

Transcript of Q&A Section (lightly edited, anonymized)
Cameroon: Paths to Peace in a Pandemic, Webinar 3 — May 2, 2020

Does the panel think that the BIR's historical role in protecting oil industry interests is fuelling the conflict in the anglophone regions?

Very clear presentation by Prof. Roberts. I hope you will not fail to address the lack of prudent financial management and high levels of corruption.

Thanks, Chris, for a brilliant and informative presentation.

It is the role of the state to take care of its citizens but the case of Cameroon has proven otherwise. The president declared war on its people. Why has the international community not sanction the government? Why has the UN and international community force the government to go for the Swiss talk?

Could Juliette please elaborate on the alternative action paths to the UN sec council she alluded to?
Thanks.

Will this webinar be available for viewing after today?

So far the panelist have done great by their presentations and research on Peace and Security of Cameroon. My question is this. What is the solution to Cameroon Peace and Security situation. Would change of leadership of the government in Cameroon be an option? Because it shows clearly that they have been a long time failure of government and it's resources in the leadership of Cameroon. Unfortunately.

To what extent has Covid-19 lessened the military conflict in the South West and in the North?

To Juliette: Do you think the current R2P framework is fit for handling human catastrophes like in Cameroon? If no, do you think an amendment of the "right to authorize intervention" outside of the UNSC can make any difference in the Anglophone crisis and global humanitarian crisis in general?

Very Interesting. Given your talk, will you agree that President Biya has over time built a powerful alliance system in foreign policy which ensures his stay in power. In order words, Biya has executed the type of foreign policy which makes many nations unable to go after him. His foreign policy tactics have made major powers and alliances believe in the importance and stability of Cameroon under him. It goes back to foreign policy been about "eternal interests." This, it seems, remains the calculations of the major powers. See recent article, Julius Amin, "Cameroon's policy towards Nigeria: A Foreign Policy of Pragmatism," *Journal of Modern African Studies* (February 2020).

What are the ways to put in the pressure?

My question is : Who or What are the subjects of international law, or in different words, who or what has legal personality (i.e the legal competences) to act ? How could the Cameroonian government be forced to enforce it ?

Has the UN failed in its primary role to uphold International peace?

To Chris: I understand your point about the complexity of the role of international partners in the Anglophone crisis, but don't you think you're perhaps underestimating the power of France in Cameroon? France still remains Cameroon's biggest donor and most reliable international partner. The Elysee Palace has a personal relationship with Cameroon and as Emmanuel Macron confirmed in

February, his phone calls to Paul Biya finally led to the release of Maurice Kamto. This shows the influence of France on Cameroon. How do you reconcile this with your arguments?

As a NGO working in Cameroon, how to apply pressure on the government without endangering our project workers and beneficiaries?

I thank all 3 of the presenters for their thoughtful and engaging analysis. My question is: how are the presenters defining militarization? And how does the militarization of the civilian population, beyond the military soldiers and the amazonian fighters, hinder the road to peace in Cameroon?

Thanks for much for discussion the situation in Cameroon and the implementation of the concept of R2P. Considering the situation in Cameroon attracts the implementation of R2P pillar 2 and there little or no pressure from Regional and Sub-Regional bodies is there any possibility for the implementation of R2P pillar 3 which calls on UN Security Council ?

Bamenda Cameroon

Thanks.

What can Canadian citizens and citizens of other countries do to influence their national governments to put pressure on the Cameroon government to join in meaningful negotiations?

Je souhaite poser la question en terme d'indépendance financière de UA.

2) les défenseurs des droits humains paient le lourd tribut au Cameroun, qu'est-ce qu'on met en place pour les protéger efficacement ?

3) le REDHAC pense qu'il faudrait absolument la Commission justice vérité et réconciliation mais avant une COMMISSION d'enquête internationale, la libération des activistes et la mise en place d'une carte pour le cessez le feu, comment peut on faire ?

My question for all 3 of the presenters: how can Nigeria not be invested in the crisis in Cameroon when Nigeria itself is overwhelmed, economically, politically, and militarily, with Cameroonian refugees who traverse the Nigeria-Cameroon border seeking safety? I wonder if it is because most of these refugees are women and children? Why is Nigeria's apathetic stance to the anglophone crisis different from their investment in working with Cameroon to resolve the Boko Haram situation?

Keeping aside all the reasons advanced as to why it is difficult for concrete actions to be taken against the Cameroon Government to cause them to have a meaningful dialogue as well as engaged in negotiation with the people of Southern Cameroon/Ambazonia.

