

COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY-HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZATIONS FOR PEACE IN THE ANGLOPHONE
REGIONS AND OTHER AFFECTED REGIONS

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RELEASE N° 001/ 2020

NGARBUH MASSACRE: SERIOUS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY THAT ARE CALLING ON ALL OF US !

REPORT OF THE GREVIOUS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY PERPETRATED IN THE LOCALITY OF NGARBUH 3, NDU SUB DIVISION OF NDONGA-MANTUM DIVISION, IN THE NORTH WEST REGION OF CAMEROON.

We, the **Coalition of Civil Society-Human Rights organizations for Peace in the Anglophone Regions and other affected Regions** (The Coalition), created in December 2019 by 32 Cameroonian Human rights CSOs because of the ongoing Anglophone crisis, wish to bring to:

THE ATTENTION OF NATIONAL AND NTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

1. Following the alert received from our members in the field information circulating on social network of a huge massacre on a village called **Ngarbuh 3**, the **Coalition** set up a **pro bono fact-finding mission** within the framework of the Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting (MDR) with a view to shedding light on this horrific incident of gross human rights violations perpetrated in NGARBUH 3 village, NDU Sub division of the Ndonga-Mantum Division, in the North West Region of Cameroon.
2. After ascertaining the great human and material damages, discussing with eyewitnesses and survivors, the said fact-finding mission came out with the following facts.
3. The Military raid massacre took place in **Ngar 3 village** (also known as **Ngarbuh 3**), a farming locality and highly remote village, situated at the borders of Wibum and Nso (Ndu and Nkum subdivisions), NDU Sub division of the Ndonga-Mantum Division, in the North West Region of Cameroon.

4. On Thursday night **13th February 2020**, armed elements belonging to the Cameroonian army, accompanied by local herdsmen and other pro-government armed militias, camped in the neighboring villages of Ngar 3 (**Chii and Fiiru**).
5. On **Friday 14th of February 2020, at around 3 a.m.**, an attack was launched in the village of Ngar 3 from Fiiru by a joint military operation consisting of **six soldiers, three armed men** belonging to ex-combatants of the restoration forces of the Virtual State of Ambazonia and numerous herdsmen. The operation consisted, among other things, the **burning and shooting everywhere**.
6. According to eyewitnesses and survivors, the joint mission was headed by the former combatant who led the armed group to Ngarbuh, a resident in Ndu town, **Nfor Marcel** called "**Bullet**" alongside two others ex-combatants around him. He ran away from the work (fight), more than a year and joined the **National Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Committee** (NDDRC), created by Decree N° 2018/719 of 30 November 2018.
7. The **attack was bloody**, no one was spared, some villagers were burned alive and those who could not find shelter **were shot**, as shown by the bodies of the victims scattered in the bushes.
8. Pregnant women and children who escaped gunfire and machete while sheltering in a house were **all burnt alive**. The **Manjo Seka family** was wiped out **entirely**, a family of 9, Father, mother, and children.
9. Some survivors attested that a total of **13 houses** are now known to have been burnt and many villagers burnt (many burnt beyond recognition), and several missing.
10. Among the **35 corpses discovered** so far were three (3) pregnant women, three (3) children including a family of about 9 persons and other men and women.
11. Among the victims, we recorded about **9 men, 6 women, and 14 children** of whom were three children below three years as there were some cases in the hospital. Out of the **14 children, 11** were of primary school-going ages, **three** were still breast feedings.
12. After the massacre, the villagers say they received an alert they said came from the village chief of **Ntumbu** (Ngarbuh is a locality) who relayed the threats of some soldiers, telling them that they had **three days (72 hours)** to leave the villages. otherwise they would have expected the worst.

13. After the departure of the soldiers, some villagers helped by some pastors and Ambazonian fighters, buried the victims on Saturday February 15, 2020 in numerous **mass graves**.

14. There's possibility that the number of deads may increase as many are still lying in critical conditions in some hospitals like the **Banso Baptist Hospital** (like the case of another pregnant woman, **Ms. Shuka Ngon, 30**, who was operated on immediately after arriving at the hospital after being severely tortured, resulting in the death of the baby she was carrying). Villagers continue to search for family members whom they have not heard from since the attack.

15. According to reports, certain elements of the army implicated in the attack returned to the scene a few hours later to intimidate and proceed to seize the mobile phones of the inhabitants of the said village. This unintentionally led many residents to take refuge in the bushes and neighboring villages.

