

VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE
**ARMED IN THE SOUTHERN
CONFLICT THE CAMEROONS**

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS



Coalition
for Dialogue and Negotiations

Resolutions of the Virtual International Conference on the Armed Conflict in the Southern Cameroons held from October thirtieth to November first the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty

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We, the people of the former Trust Territory of British Southern Cameroons (referred here as the Southern Cameroons),

AWARE of the 1913 Anglo-German Treaty territorially defined the international boundary between Nigeria and the British Southern Cameroons, subsequently emphasized in a 1954 British Order in Council.

WHEREAS the Anglo-French Treaty of 1919 (the Milner-Simon Declaration) defined the international boundary between the British Cameroons and French Cameroun; subsequently confirmed by the League of Nations in 1922 when the two territories were separately placed under the Mandates System.

WHEREAS the territorial alignment between British Southern Cameroons and French Cameroon was further confirmed by the Anglo-French Treaty of 9 January 1931, signed by the Governor-General of Nigeria and the Governor of French Cameroon.

WHEREAS the British administration of the British Southern Cameroons from 1858 to 1887, and then from 1915 to 1961, bequeathed to it an Anglo-Saxon heritage: official language being English, and its educational, legal, administrative, political, governance and institutional culture and value systems being all English-derived.

WHEREAS on 1 October 1960 the British Southern Cameroons was separated from Nigeria and by 1961 the British Southern Cameroons had attained a full measure of self-government in its Government of British Southern Cameroons, except on matters of defense and foreign affairs that remained under Britain as provided in the Southern Cameroons Constitution Order in Council of 1960.

WHEREAS at the 849th meeting of the Fourth Committee of the UN on 25th February 1959, Mr. Ahmadou Ahidjo of La Republique du Cameroon solemnly assured the UN: "We are not annexationists. ... If our brothers of the British zone wish to unite with independent Cameroon, we are ready to discuss the matter with them, but we will do so on a footing of equality."

WHEREAS on February 11, 1961 the United Nations held a plebiscite in which the choice of attaining independence as a sovereign nation was eliminated from the ballot against the will expressed by a delegation of the people of British Southern Cameroons, and the said people voted to achieve independence by joining the Republic of Cameroon on precise terms, as described in United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1608 (XV) of April 21, 1961.

AWARE of our political history, driven by our common heritage, defined by our international geographical boundaries are

DETERMINED to assert ourselves as a free people as defined in Communication No 266/2003 of the 37th Session of the African Commission on Human & Peoples Rights and save our future generations from the scourge of neocolonial domination, deprivation and persistent denial of the right to self-determination.

REAFFIRM our faith in the strength of our unity and in our ability to realize our goal of self-determination, human and material development, and progress in all fields of human endeavor.

DETERMINED to create for ourselves a democratic society that would ensure the rule of law, respect of human rights and freedoms and the dignity of all men and women in all communities large and small.

RECALL our long-suffering under French Cameroon neo-colonial oppression, including on-going acts considered as genocide, all of which have internally displaced hundreds of thousands, in addition to thousands of refugees and those killed.

We solemnly pledge our commitment to eradicate neo-colonialism, economic deprivation, political exclusion, and human rights abuses in our land, and to coordinate and intensify our cooperation and efforts to achieve self-determination and a better life for all our people, have;

ASSEMBLED conference participants from all shades of opinion who freely and amply expressed all shades of opinions, who,

ACTIVELY participated in our virtual international conference from October 30 to November 1, 2020, to discuss, chart the way forward on all issues currently affecting the People of the Southern Cameroons, and have

ADOPTED, under thematic subjects, the resolutions herein below:

Nomenclature: That the ongoing armed conflict is between the Former British Southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroon (La République du Cameroon) rather than between Anglophone and Francophone Cameroonians.

Kumba Massacre and Others: The conference condemns in the strongest possible terms the massacre of school children on Saturday October 24, 2020 in Kumba that led to the death of seven (7) children. Established as a pattern of massacres, pointing from Menka (May 28, 2018), Tiben (July 12, 2018), Muyuka (August 4, 2018), Misaje (October 12, 2018), Bali (May 14, 2019), Bole Bakundu (February 6, 2020), Babanki (March 2, 2020), Ngarbuh (February 14, 2020), Muambong (April 22, 2020), to Bafut (May 3, 2020), and many others, the conference calls for an international independent investigation into these deaths considered to be acts of genocide and a fact finding mission under the auspices of the United Nations.

Root Causes: The root causes of the ongoing armed conflict borders on a core cause and a combination of existential issues:

Bad faith on the part of French Cameroon, in the execution of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1608 pursuant to the plebiscite of February 11, 1961, under the supervision of Great Britain, considered procedurally and legally as illegal occupation and annexation of the Former British Southern Cameroons. This subsequently resulted to other related causes to the armed conflict;

- a) Excessive rights abuse, deprivation, assimilation, and marginalization of social, economic, and political rights and freedoms of the people of the Southern Cameroons,
- b) Persistent denial for dialogue and of participatory right to self-determination of the people of the Southern Cameroons.

Key Actors: The key actors in the present conflict are the Southern Cameroons and the Republic of Cameroon (La République du Cameroun) but other important actors include France, Israel, Russia, and Serbia who are selling arms to the Yaoundé regime, as well as foreign private corporations profiteering from the war. It is also important to recognize that neither the Former British Southern Cameroons nor the Government of Cameroon are homogenous actors. Fifth columnists have notoriously masterminded gross financial misappropriations within the Southern Cameroons faction and perpetuated human rights violations, including extra-judicial killings and kidnappings for ransom.

