



Suggested recommendations to Cameroon for its review during the 44th session of the UPR Working Group, November 2023

Key Amnesty International Documents on Cameroon for reference

- **With or Against Us: Amnesty International's report on the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, July 2023,**
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr17/6838/2023/en/>
- **February 2023: Urgent Action on case of Abdul Karim Ali,**
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr17/6343/2023/en/>
- **Amnesty annual report entry on Cameroon 2022,**
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/cameroon/report-cameroon/>
- **Cameroon: More than a hundred detainees from Anglophone regions and opposition party languishing in jail for speaking out, 24 January 2022,**
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/01/cameroon-more-than-a-hundred-detainees-from-anglophone/>
- **Free people detained for expressing their opinions in Cameroon: campaign against arbitrary detention in Cameroon, January 2022,**
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/free-people-detained-for-expressing-their-opinions-in-cameroon/>

Recommendations

Amnesty International calls on the government of Cameroon to:

Ensuring accountability and justice for atrocities committed amid armed violence in the Anglophone regions:

- Conduct prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of crimes under domestic law and human rights violations committed by all armed forces in the context of the armed violence in the Anglophone North-West and South-West regions, including into the state's responsibility for crimes committed by the militias, and prosecute and sentence those responsible in fair trials, without recourse to the death penalty;
- Ensure that all victims of crimes and human rights violations are able to participate in the abovementioned trials and, more broadly, provided with truth and justice;

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- Ensure that all victims of crimes and human rights violations are granted reparation, including measures of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, and including ensuring those people whose identity documents have been destroyed or lost in the context of the armed violence can get prompt support from the authorities to obtain new ones;
- Ensure military tribunals can only have jurisdiction over offences of a purely military nature committed by military personnel;
- Make the declaration under Article 34.6 of the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, which enables NGOs and individuals to bring cases to the court directly.

Arbitrary detention

- Immediately and unconditionally release all persons arbitrarily detained;
- Ensure that arrests and detentions are conducted in compliance with international human rights standards and domestic law, and that all security forces are trained on and understand these norms;
- Ensure that there are sufficient, recognizable and precise grounds for arrest and that evidence is appropriately gathered. A suspect must only be arrested if there is a reasonable suspicion that he or she may have committed a crime. If there are insufficient grounds for arrest, the person must be immediately released;
- Ensure that detainees are promptly brought before an ordinary court that upholds international fair trial standards, are informed of the charges against them, and have knowledge of and access to legal procedures allowing them to challenge the legality of their detention.

Freedom of expression:

- Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- Immediately end the arbitrary arrest and detention of people who are merely exercising their right to freedom of expression or peaceful assembly;
- Refrain from implementing total or partial Internet blackouts, in compliance with international standards on freedom of expression;
- Take all appropriate measures to protect journalists, human rights defenders and activists who receive threats for having documented or denounced crimes and human rights violations in the context of the armed violence in the Anglophone regions;
- Respect the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Finalize, within a clear time frame, the adoption of a comprehensive legal framework on minorities and Indigenous peoples, including constitutional protection, via a process that ensures the effective and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples and ethnic groups as well as civil society organizations.

Cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms

- Affirmatively respond to requests for visits by UN Special Procedures without further undue delay, especially the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders.
- Affirmatively respond to the request made by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to conduct a fact-finding mission on human rights violations in the Anglophone regions.