



SOCIO-POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST OF CAMEROON

URGENT APPEAL

Mr. Vitalis LEGENJU, a lawyer at the Cameroon Bar, and his friend Ignatius TEZOM, a teacher, were both kidnapped by separatists.

The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) condemns in the strongest terms the kidnapping of Mr. Vitalis LEGENJU, a lawyer at the Cameroonian bar, and his friend Ignatius TEZOM, a teacher. Mr. Vitalis LEGENJU was shot and wounded by separatists on 30 April 2021 in Muea in the South West region.

Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), journalists and democracy activists must not become targets of the conflicting parties in the North West and South West regions.

Mr. LEGENJU Vitalis is a staunch Human Rights Defender, lead counsel of the CHRDA TASK FORCE for the defence of Anglophone detainees incarcerated in the context of the socio-political crisis in the North-West and South-West of Cameroon since 2016 and collaborator of REDHAC. He cannot in any way be attacked in the exercise of his work as a lawyer and Human Rights Defender.

REDHAC :

Condemns these repeated attacks against Human Rights Defenders in Cameroon and in particular in conflict areas and brings all its support to Mr. Vitalis LEGENJU, and to all Human Rights Defenders working in the North-West and South-West regions.

REDHAC asks you to take urgent action to URGE:

1. The Cameroonian government to put in place legal mechanisms for the protection and security of Human Rights Defenders in Cameroon and in particular in conflict zones;
2. The separatists to cease all forms of attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and civilians;
3. Both parties to the conflict to agree to a ceasefire for the protection of civilians, journalists and human rights defenders;
4. The Cameroonian government to accept an independent, impartial and international fact-finding mission composed of the ACHPR, the UN in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and national, regional and international civil society organisations, friends of Cameroon in order to pave the way for the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, in order to effectively fight against impunity

Useful addresses:

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

-Mr 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;



- M. 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 Defence B.P1000 Yaoundé' Cameroun, Fax +237 223 59 71 ;
- M. Paul Atanga Nji**., Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Fax: + 237 222 37 35 ;
- M. James Mouangue Kobila**: President of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (CNDHL), Fax: +237 223 59 71, Tel: +237 222 61 17, Fax: +237 222 60 82, E-mail: cnhdh@iccnet.cm;
- M Louis-Marie BOUAKA** :Regional Representative and Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in central Africa (CNUDHD-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;



**Me LEGENJU Vitalis, lawyer at the Cameroon Bar,
shot and wounded**

SUIVEZ-NOUS

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