

MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES,
DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE
ET DES AUTRES
ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
GENÈVE



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,
THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
AND TO OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA

23, AVENUE DE FRANCE
1202 GENÈVE - SUISSE
TÉL. 022 787 50 40 - FAX 022 736 21 65

Genève, le 27 JAN. 2017

N° 032 /NV/MPCG/PS1/S3

La Mission Permanente de la République du Cameroun auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève présente ses meilleurs compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme et, faisant suite à l'appel urgent des procédures spéciales du 16 Décembre 2016, (Droit à la liberté d'opinion et d'expression ; droit de réunion pacifique et liberté d'association ; défenseur des Droits de l'Homme ; questions des Minorités),

a l'honneur de lui transmettre sous ce pli, pour information et en réponse, la Note Diplomatique du Gouvernement Camerounais relativement à cet Appel.

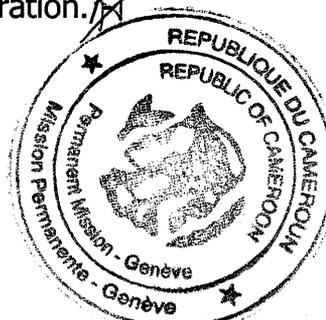
Le Haut-Commissariat voudra bien également trouver aussi joint à la présente Note Verbale, à l'attention des dits titulaires de mandat, une récente Communication Gouvernementale du Ministre de la Communication du Cameroun sur ces problématiques. La dite Communication informe des négociations entre les parties ainsi que des matières sur lesquelles ont porté les échanges entre ces parties. Elle fait aussi l'économie des problèmes évoqués, du comportement fort étonnant des activistes ; des mesures prises par le Gouvernement dans le cadre d'un Etat de droit, ainsi que les positions Gouvernementales sur l'ensemble de la situation.

La Mission Permanente de la République du Cameroun saisit cette occasion pour renouveler au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme à Genève, les assurances de sa parfaite considération.

P.J. : 04

**Haut-commissariat des Nations Unies
aux Droits de l'Homme
Palais Wilson
Rue des Pâquis 52**

1211 - GENEVE 10



OHCHR REGISTRY

- 1 FEB 2017

Recipients : SPB
.....
.....
.....



REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN- REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
MINISTERE DES RELATIONS EXTERIEURES-MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon has taken note of the Declaration made by the United States State Department on 28 November 2016, and that of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights on 13 December 2016 on the situation prevailing in certain Regions in Cameroon.

While taking note of these Declarations, the Government of Cameroon avails itself of this opportunity not only to set the records straight but also to state what has been done to solve the problems raised.

Following protests by English-speaking lawyers and teachers and then students of the University of Buea, the Government set out to maintain dialogue and consultation with a view to finding solutions to the problems raised.

The Prime Minister, Head of Government made a working visit to Bamenda from 25 to 27 November 2016 to discuss with lawyers' and teachers' representatives. He also set up an inter-ministerial committee to examine the problems of teachers.

Negotiations were opened with the sectors in question, at the behest of the Minister of State, Keeper of the Seals, on the one hand, and the Minister of Higher Education, on the second hand.

The Prime Minister, Head of Government, also announced the setting up of an ad hoc committee, Chaired by his Director of Cabinet, to address the concerns expressed by English-speaking teachers, the provision of a special grant of 2 Billion CFA francs to lay private and denominational schools and the special recruitment of 1,000 young graduates of higher and technical education who are perfectly bilingual.

At the same time, the Minister, Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic, on the esteemed Instructions of the Head of State, received on 28 November 2016 the English versions of the OHADA Treaty and the Uniform Acts of OHADA, which constituted one of the strong demands of lawyers. These documents were transmitted to the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, who officially handed them to the President of the Cameroon Bar Association.

At the University of Buea, students' concerns were addressed. Thus, the sanctions for late payment of university fees have been lifted and the academic excellence allowance paid.

As regards the demonstrations in Bamenda on 8 December 2016, it should be pointed out that the source was the disruption of a regularly authorized meeting of the Cameroon Peoples Democratic Movement (CPDM).

Long before the start of this meeting, gangs of vandals invaded the the meeting ground, disrupted the movement of people and goods in the town, causing enormous damage and destruction. That is how a female CPDM militant partially burned and others were wounded. Vehicles of citizens were destroyed, as well as those of administrative authorities; a police station was completely burned down and some wards in the regional hospital were ransacked. The protesters increased their anti-patriotic move by burning the flag of the Republic..

Faced with these demonstrations, Administrative Authorities and the forces of law and order showed a lot of restraint and professionalism, in strict compliance with the law and international commitments of Cameroon in the field of human rights. Investigations are being carried out on cases of allegations of abuses and appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken if they prove to be accurate.