16. 48 hours after the massacre, on **16th February** at **11:29** am, the Facebook page of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program, the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (NCDDR) of former Boko Haram fighters and armed groups from the Northern Regions - Northwest and Southwest Regions, mentioned that the "*Amba want their kids to die so that they cry for genocide and that in so far as Ambazonian fighters continue to exist every body including children shall continue to be targeted*". The same Facebook page attributed the killing the Ambazonians and that what happened is to be counted as "**collateral damage**" "*For as long as Amba boys exist in your communities, there will be casualties, and some of them will be children. It is called collateral damage. AmbaFools sit abroad and say, we have to break eggs to make an omelette*".

17. About **72 hours** since the massacre, in a **RADIO PRESS RELEASE** N ° 0104 / CRP / MINDEF / 019 of 17 February 2020, signed by the Commander **ATONFACK NGUEMO**, head of the Communication Division, "*the Minister Delegate to the Presidency in charge of Defense formally denies these false allegations, and specifies, in the light of the methodically and professionally cross-checked information that it is quite simply an unfortunate accident, a collateral consequence of the security operations in progress in the Region*" and concluded that the killing of civilians and destruction of property in Ngarbuh came as a result of military confrontation with separatists as the military were in a process of dislodging a base of the separatists.

18. According to reliable sources, such phenomenon have been recurrent in the Anglophone regions since the crisis escalated in October 2016 like the cases of BALLIKUMBAT in the Ngoketunjia Division, BABANKI TUNGO in the Mezam Division, PINYIN in MEZAM Division of North West region, BANGEM, NDOH, MUYENGE, EKATA in the South West region and no investigation reports have been published.

19. Several killings have been committed in English-speaking regions both by members of the defence and security forces and by separatist armed groups in recent months.

20. Since the beginning of the English-speaking crisis in October 2016, no national investigation has been carried out despite the numerous war crimes recorded.

21. These are serious violations of human rights within the meaning of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (UDHR) of 1948, the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** (ICCPR) of 1966, the **African Charter on Human and People's Rights** (ACHPR) of 1981, of the **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (CAT) of 10 December 1984, all ratified by the Republic of Cameroon.

22. These facts presented above constitute serious crimes (Crimes against humanity, murders, torture, attacks against the civilian population and in particular the looting and destruction of property, etc.).

23. Only an **Independent International Commission of Inquiry** will be able to clarify the circumstances and establish the responsibilities in a very short time concerning the war crimes committed by both sides (Army and armed groups).

IN VIEW OF ALL THE ABOVE, THE COALITION:

- 1. Condemns in unequivocal terms** armed attacks against the civilian population in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon;
- 2. Notes, with regret,** that the Cameroonian Government has failed in its international commitments to protect civilians on the one hand, and to immediately launch an urgent and effective investigation into all allegations of human rights violations against its security forces somewhere else;
- 3. Firmly requests** the Cameroonian government to repair the damage caused by this attack, which it shamefully described as "**collateral damage**";
- 4. Strongly urges** that all actors in the chain who contributed at any level to the attack and massacre of the women and children of Ngarbuh 3 be brought to justice promptly;
- 5. Firmly demands** from the Cameroonian Government, the urgent establishment of a witness and survivor protection system; these are determinants of the success of investigations and prosecutions in the criminal justice system;

6. **Urges** the Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Human Rights Council and human rights organizations to effectively contribute to ending impunity for actors of human rights violations;
7. **Requests** the international community and the friendly countries of Cameroon to act to persuade the Cameroonian government to start a process of resolving the conflict through direct negotiations with the leaders of armed opposition groups;
8. **Strongly calls** on the armed groups to stop their attacks on populations and children;
9. **Finally, reminds** the parties to conflicts (government forces and separatist armed groups) that they are bound by International Humanitarian Law (IHL) must respond to the massacres on the civilian population;

Done in Yaoundé on the 18th Day of February 2020

By the Coalition of Civil Society-Human Rights Association for Peace in the Anglophone Regions and other affected Regions

For the Coalition

Have signed:

The National Coalition Coordinator
Mr. NFORMI William NGENGE, (Volunteers for the Consolidation of National Unity)

The Permanent Secretary of the Coalition
Ms. Cyrille Rolande BECHON (Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme Cameroun)

List of Signatory Members of the Coalition:

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME
Volunteers for the Consolidation of National Unity (VOCONU)	NFORMI William NGENGE (National Coalition Coordinator)
Mandela Center International	Jean Claude FOGNO (Vice National Coalition Coordinator)
Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme	Mme Cyrille Rolande BECHON (Permanent Secretary)
Human is Right	CHAMANGO Blaise Aimé (Vice Permanent Secretary)

