

**THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE & JUSTICE IN CAMEROON
L'ACTION MONDIALE POUR LA PAIX ET LA JUSTICE AU CAMEROUN**

June 22, 2020

Together we:

- ❖ Applaud UN Secretary-General Guterres's call for a global ceasefire to mitigate COVID-19 in conflict zones, including in Cameroon's Anglophone regions;
- ❖ Echo this ceasefire call, and emphasize that COVID-19 cases cannot be reduced while infrastructure is being attacked, populations are harmed and displaced, and medical and humanitarian aid cannot reach all parts of the North-West and South-West regions; and note that the rate of coronavirus infection in Cameroon is among the highest in Africa;
- ❖ Implore all parties to put the people's immediate health, lives and livelihoods ahead of military objectives;
- ❖ Challenge the warring parties in Cameroon's Anglophone conflict to bravely and publicly declare a humanitarian ceasefire.

We are joined in this ceasefire challenge by respected leaders from the international community, listed below.

CHALLENGE

1

We challenge the government and military of the Republic of Cameroon to call a ceasefire in the two Anglophone regions.

The government of the Republic of Cameroon holds a special responsibility to protect its citizens under international law. Citizens cannot be protected from COVID-19 and other catastrophic health threats in an active war zone. There should be a ceasefire to:

- protect human life, health workers, patients, health facilities, and ambulances
- allow unfettered access of humanitarian aid to the North-West and South-West regions

2

We challenge all non-state armed groups (NSAGs) in the two Anglophone regions to call a ceasefire.

Thank you to APLM-SOCADEF for already declaring and renewing a temporary ceasefire. All other non-state armed groups are challenged to declare a ceasefire as well, to protect citizens from COVID-19 and other catastrophic health threats in an active war zone, and:

- protect human life, health workers, patients, health facilities, and ambulances
- allow unfettered access of humanitarian aid to the North-West and South-West regions

3

We challenge the UN Security Council and UN Secretary-General, the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Commonwealth, and La Francophonie to:

- use all instruments of power at their disposal to urge the Republic of Cameroon to call a COVID-19 ceasefire
- ensure that Cameroon's Anglophone conflict is on the agenda of the forthcoming UN Security Council meeting and all UNOCA sessions before the UNSC

SIGNATORIES

Doctor Denis Mukwege
Nobel Peace Prize 2018

Panzi Hospital and Foundation, Democratic Republic of the Congo and United States

Professor Muhammad Yunus
Nobel Peace Prize 2006

Founder of the Grameen Bank, People's Republic of Bangladesh

The Honourable José Ramos-Horta
Nobel Peace Prize 1996

Former President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

The Honourable FW de Klerk
Nobel Peace Prize 1993

Former President of the Republic of South Africa

The Honourable Oscar Arias Sánchez
Nobel Peace Prize 1987

Former President of the Republic of Costa Rica

The Right Honourable Joe Clark
Former Prime Minister of Canada

Former Foreign Minister and Minister of Constitutional Affairs of Canada

The Honourable Ricardo Lagos
Former President of Chile

The Right Honourable Harriet Baldwin, Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom
Former United Kingdom Joint Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development

The Right Honourable Andrew Mitchell, Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom
Former United Kingdom Secretary of State for International Development

US Ambassador (ret.) R. Niels Marquardt
Former United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon

US Ambassador (ret.) John Yates
Former United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon

US Ambassador (ret.) Harriet Isom
Former United States Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon

Doctor Simon Adams
Executive Director of The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, United States

Ms. Ewelina U. Ochab
Co-Founder of the Coalition for Genocide Response, United Kingdom

International Council of Nurses
Swiss Confederation

Cameroonian names are intentionally withheld