



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON:

VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE PRESS, EXPRESSION AND OPINION:

Mr. Jacque Blaise MVIE, Mr. Conrad ATANGANA journalists and the press organ called "La Nouvelle" summoned to the Regional Division of the Judicial Police of the Center.

Urgent Appeal N°01/12/01/2023

On January 12, 2023, REDHAC was informed by concordant sources of the convocation of Mr. Jacque Blaise MVIE, Mr. Conrad ATANGANA: both journalists as well as the press organ called "La Nouvelle" by the Divisional Commissioner Mr. Moïse EMANE EMANE, following the complaint n° 000146/DGSN/DRSNC/DRPJ/SEC of January 12, 2023, of Mr. Jean Pierre AMOUGOU BELINGA, President and General Manager of the group l'Anecdote for: "defamation, insults and others".

The aforementioned summons asks the journalists and the media organization to present themselves at the Regional Division of the Judicial Police of the Centre, door 10, on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. precisely, each with his or her identity document for their hearing in relation to the facts of the case.

The facts:

On January 09, 2023, the press organ called "la nouvelle" No. 682 published a report on the alleged misappropriation of public funds from lines 65 of MINFI (Ministry of Finance) and 94 of MINEPAT (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Development).

Among those suspected in this operation of embezzlement of public funds, is the name of the CEO of the Anecdote Group, Jean Pierre AMOUGOU BELINGA.

The newspaper "La Nouvelle" whose headline is entitled "open robbery; this man is dangerous", on page 12, Mr. Conrad ATANGANA makes damning denominations against Mr. Jean Pierre AMOUGOU BELINGA who has "benefited from significant payments estimated at 46 billion CFA francs over the period from 2013 to 2021. This through a multitude of real companies and / or unknown to the tax authorities ...".

In the same publication, Jacques Blaise MVIE on page 10, goes in the same direction as his colleague Conrad ATANGANA and presents the CEO of the Anecdote Group as "the visible face of a well-oiled network whose members are recruited in several noble strata of the Republic...". He also describes the management of lines 94 of MINEPAT and 65 of MINFI as "chaotic".

From all the above, the Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its coalition country-Cameroon:

Remain very concerned about:



the resurgence of attacks on fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly the freedoms of expression, press and opinion, association and assembly so dear to His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon;

- The legal and judicial harassment, intimidation, threats of arrest and other reprisals against journalists, human rights defenders and democracy activists, without forgetting the activists of opposition political parties;
- The muzzling of the press, especially the private press, whose contribution rightly contributes to the plurality of societal, political and economic debate in a democratic environment for greater transparency of public accountability and good governance.

Also REDHAC and its coalition country-Cameroon:

- strongly condemn these numerous violations of the rights and freedoms of opinion, expression and press;
- support the journalists Jacque Blaise MVIE and Conrad ATANGANA and encourage the press organization called "La Nouvelle" to continue to work in a professional manner as in the past, to build a democratic society concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights;
- request the Public Prosecutor of the Yaoundé Administrative Center Court of First Instance (TPI), Mr. Moise EMANE EMANE, and Mr. Jean Pierre AMOUGOU BELINGA, Chairman of the General Manager of the Anecdote Group, to cease all intimidation, threats and permanent reprisals against journalists, press organs, human rights defenders and democracy activists in general
- Recommend that the government protect journalists, media outlets, human rights defenders and democracy activists in all circumstances in accordance with the 1998 United Nations Declaration and all related regional instruments.

To the United Nations, the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

REDHAC and its coalition country-Cameroon, recommend to call on the Cameroonian Government to scrupulously respect the conventions, treaties, protocols, charters, principles on the regional (African Union) and international (UN) levels of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms freely ratified and signed by the State of Cameroon, notably

I. THE 2002 AFRICAN UNION DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN AFRICA (CADHP)

"Preamble

Reaffirming the crucial importance of freedom of expression as an individual human right, a cornerstone of democracy and also as a means to ensure respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms



Convinced that respect for freedom of expression and the right of access to information held by public bodies and corporations will lead to greater public transparency and accountability as well as good governance and the strengthening of democracy;

Convinced that laws and customs that repress freedom of expression do a disservice to society;

- On the right to information and private broadcasting

Principle1 :

"States should promote an independent and diverse private broadcasting sector. A State monopoly on broadcasting is not compatible with the right to freedom of expression;

- On the regulatory bodies of broadcasting and telecommunications Principle1 :

"Independence of Regulatory Bodies: Any public authority exercising powers in Regulation must be independent and well protected against interference, in particular of a political or economic nature";

"Complaints: Any regulatory body established to hear complaints about media content, including media councils, must be protected from undue interference of a political, economic and other nature."

II. THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (ACPHR)

Article 2:

"Every person shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in this Charter without distinction of any kind, such as race, ethnicity, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

Article 9:

"1. Everyone has the right to information.

2. Everyone has the right to express and disseminate his opinions.

III. THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

"Article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers

IV. THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Article 19

"No one shall be molested for his opinions.

2. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression; this right includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.



Finally, REDHAC and its coalition country-Cameroon:

- Encourage 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.

FOR ANY URGENT ACTION:

Useful addresses:

- Mr. Paul Biya: President of the Republic, Presidency of the Republic, Palais de l'Unité, 1000 Yaoundé, Cameroon, Fax +237 222 08 70 ;

- Chief. Joseph Dion Nguete: Prime Minister and Head of Government, Office of the Prime Minister of Cameroon, Fax: +237 22 23 57 35 and email: spm@spm.gov.cm;

- Mr. Laurent Easo: Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, Ministry of Justice, 1000 Yaoundé' Cameroon, Fax: + 237 223 00 05;

- Mr. Joseph Beti Assomo: Minister Delegate to the Presidency of the Republic in charge of Defense, B.P1000 Yaoundé' Cameroon, Fax +237 223 59 71;

- Mr. Paul AtangaNji, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, Fax: + 237 222 37 35;

- Mr. James Mouangue Kobil: President of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (CNDHL), Tel: +237 222 61 17, Fax: +237 222 60 82, E-mail: cndhl@iccnnet.cm;

- Mr. Nouhoum Sangaré: Regional Representative and Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (UNCHR-AC) Email: lbouaka@ohchr.org, Tel: (+237) 222 50 58 10

- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations Office in Geneva, rue du Nant 6, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland, Fax: + 41 22 736 21 65, Email: mission.cameroun@bluewin.ch.

FOLLOW THE REDHAC :

Phone: Office (+237)233 42 64 04

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

Facebook :RedhacRedhac

Twitter : @RedhacRedhac

Website :www.redhac.info