Generally, the Government of Cameroon would like to recall that in every State governed by the rule of law, it is the prime responsibility of public authorities to ensure respect for law and order. The exercise by citizens of their rights, like the right to strike, is carried out under the conditions laid down by law. In this respect, the actions of the law enforcement forces cannot be compared with those of persons who have deliberately violated the law and attack citizens and their property or public property. In this regard, the Government of Cameroon would like to stress that

the forces of law and order were repeatedly assaulted. The perpetrators of such acts are liable to prosecution before the courts and will have the sanctions they deserve.

In Bamenda, in particular on 8 December 2016, it was reported that 8 gendarmes and policemen were injured and the death of two persons deplored. A few weeks ago, another gendarme was killed in Bangolan with a local weapon.

On another level, allegations of prison sentences of 10 years for youths who exchanged text messages referring to Boko Haram are unfounded. As a matter of fact, a public hearing of this case was conducted, in accordance with the Law on combating terrorism, and two of the three accused were acquitted. The latter, who was sentenced to eleven months' imprisonment on 22 February 2016 for spreading false information, was since released.

As regards, in particular, the concern about the arrest of militants of one political party, it should be pointed out strongly that in all countries the organization of public meetings is governed by rules of law, which must be abided to by everyone. No one should circumvent strict compliance with the legal and regulatory provisions in this matter on grounds of special status. Moreover, the said militants were all released after identification.

The Government of Cameroon, the United Nations trust country, reaffirms its deep commitment to the peaceful exercise of political freedoms and human rights, just as it is committed to promoting bilingualism throughout the country, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution which enshrines English and French as the two official languages of Cameroon, with equal status.

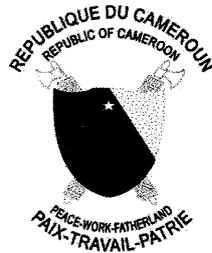
The Government of Cameroon reiterates its constitutional and unwavering commitment to protect human rights and public freedoms but also to carry out its sovereign duty of maintaining law and order.

The Government of Cameroon, in accordance with its option to be open to dialogue, reiterates its unwavering commitment to strengthen its collaboration with friendly powers for greater cooperation through constructive channels, while respecting the sovereignty and independence of each side. In this regard, it welcomes the smooth functioning of the consultation channels set up for this purpose, in particular the Structured Political Dialogues with the European Union and the United Nations System, and the platform for exchanges on these issues

established between the Ministry Of External Relations and the Embassy of the United States of America in Yaounde.

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon expresses its gratitude to the State Department and the High Commissioner for Human Rights for their interest in Cameroon and is ready to work together for the greater protection of human rights and advancement of democracy, with strict respect for its independence and international sovereignty./-

Yaounde, 15th December 2016



REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN- REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
MINISTERE DES RELATIONS EXTERIEURES-MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon has taken note of the Declaration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 13 December 2016 on the situation prevailing in certain Regions in Cameroon.

While taking note of this Declaration, the Government of Cameroon avails itself of this opportunity not only to set the records straight but also to state what has been done to solve the problems raised.

Following protests by English-speaking lawyers and teachers and then students of the University of Buea, the Government set out to maintain dialogue and consultation with a view to finding solutions to the problems raised .

After a working visit to Bamenda from 25 to 27 November 2016 to discuss with lawyers' and teachers' representatives, the Prime Minister, Head of Government, set up inter-ministerial committees to examine the problems of teachers, and in particular English-speaking teachers. He also announced the recruitment of 1,000 young bilingual graduates, and the granting of special subsidies to private education.

Negotiations were also opened with the sectors in question, and the Bar Association received the English version of the OHADA Law, one of its strong demands.

In the University of Buea, students' concerns were addressed. Thus, the sanctions for late payment of university fees have been lifted and the academic excellence allowance paid.

As regards the demonstrations in Bamenda on 8 December 2016, the source was the disruption of a regularly authorized meeting. Gangs of vandals invaded the meeting ground, disrupted the movement of people and goods in the town, causing enormous damage and destruction, and the death of two persons. A police station was burned down and some wards in the regional hospital were ransacked. The protesters increased their anti-patriotic move by burning the flag of the Republic.

Faced with these various demonstrations, Administrative Authorities and the forces of law and order showed a lot of restraint and professionalism, in strict compliance with the law and international commitments of Cameroon in the field of human rights. Investigations are being carried out following allegations of abuses and appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken if they prove to be accurate.

The Government of Cameroon, the United Nations trusteeship country, reaffirms its deep commitment to the peaceful exercise of political freedoms and human rights, just as it is committed to promoting bilingualism throughout the country, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution which enshrines English and French as the two official languages of Cameroon, with equal value.

