



## SOCIO-POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST OF CAMEROON

### URGENT CALL

THE LAWYER AT THE CAMEROON BAR, COUNSEL OF LADY ANTOINETTE KONGNSO INCARCERATED AT THE PRISON OF BUEA IN THE SOUTH-WEST SUBJECT TO DEATH THREATS IN PARTICULAR Mr. EDWARD LYONGA EWULE, LEGENJU VITALIS, RICHARD TAMFU.

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

On October 2, 2021, elements of the army led by Chief Ewume Eko John (better known as Chief Moja Moja), tortured, arbitrarily arrested and detained Kongnso Antoinette Gohla, an eight-month pregnant woman, in the Buea prison.

On October 15, 2021, Dame Kongnso Antoinette Gohla, through her lawyers, filed an application for habeas corpus before the High Court of the Fako Division, under the number HCF/413/005/2021 against the Commander of the Buea Legion and the Governor of the Buea Central Prison for the illegal detention of the victim.

Since the beginning of this trial, the petitioners have received multiple threats from members of the army, including Chief Moja Moja.

### **Reminder**

On November 18, 2020, Mr. Richard Tamfu was arrested and detained at the Central Prison of New-Bell for defending their colleague. He was sentenced to 6 months in prison with a 3-year suspended sentence and a fine of 128,000 cfa to pay.

On April 30, 2021, in Muea, in the South-West region, Mr. Vitalis LEGENJU was shot in his left foot in the course of his work.

On November 7, 2021, Dame Kongnso Antoinette Gohla gave birth in the regional hospital of Buea and was sent back to detention 3 days later.

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

- Condemns the repeated death threats, arrests and arbitrary detentions against Human Rights Defenders in Cameroon and in particular in conflict zones;
- Denounces the reprisals against Human Rights Defenders, in particular those suffered by Mr. Edward Lyonga EWULE, Legenju Vitalis, Richard



- TAMFU, Lawyers at the Cameroon Bar who are only doing their job to protect and defend human rights.

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

1. Urges the Cameroonian government to immediately and unconditionally release and drop all charges against Dame Kongnso Antoinette Gohla;
2. Demands the immediate arrest of Moja Moja, a BIR soldier and traditional leader, and his removal from the security forces;
3. Demands that he be tried and severely convicted for the senseless acts of which he is regularly the author;
4. Calls for the establishment of legal mechanisms for the protection and security of Human Rights Defenders in Cameroon, particularly in conflict zones;
5. To cease all forms of attacks against human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists and civilians;
6. Encourages the Cameroonian government to ensure legal protection for human rights defenders by adopting the REDHAC draft law on the "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa", which was contextualized by all stakeholders in Douala on March 24, 2021;
7. Reiterates its proposal for the establishment of mechanisms for national reconciliation and peace for sustainable development, which for REDHAC involves a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, in order to effectively fight against impunity.

### **Useful address**

- Mr. Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon, Presidency of the Republic, Palace of Unity, Yaoundé, Cameroon, Fax +237 222 08 70 ;
- Chief Dr. Joseph Dion Ngute, Prime Minister, Head of Government, Office of the Prime Minister, Yaoundé, Cameroon, Fax: +237 22 23 57 35 and e-mail: [spm@spm.gov.cm](mailto:spm@spm.gov.cm);
- Mr. Laurant Ezzo, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, Ministry of Justice, Yaoundé-Cameroon, Fax: +237 223 00 05;
- Mr. Joseph Beti Assomo, Minister, Delegate to the Presidency in charge of Defense, Yaoundé-Cameroon, Fax: +237 223 59 71;
- Mr. Paul Atanga Nji, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, Yaoundé, Fax: +237 222 37 35 ;



- Mr. James Mouangue Kobil, President of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CNDHC), Tel: +237 222 61 17, Fax: +237 222 60 82, E-mail: [cndhl@iccnet.cm](mailto:cndhl@iccnet.cm);
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Nant Street 6, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland, Fax: +41 22 736 21 65, E-mail: [mission.cameroun@bluewin.ch](mailto:mission.cameroun@bluewin.ch);
- United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa in Yaoundé: E-mail: [atraore@ohchr.org](mailto:atraore@ohchr.org): Tel +237 222 21 24 75/222 21 24 77.

## **FOLLOW THE REDHAC**

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