



THINK LIKE A SCCOPPER



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Bamenda: Cameroun Troops Extort Civilians, Citing Failure to Wear Covid-19 Masks

By Stephen Ngam

Inhabitants of Bamenda have over the past weeks been finding it exceedingly difficult to go about their businesses due to continuous harassment LRC colonial forces. A good number of the population we talked to complained that Cameroun's military, gendarme and police forces are using the pretext of implementing COVID-19 prevention measures to extort money from those travelling within and in and out of the city.

A Presbyterian pastor who pleaded anonymity said he was ordered to pay 12,000 CFA Francs (about 24 USD) for not wearing a face mask at Up Station, the administrative quarter in Bamenda.

"I asked them to issue me a receipt against the 12,000 CFAF, but nobody paid attention to me. When I insisted, one of the gendarme officers ordered me to sit on the ground" the pastor said. The pastor said being alone in the face of the gun wielding troops, he had to sit for hours, only seizing the opportunity of a distraction among the invading troops to make away as they focused on making more money from other travellers.

Meanwhile, SCCOP News was

also informed that the Cameroun military mounted a checkup point around the Travelers' Inn neighborhood between July 28th and 30th 2020. This checkpoint has continually been used by the said military to inflict heavy fines on people who are unable to afford COVID-19 masks, especially those travelling into the North West Region from the South West and other towns within the region.

The checkpoint according to eyewitnesses was dislodged by Ambazonia fighters following a violent confrontation that led to the killing of at least two civilians. According to our sources, the two victims, a woman in her mid thirties and an elderly man, were killed by stray bullets as they tried to run for safety.

Others residents of Bamenda complained that the military have been harassing them in bars, markets and even churches. They said huge sums of



LRC's militarization of Southern Cameroons cities has and continues to only kill civilians

money taken away from them as punishment for not wearing a face mask. Sometimes, depending on the whims and caprices of the soldiers, some are made to pay equally heavy fines for wearing the masks "wrongly", they added.

This is not the first time Cameroun's security and defense forces commit such acts, nor is it even the worst they have done. The question is, when shall it end, because the population can no longer bear it. Recently, taxi drivers in Bamenda and Buea went on strike to express their anger and frustration over what they say is the abusive use of power to extort money on them. However, it could be more consequential to join the war effort, because a government that resorted to killing peaceful protesters may never listen to striking trade

Editorial Note

In line with its approach of prioritizing the grassroots, SCCOP dug deep into the hinterland of the Southern Cameroons and brings you three powerful reports. The stories do not only show the extent of our suffering at the hands of a merciless colonizer. They also show the resilience of our people and identify the cracks in the enemy's clay feet. Cracks that force the enemy soldiers to use failure to wear COVID-19 masks as a means to raise money for their upkeep.

Also inside this edition

- Economic victory for Southern Cameroons as its defence forces compel LRC to abandon looting of wooden electricity transport poles
- Moral victory for the Southern Cameroons as rights groups continue to reveal and condemn wanton murder, arrests and torture of civilians by LRC colonial troops in the Southern Cameroons

Bamenda: Cameroun Troops Extort Civilians, Citing Failure to Wear Covid-19 Masks, cont.

unions again.

It is important to note here that these rampant acts of military intimidation and extortion of the poor masses raises questions about what the Biya government has been doing with the billions it receives in aid from the EU, the IMF and most recently from the African Development Bank to support citizens in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because most citizens are not able to afford the masks and while other coun-

tries provide such equipment to their citizens in addition to other financial and material aid packages, the Cameroun Government has instead been collecting money, including from its citizens, in the name of fighting the disease. This calls to question the acts of the international community who should now know fully well that the money they give Biya is used to kill civilians and maintain his colonial grip on the Southern Cameroons and not to fight COVID-19.

“Because of Ambazonian Forces, We Cannot Replace Electricity Poles!” LRC Authorities Complain

By Sahka Ntumwong

Since the start of the Ambazonian war of independence in 2016, no one will refute that the economic cost on French Cameroon has been unbearable. The war has broken down their economy even as their regime continues to think it can win the war using their military might.

Recently from an article published by THE ASTUTE INK on the link below, it is evident that their Minister of Water and Energy Resources, Gaston Essomba, acknowledged the difficulties in getting electric poles because of harassing attacks by Ambazonian self-defence fighters who LRC officially refers to as terrorists. (Follow the link to the Astute Ink article: <https://www.theastuteink.com/gaston-essomba-applauds-sonatrel-for-the-memvele-mbamayo-hydropower-connection/>).

Equally, a pro-regime online economic newspaper, Business in Cameroon reports that LRC had to reduce its pole replacement rate by 50%, due to its inability to secure a supply of wooden poles across the Bamenda — Bafoussam highway. While the road is in bad condition, people we have been able to talk to, along the Nkambe-Kumbo-Bamenda stretch, also testify that several vehicles which used to cart logs of eucalyptus which are used to make such poles have become a rarity. This is no doubt due to the economic war waged by the Southern Cameroons fighters.