Thank you for putting this together and for the insightful contributions throughout the webinar series. I have three questions. 1. Why has the webinar series been organised in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic when the challenges though compounded, the political violence and Anglophone crisis in Cameroon and the pandemic are two distinct challenges. Should not the Anglophone crisis be engaged on its own terms, especially in the light of how under-reported and under-discussed internationally the situation is? 2. Also, what is CEMAC and the AU doing especially as it's 2063 agenda includes 'silencing the guns'? 3. Finally, what are religious organisations doing with regards to the crisis, what are they doing in terms of lobbying and mounting pressure on the belligerents?

Une autre question : pour nous qui sommes sur le terrain il nous faut des avocats pour être au côté des militaires qui ont été arrêtés car ce qui nous intéresse ce sont les commanditaire ? nous avons 10 avocats pour les militaires et les victimes. comment faire pour trouver les fonds pour pouvoir les accompagner ?

Why does it need an alignment of the United Nation Security council before the People of Southern Cameroons/Ambazonia can receive Justice ?

My question goes to Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh, who has been fighting institutionalized impunity in Cameroon for more than two decades and a promoter of free, fair, transparent and credible elections across the continent. What are the next steps he wants to take to stop this merry-go-round Human Rights violations against the people of the North West and South Regions?

Again, thanks to all three panellists for their brilliant presentations. The picture emerging from all three presentations is that of the unwillingness or incapacity of the international community to intervene in the face of the stubborn refusal of the belligerents in the armed conflict in Cameroon to engage in a meaningful dialogue to end the crisis. Should the people of the NW & SW regions conclude from this that they are on their own and should not look up to the international community ?

I want to ask a question about the classification of the conflict in Cameroon. The government has continued to call it the war against terrorism, and the non-state actors call it a war of liberation. What according to the international community is the classification of the situation in Cameroon?

Pre-determined outcomes equals pre-determined demands. Impossible demands before any discussion takes place.

Another leadership problem I have seen from Cameroon is failure of the President to open up and seek for help from other countries as necessary.

Why is the right to Self-determination, which is firmly enshrined in the United Nations Charter being denied to people of Southern Cameroons/Ambazonia - whom apparently from inception -after the First World War following the Treaty of Versailles have been an autonomous State before the supposed union ?

How can we hold accountable members of the international community who are complicit in the crisis by funding or (having funded in the past) the BIR?

What about the credibility of the mediator? How should Swiss present herself to be trusted?

Questions for Chris: Looking at the current composition of the AU Peace and Security Council, which country is likely to take on the Cameroon issue?

Comment accompagner les populations qui ont besoin de parler, de partager leurs expériences incluant les autorités religieuses et traditionnelles? Nous voulons bien organiser les dialogues intercommunautaires mais le défi c'est les financements. Le Haut Commissariat du Canada au Cameroun a financé 2 dialogues c'était très édifiant. On souhaite aller de l'avant.

Why is the UN charter on the Protection of minority Groups/people's rights being denied to the People of Southern Cameroons/Ambazonia?

We talked about why governments and agencies are not speaking out; but why is the International Media so quiet?

Why is the world assuming onlooker position while another genocide is being perpetrated on a people, whose only crime is longing for the right to self-determination and to be independent ?

Why has the AU not activated the constitutive act that sets out a codified framework to intervene in a member state in case of genocide war crimes illegal overthrow of government etc.?

How long would it take the UN (evolving from the League of Nations) to acknowledge and ratify their respective roles in giving birth to the ongoing onslaught in Former British Southern Cameroons ?

Why is France Political influence in some African countries and Cameroon in particular continuously undermining the desire of a people (Southern Cameroons and who of course were not a Trustee state to France) from deciding their future without being denied their right to peaceful existence... ?

It is not true that the only meaningful way forward to peace is ensuring the Government is talking with the actual people rather than selecting whom to dialogue with?

Thanks immensely for putting this wonderful initiative together, more grease to your elbows.

Is there some sort of a working paper series that might come out of this, or something like that?

Any intention for more webinars soon?

Thank u so much for this great initiative! We look forward to the next step. I am based in Cameroon and happy to see effort in the line of raising awareness, helping out with technical information to help us move forward

Thanks.

Questions submitted online since the second webinar

“Considering the historical challenges of secession in other African Countries, does secession seem like the only alternative? Is reconciliation even possible at this time?

“Cameroon hospitals already had a solidarity fund since the 90s meant for situations like covid 19. Why is this fund not yet activated?

“What can be done to push the international community to take the steps needed to bring this conflict to an end?

Young Africans from Children for Peace and the African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development (ANYL4PSD) have supported the UN Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire and joined the Basel Peace Office project on Youth Voices for Peace, climate and disarmament. Are you working with these youth for peace in Cameroon and the region? See <http://baselpeaceoffice.org/article/african-youth-voices-climate-peace-and-nuclear-disarmament>

Why is this ongoing genocide in the Cameroons not on the international radar? Commonwealth, Francophonie, AU etc. sent fact finding missions yet no end in sight?

To what extent is French geopolitical interest a determinant to ending the Anglophone crisis?