reprisals of all kinds be able to work in peace and that the authors and sponsors of the acts of threats and intimidation of which he is a victim be sought out and brought to justice in order to answer for their acts.

In the same vein, REDHAC reminds the Cameroonian authorities that Jean François CHANNON only informed the public opinion on a matter related to the management of public affairs; anything that deserves to be encouraged and by ricochet recommends that a framework conducive to the exercise of the profession of journalist be arranged, REDHAC says it is closely following this specific case and will be able to seize the international authorities so that the safety of journalists and particularly that of Jean François CHANNON is ensured.

Finally, REDHAC:

- Encourages the Cameroonian government to effectively protect Human Rights Defenders, by adopting a law on "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders", so proposed by REDHAC since 2018.

FOLLOW US

Phone : Office (+237)233 42 64 04

MOB : (+237) 691 23 89 96/ 697 61 81 95

Facebook :RedhacRedhac

Twitter : @RedhacRedhac