Going by these sources, and the Biya regime Minister of Water and Energy Resources, the LRC government faces an uphill task in the replacement of 50,000 wooden electric poles with concrete poles. Gaston Essomba evaluated the total need of replacement poles in the country at one million, three hundred thousand. He expressed des-

pair at his country's inability to get wooden electric poles, highlighting the prohibitive cost of replacing such poles with concrete pillars. Despite the official narrative of normalcy therefore, LRC is dying within. In fact, for decades since independence, the Southern Cameroons has generously opened its doors for French Cameroon to exploit these forest resources. However, the self-defence forces put a stop to the looting of all resources in 2017, after Biya declared war on peaceful protesters. It is now unbearably costly for LRC to transport its loot from the hinterlands in the Southern Cameroons. They struggle under heavy military escort and at grave danger to bring a few poles across the border with the LRC's west re-



“If you trespass on our land you must dance to our tunes”, Ambaboyes tell LRC. It is under heavy military

gion.

It should be noted that, this has affected power supply enormously in LRC especially in their cities. This could explain why recently, there has been continuous power cuts in select neighbourhoods in the cities of Yaounde and Douala, among others.

It is worth mentioning that although LRC does produce some wooden electric poles itself, a vast majority of such poles used in the whole of Cameroon are exploited from the Southern Cameroons. Whilst heavy duty trucks cart these poles away, no single thought is pared for the local population who have no electricity themselves but are forced to suffer damage to their roads.

Exploiting these forest resources without repairing the roads or electrifying the villages whose wood helps bring power to LRC's cities follows the same pattern as all LRC's actions in the Southern Cameroons: colonial extraction.

The Ambazonian Restoration Forces in this applaudable action of intercepting French Cameroun businesses which illegally exploit the Southern Cameroons' forest resources, are not only doing good to the people of the Southern Cameroons but also to the world as they are helping in protecting the environment by stopping wanton deforestation.

To conclude, is clear that unless they perform a miracle, Cameroun will not be able to maintain a steady supply of energy to its



LRC's electricity supply monopoly, ENEO, has begged their government to allow it to clear all eucalyptus forests in its West region to try to fill the gap caused by their inability to loot poles from the Southern Cameroons.

cities because transmission cannot be done without poles and the cost of the required concrete poles may be unbearable for them.

It is therefore time for them to reduce their losses, surrender and pack their troops out of the Southern Cameroons, and may be, just may be, they can save money to construct a few more concrete electric poles. To the Southern Cameroons defence forces, who with almost their bare hands have achieved such a feat, we say bravo. No weapon can defeat a determined people. Continue to be brave, collaborate and let us do it ourselves.

Rights Group exposes Cameroun's continuous arbitrary arrests and torture of innocent Southern Cameroonians

By Stephen Ngam

The Mandela Center International, an international NGO with special consultative status at the UN, has joined other NGOs in calling on the national and international community to bear witness to the repeated arbitrary arrests, detention, torture and murder of Southern Cameroonians by the Yaounde regime.

Citing the case of Yaya Sule, the rights group indicated that the young Southern Cameroonian was illegally arrested last July 1, 2020 at his residence in Mile 27, Ndot, a locality not far from Bamenda by Cameroun forces. Sule was detained incommunicado on instructions of the LRC colonial administrator, officially known as Senior Divisional Officer, of Ngokentujia Division. The said Senior Divisional Officer, Quetong Handerson Kongeh, is said to have accused Yaya Sule of collaborating with Ambazonian fighters against the state of Cameroun.

The 42 year old carpenter was held in illegal detention at the Ndot police station until July 30, when he was released after going through torture and other ill-treatments. "According to reliable sources he had been subjected to torture, cruel,

inhumane and degrading treatments and been detained incommunicado with broken arms", a statement from the NGO revealed.

A majority of those still under detention from Ngoketunjia Division, like many other English-speaking detainees all over the Southern Cameroons and even in French Cameroun, were arbitrarily arrested. On May 17, 2020, Cameroun's soldiers stormed Bangolan in the same division and arrested 12 persons including notables and the elderly. They were bundled out of their homes and taken to unknown destinations till date – a pattern that recalls the re-foulement of Southern Cameroons leaders by Nigeria, with a UN complicity of silence. The women of Bangolan village launched a "bring back our husbands" campaign for the release of the notables to no avail.

We recall that Samuel Wazizi, a practicing journalist, met his brutal end while still in his prime after being arbitrary arrested in Buea. He was ferried to Yaounde and held under similar opaque circumstances like thousands of Southern Cameroonians. It emerged one year after that he had died in detention 10 months after his arrest.

The phenomenon where Cameroun's security and defence forces break into people's homes, carry out arbitrary arrests became common since the escalation of the war in



Like the late Wazizi, shown here, many Southern Cameroonian citizens, continue to be wantonly locked up, if not murdered, at the whims of the terrorist state of LRC and its French trained Gestapo agents.

Southern Cameroons. They do not only arrest but equally loot properties, sexually molest youths and sometimes murder depending on their mood. Such exactions have drawn international attention over the years, with other right groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch coming out to condemn the inhumane acts committed by the soldiers.

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The Southern Cameroons Congress of the People (SCCOP) is committed to the complete decolonization of the Southern Cameroons and to molding a new crop of pan-African leaders to complete the liberation and development of Africa. To this effect, we believe in the argument of force and the force of argument, and work by the principles of discipline, loyalty and sacrifice. THINK LIKE A SCCOPPER is the voice of the Southern Cameroons Congress of the People. We are dedicated to sourcing and publishing politically educating content to raise awareness and organize the grassroots population to be active and conscious agents of our own liberation. Join us at www.sccop.org/join and let us achieve together. Ubuntu.



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