The Government of the Republic of Cameroon would like to express gratitude to the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights for its interest in Cameroon and is ready to work together for greater protection of human rights and the advancement of democracy, in the strict respect of its international sovereignty.

Yaounde, 15th December 2016



REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN- REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
MINISTERE DES RELATIONS EXTERIEURES-MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS

NOTE DIPLOMATIQUE

Le Gouvernement de la République du Cameroun a pris connaissance de la Déclaration du Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme du 13 décembre 2016, sur la situation qui prévaut dans certaines Régions au Cameroun.

Tout en prenant acte cette Déclaration, le Gouvernement camerounais profite de l'occasion ainsi offerte pour non seulement rétablir la véracité des faits, mais aussi apporter des éléments d'appréciation.

Suite à des protestations d'avocats et d'enseignants d'expression anglaise puis d'étudiants de l'Université de Buea, le Gouvernement s'est attelé à maintenir le dialogue et la concertation, dans le but de trouver des solutions aux problèmes posés.

Après une visite de travail à Bamenda, du 25 au 27 novembre 2016 à l'effet de discuter avec les représentants des avocats et des enseignants, le Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement a créé des comités interministériels chargés d'examiner les problèmes des enseignants, et particulièrement ceux d'expression anglaise. Il a également annoncé le recrutement de 1.000 jeunes diplômés bilingues, et l'octroi de subventions spéciales à l'enseignement.

Des négociations sectorielles ont également été ouvertes, et l'Ordre des Avocats a reçu la version anglaise du droit OHADA, une de ses revendications fortes.

A l'Université de Buea, des solutions ont été trouvées aux sollicitations des étudiants. C'est ainsi que les pénalités liées au paiement tardif des droits universitaires ont été levées et la prime académique à l'excellence payée.

En ce qui concerne les manifestations du 08 décembre 2016 à Bamenda, elles prennent source dans la perturbation d'un meeting régulièrement autorisé. Des hordes de vandales ont ainsi investi les lieux du meeting, mis à mal la circulation des personnes et des biens dans la ville, tout en causant d'énormes dommages et des destructions, et le décès de deux personnes. Un Commissariat a été entièrement brûlé et certains pavillons de l'hôpital régional saccagés. Les manifestants vont pousser plus loin leur dérive anti-patriotique en brûlant le drapeau de la République.

Face à ces diverses manifestations, les Autorités administratives et les forces de maintien de l'ordre ont fait preuve de retenue et de professionnalisme, dans le strict respect de la loi et des engagements internationaux du Cameroun en matière de droits de l'Homme. Des enquêtes sont diligentées sur les allégations d'exactions et les mesures disciplinaires appropriées seront prises si celles-ci s'avèrent exacts.

Le Gouvernement camerounais, Pupille des Nations Unies, réaffirme son attachement profond à l'exercice en toute sérénité des libertés politiques et des droits de l'Homme, tout comme il prend à cœur d'assurer la promotion du bilinguisme sur toute l'étendue du territoire, suivant les dispositions de la Constitution, l'anglais et le français étant les deux langues officielles du Cameroun, d'égale valeur.

Le Gouvernement de la République du Cameroun remercie le Haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme de l'intérêt pour le Cameroun, et est disposé à travailler de concert pour une plus grande promotion des droits de l'Homme et une avancée de la démocratie, dans le strict respect de sa souveraineté internationale./-

Yaoundé, le 15 décembre 2016

24 -01- 2017



MINISTÈRE DE LA COMMUNICATION
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

UPDATE ON THE SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOME LOCALITIES OF THE NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST REGIONS

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

H.E. ISSA TCHIROMA BAKARY
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION

Yaoundé, 17 January 2017

Distinguished Journalists,

I wish you all a warm welcome to this press conference to which I have invited you, which will exchange on the socio-political situation prevailing in certain localities in the North West and South West Regions, following the concerns raised by some Lawyers and Teachers having English as first language of expression.

As you are already aware, in order to review these claims and to seek for the most appropriate solutions, **the Prime Minister, Head of Government**, was enjoined by **His Excellency the President of the Republic** to set up a frameworks for dialogue with the various stakeholders on the concerns raised, so as to examine their relevance and propose solutions to the decision-making bodies that could be envisaged.

With regard to the concerns raised by teachers, two committees were set up by the **Prime Minister, Head of Government**.

With regard to concerns raised by Lawyers, another committee was set up for the same purposes by the **Prime Minister, Head of Government**.

With regard to the case of teachers, I would like to recall that on November 6, 2016, six professional trade unions of English-speaking teachers announced the call for strike to parents, teachers, pupils and students, which was to take effect on November 21, 2016 and which included a total of 11 items of protest on the basis of which the proposed strike was to be undertaken.