Refugee Welfare Association Cameroon (REWAC)	Mrs Rita ABIA (North West Regional Coordinator)
Association des Amis du Droit (AAD)	POJUME Hugues (Regional Coordinator other regions affected)
African Conscience	NGWEFUNI FRITZ NGHOPELIE
Footsteps for Women and Children-Cameroon (FOWEC-CAM)	YUVEN Juliana
Solutions Cameroun	YIMGA Marie André
Sustainable Action for Community Development Cameroun (SACOD)	CHEYEH Juluis Ngwan
Youth Development, Training and Protection Association (YDETPA)	Mrs MARAH Lizette Ache
Community Assistance in Development (COMAID)	Mrs FAHBEI Mabel
Community Human Right and Advocacy Center (CHRAC)	FOTOH Titus
African Conscience	TARANTEH AMADU (Regional Coordinator)
Civil Society Platform for Democracy	Dr. Hilaire KAMGA
Tomorrow Children	RIENGOUON NJAYOU Mariama
South West Region of Human Right Association	NDOMI Justin B.
Integrated Development Foundation (IDF)	OUSSEMATOU Dameni (Assistant Regional Coordinator, NW)
Children Care and Right Organisation	SOPGU KENNE Abraham
African Conscience	NJIMEKEH CLEMENT
Center for Reseach Education and Resources Distribution (CEREDEUP-TIKO)	ATABONG Felico (Regional Secretary, SW)
All Women Together	WEGUEM Ideline
SOS Jeunesse Libre	TOMMY Pascale Cynthia
Community Initiative for Justice Peace and Development	Nkanghapere Smella Shangha
Indepedent HRD	AMBOH Gordon
Community Initiative for Justice Peace and Development	Nkanghapere Smella Shangha
African Conscience	NGONG MAGNUS

List of some victims of the massacre of Ngarbuh (Bamenda)

Sika Family, all 7 dead

1. Sika Ibrahim (father) 45 years old
2. Sika Assana (pregnant mother)
3. Sika Amsa- 9 years old, class 4
4. Sika Alima- 7 years old, class 3
5. Sika Yamsi- 6 years old, class 3
6. Sika Yasimiratou- 12 years old, class 6
7. Sika Soliatou- 5 years old, class 1

Kwecheri Gladys and 8 other victims in her family, all dead

8. Kwecheri Gladys
9. Shey Diana- 15 years old, class 6
10. Shey Midian – 13 years, old class 6
11. Shey Jude- 9 years old, class 3
12. Shey Tracy- 5 years old, class 1
13. Shey Cynthia- 6 years old class 2
14. Mary Angel- 4 years old, Government nursery school
15. Berinyuy -5 months old
16. Janet Ya'a- 45 years old
17. Family of Pa Abdulai Sunjo
18. Pa Abdulai Sunjo- 80 years old
19. Muamshatu- 30 years old
20. Family of Pa Alidu Bah
21. Pa Alidu Bah- 75 years old.
22. Kinyui, female- 60 years old
23. Mubela, female- 7 years old.

THOSE WOUNDED

24. Shuka, female, 30 years old: (pregnant at now at Bansa Baptist Hospital. She lost the pregnancy).
25. Justine, male, 18 years old.

Children Who Survived the Carnage

Family Of Sika

Shakira, female, 12 years old

Usani, male, 9 years old

Gambo, male, 6 years old

✕ DDR Cameroon



DDR Cameroon



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For as long as Amba boys exist in your communities, there will be casualties, and some of them will be children. It is called collateral damage.

AmbaFools sit abroad and say, we have to break eggs 🥚 to make an omelette..

😬 Who's eggs will be broken? Think about it.

#MKPD

#DDRCameroon 🇨🇲 💪

This is what Ambaboy in NWR do to their kids. They want them to die so that they cry genocide. 😬



Votre commentaire...





Yaoundé le 17 FEV 2020

N° 0104 /CRP/MINDEF/019

COMMUNIQUE RADIO PRESSE

Plusieurs photographies apparues le samedi 15 février 2020 sur les réseaux sociaux font état d'un massacre perpétré le jour précédent contre les populations du village Ngarbuh, Arrondissement de Ndu, Département du Donga-Mantung, Région du Nord-Ouest. L'acte d'une inhumaine cruauté que certains activistes propagandistes attribuent aux groupes armés et aux Forces de Défense aurait entraîné la mort de plusieurs personnes, femmes et enfants compris.

