

# Canadians for Peace in Cameroon



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## **Petition on Cameroon's Anglophone Crisis submitted to the Canadian government**

On November 4, Len Webber, MP, will present an E-petition to Parliament signed by 638 Canadian citizens and residents representing every province, calling on the Canadian government to speak out on Cameroon's spiralling Anglophone Crisis. This will be followed over the next weeks by eight paper petitions from Canadians calling for specific actions relating to Cameroon's Crisis.

What began in 2016 as peaceful protests by Anglophone Cameroonian lawyers and teachers against the central government's placement of French-speaking judges and teachers in English-speaking courts and schools, including a systematic erosion of English Common Law procedures, deteriorated into a violent conflict and humanitarian disaster after the government responded with disproportionate force. Cameroonian President Paul Biya's military is now battling increasingly brutal non-state armed separatist groups seeking to form an independent state, while civilians are helplessly caught in the crossfire. There is overwhelming evidence of crimes against humanity perpetrated by all sides in this raging conflict.

World powers have offered occasional condemnations of specific incidents in the Anglophone Crisis, such as the Kumba massacre two weeks ago, in which 7 schoolchildren were killed by armed gunmen, and the Ngarbuh massacre, in which Cameroonian soldiers and armed men killed and 'roasted' the corpses of up to 23 civilians, including 15 children, on February 14, 2020. However, civilians in Cameroon and friends of Cameroon in Canada are crying out for concrete action by the international community to stop the atrocities, protect civilians, and force all sides to sit at the table and seek peaceful resolution.

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The E-petition, coordinated by Canadians for Peace in Cameroon, can be accessed at <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2435>.

The paper petitions to be tabled by various MPs from across the country ask for Canada to take steps to help push the warring parties away from violence. One petition asks Canada to remove Cameroon from its Military Training Assistance Program due to human rights violations by Cameroonian military forces. (For example, the US [cut some military aid to Cameroon](#) in February 2019.) Another petition asks for Canada to invoke the Magnitsky Law to impose targeted smart sanctions such as asset freezes and travel bans on individuals implicated in atrocity crimes—including both Cameroonian government and military officials, and also Cameroonian diaspora members who are funding and inciting violence in Cameroon from their homes in Europe and North America. Another petition calls for a House of Commons Resolution similar to a significant bipartisan [resolution](#) introduced last month in the US Senate.

In addition to the US Senate resolution, which considers targeted sanctions on the warring parties, institutions such as The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in New York have called on governments to [halt military assistance](#) to Cameroon. Canadians for Peace in Cameroon hopes that Canada, as an English-French bilingual country like Cameroon, with a large Cameroonian diaspora, will be a champion for human rights and peacebuilding and follow suit with action.

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*Canadians for Peace in Cameroon is a group of individual Canadians who are advocating for peace and human rights in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon. We continue to promote nonviolent paths to peaceful resolution of the Anglophone conflict. We issue a weekly update on the Cameroon Crisis and can be contacted at [Canadiansforpeaceincameroon@gmail.com](mailto:Canadiansforpeaceincameroon@gmail.com) or on twitter [@Canadiansforpe1](https://twitter.com/Canadiansforpe1).*

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