A first meeting of negotiations was held at the initiative of the Government in the city of Bamenda.

Given that no compromise was reached in this first meeting, the Government again went to meet the protesters, and it was the **Prime Minister, Head of Government**, who personally led the negotiations, going to Bamenda on the November 25 and 26, 2016.

The trade unions had then taken the commitment to suspend the strike call in the event where at least one of the 11 concerns raised in their strike notice of 6 November 2016 would have received a favorable reply from the Government no later than 30 November 2016.

In the meantime, the Government, in accordance with its commitments and in keeping with its willingness to work for a rapid return to normal, favourably responded to not only

one but to two demands included in the grievances' register of trade unions, notably items 5 and 9 of their strike notice.

It was against this backdrop that, with regard to item 5, which referred to the transfer of teachers having French as their first language with an approximate command of English to teach in English-speaking schools, that **the Head of State** ordered the special recruitment of 1,000 young teachers with a perfect command of English to lecture the required courses in English.

In addition to this favorable response, the Government added another element to item 9 of the aforementioned concerns, which focused on the limited financial capacity of lay and denominational private institutions to meet the objectives of ensuring an optimal training of their learners.

As a response, the **Head of State** ordered the establishment of a special subsidy of CFA F two billion to lay and confessional private schools.

Despite this respect of commitments with regard to both their content, form and procedures by the Government, the other party refused to call off the strike, contrary to what had been agreed upon, on the motive that the claims which

were answered by the Government were not the major ones.

Nevertheless, the Government undertook to reopen negotiations by convening a session of the Ad hoc committee on last December 27 in Bamenda.

And it was during this session that the trade unions tabled two conditions for the resumption of works, the first condition was to increase the number of representatives of the South-West Region in the constitution of the Committee and secondly, the unconditional release of all those arrested during the violent protests.

The Committee, after stating that it was not competent to address the second condition, especially the release of individuals who are in the hands of the judiciary, the six trade unions walked out of the negotiations room.

In order to continue dialogue and to seek a concerted solution to the concerns raised by the trade unions, the Government returned to the table of negotiations through the Ad Hoc Committee set up for this purpose on 12 and 13 January 2017 in Bamenda.

During this session, the trade unions raised their concerns from 11 to 18 then from 18 to 21.

Each of these items was then subjected to a concerted, methodical and rigorous analysis.

This is how at the end of this session, while it was expected that the trade unionists would sign the communiqué to call off the strike, as wished by all the representatives of parents of pupils and promoters of school institutions present at the negotiations, the trade unionists instead asked for a period of reflection before taking any decision. They were naturally granted the time to reflect, and came then back after about thirty minutes and finally refused to allow classes to resume.

And it was precisely at this moment that they tabled two prerequisites conditioning the calling off of the strike action: first, the unconditional release of all those arrested in connection with the strike within the framework of Police and law enforcement operations in the aftermath of organized disorder and violence on the public highway and, secondly, the setting up of a federation as a form of State that should henceforth be made up of two federated States.

After informing them on the one hand, that the first prerequisite was under the competence of the judiciary, and that many of those arrested had already been released and that, on the other hand, with regard to the return to State federalism, **the Head of State** had already made it clear that the form of the State was non-negotiable, the Chairman of the ad hoc committee ended up the meeting.

In an official statement issued on Monday, 16 January 2017, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, in the person of the Minister, Director of Cabinet of the **Prime Minister, Head of Government**, recalled that the Government had already implemented many solutions arising from the claims made by the trade unions of the Cameroonian education system, including the special recruitment of 1,000 bilingual teachers in mathematics, science, technology and French subjects, the ongoing integration of the first wave of Grade I primary school teachers and secondary school teachers, the granting of an additional allocation of CFAF 2 billion in the form of public grants for the 2016/2017 school year to private primary and secondary schools, the organization in 2017 of the National Forum on Education, the redeployment of teachers of the two educational sub-systems.

He also indicated that the recommendations made on all other technical issues had already been transmitted to the **Prime Minister, Head of Government**, and that it was therefore necessary to consider the mission of the Inter-ministerial meeting under his chairmanship as completed.

With regard to the demands made by Lawyers, the constitutional framework for dialogue led by the Minister Delegate to the Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, and mostly constituted by Lawyers, a total of 12 out of the 15 members met in Yaoundé on 27 and 28 December 2016.

The issues raised were:

- the redeployment of the judicial staff according to the particularities between the Civil Law and the Common Law;
- the redeployment of the Judicial Police Officers and the Court Registrars who do not master English;
- the creation of a Special Division of Common Law within the Supreme Court to hear appeals from jurisdictions in the North West and South West Regions;
- the creation of a Common Law Division at ENAM, and pending a more complete medium-term solution, the short-