Le Ministre Délégué à la Présidence Chargé de la Défense dément formellement ces allégations mensongères, et précise, à la lumière des informations méthodiquement et professionnellement recoupées qu'il s'agit tout simplement d'un malheureux accident, conséquence collatérale des opérations de sécurisation en cours dans la Région.

En effet, le 14 février 2020, un groupe de 06 éléments des Forces de Défense dont 04 militaires et 02 Gendarmes renseigné par des repentis a effectué une approche de reconnaissance nocturne à pieds vers une habitation de Ngarbu transformée en camps fortifié, véritable base logistique de marchandises illicites, de réception des armements et munitions de tous calibres, et de stockage et revente de stupéfiants.

Pris à partie par des tirs nourris depuis le refuge fortifié, la riposte des éléments des Forces de l'ordre permettra de mettre hors d'état de nuire 07 des terroristes présents sur les lieux. Les combats vont se poursuivre jusqu'à l'explosion de plusieurs contenants de carburant, suivi d'un violent incendie qui va affecter quelques habitations voisines. Cet incendie a fait 05 victimes, dont une femme et 04 enfants, bien loin de ce qui est relayé dans les réseaux sociaux.

La propagande terroriste sécessionniste a tôt fait de joindre à la mise en scène macabre sur les médias sociaux des images présumées des morts de Ngarbu, d'anciennes photos de la neutralisation de 04 terroristes dans le Département de la Mezam courant 2019, et qui comptaient malheureusement à leurs côtés une femme.

Une enquête approfondie a immédiatement été ouverte autour de ce regrettable incident et confiée concomitamment à la Gendarmerie Nationale et la Sécurité Militaire. Les Conclusions de cette enquête feront l'objet d'une large diffusion. /-

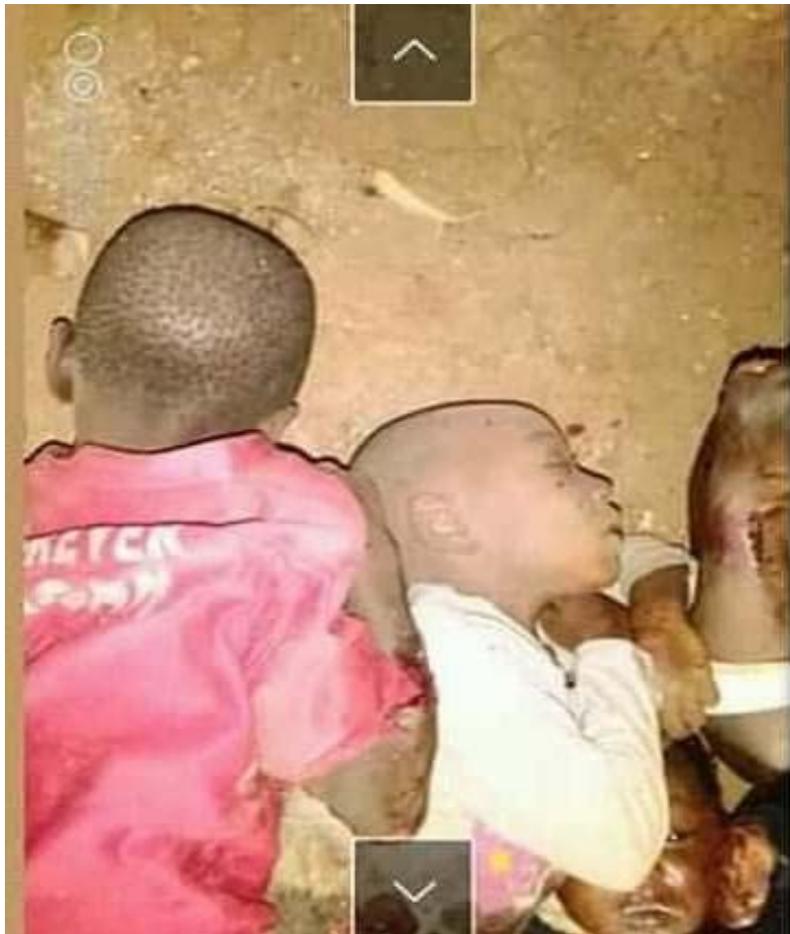

Capitaine de Frégate
ATONACK GUEMO
Chef Division Communication

Ngarbuh village on the eve of the massacre





Some of the children massacred in Ngarbuh 3















Many mass graves are found in Ngarbuh 3