External Stakeholders: The main stakeholders are Great Britain and France, in their capacity as former colonial masters, as well as neighboring Nigeria, the United Nations, the African Union, and the United States of America. These stakeholders can and must take urgent steps to end this armed conflict.

Survey: Cognizant of the fact that we are meeting on behalf of all Southern Cameroonians, and that those being represented may not be able to participate, the survey sought to capture their views through a survey. 4Most, a UK Credit Risk and Data Analytics firm was contracted to analyze the data and present findings to Southern Cameroonians during the conference for appreciation and validation. In conclusion, the conference acknowledges the wishes of Southern Cameroonians and the datasets therein in the survey.

This survey, comprising over 3,749 Southern Cameroonians, with the largest group of respondents residing within the territory of the Southern Cameroons and refugees, reveals the following:

- 86% of respondents chose full independence as the best political solution to address the root cause of the conflict, 7% chose federation with Cameroon, 4% selected confederation with Cameroon, and only 1% chose Cameroon Government-sponsored “Special status”.
- 80% of respondents prefer an UN-mandated body as best mediator of the conflict, 9% prefer Swiss-mediation initiative and only 1% think the Government of Cameroon is a good mediator.

The full results and data sets of the survey analyzed by 4Most were published in a separate document of the conference proceedings.

Aspirations: All Southern Cameroonians agree that they want to live in a free country where the general will undergird the governance system. While the overwhelming majority of Southern Cameroonians who took part in the survey chose independence as the means of achieving self-determination, they believe a UN mandated mediation and negotiation process is the only legitimate way to achieve justice and durable peace in the Southern Cameroons.

1. International Right Violations

Conference participants regret the killings and massacre of over 3,500 children, women and the elderly, thousands more unreported since the beginning of the armed conflict in November 2017. Noted over 900,000 internally displaced Southern Cameroonians with limited humanitarian assistance in other parts of Cameroon and took stock of over 60,000 forced to flee their homes, now refugees in Nigeria, Ghana, and other parts of the globe. The conference resolves to;

- Denounce and condemn all acts of international human rights violations and call for an end to all atrocities targeting the civilian population in the Southern Cameroons.
- Challenge OCHA Cameroon and Nigeria to do more to identify, document and provide aid, including medical assistance, to all Southern Cameroonians externally (refugees) or internally displaced as a result of the crisis.
- Call OHCHR to investigate all atrocities, massacres, and to determine acts of genocide, and document international rights violations committed to Southern Cameroonians, including to children and women during the ongoing armed conflict.
- Call parties to this armed conflict to allow access to all forms of humanitarian aid to Southern Cameroonians affected by the ongoing armed conflict.
- Call for unilateral and multilateral sanctions on Cameroon Government officials and others who commit or facilitate the violation of international rights of Southern Cameroonians.

2. Mediation and Negotiations

Conference participants acknowledge the only way the ongoing armed conflict in the Southern Cameroons will end without creating conditions for future conflicts is through earnest mediation and negotiations. Southern Cameroonians agree;

- That there is a trust deficit between the Southern Cameroons and the Yaoundé regime and therefore no meaningful negotiations or dialogue can take place between the two parties without mediation by a credible third party at a neutral venue.
- The Southern Cameroons is not a non-state actor, rather it is an unrecognized state. As such mediators should recognize and consider our correct status to ensure meaningful negotiations.

- That the United Nations, which the Southern Cameroons was its Trust Territory under the British Administration, should formally initiate a multilateral mediation and negotiation process and mandate stakeholders such as the United States of America, the German Federation, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Ghana, and others to actively participate in the process and to appoint representatives thereto.

3. Southern Cameroonians

Conference participants acknowledged the need for active collaboration and synergy between the armed groups and the difference in opinion amongst Southern Cameroonians. The conference resolved;

The lack of discipline on the part of Southern Cameroonians who engage in salvaging one another just gives the international community an excuse not to act and call on all Southern Cameroonians to demonstrate civility in pursuing justice and peace.

That any human rights abuse committed to Southern Cameroonians by Southern Cameroonians is unacceptable, undermines the struggle for self-determination, and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

That genuine Southern Cameroonians must call to order any forms of disunity in fighting for the resolution of this armed conflict through the building of bargaining power, the documentation of rights violations, and the pursuit of justice.

To acknowledge the commitment by leaders of front line movements to attend a “Leadership Forum” bringing together the leadership and stakeholders of Southern Cameroons self-determination struggle within the short term with a goal to unify around a common purpose and the call for the Coalition, as an independent Southern Cameroonian organization, to act as facilitator in partnership with the elders to pursue and achieve lasting collaboration.

That elders, statesmen and women demonstrate leadership in an active advisory role as requested by the overwhelming majority of Southern Cameroonians that took the survey to achieve durable collaboration amongst leaders of the Southern Cameroons armed struggle for self-determination.

That Southern Cameroonian professionals be more engaged and to leverage the Southern Cameroons diaspora human capital to contribute to defend the freedoms of Southern Cameroonians and to seek lasting peace in the Southern Cameroons through a credible mediated and negotiated end to the armed conflict.

To fully endorse **The 20 Guiding Principles** for the Southern Cameroons adopted by the conference working groups. These principles reflect the foundation of the society and system of governance that Southern Cameroonians want for themselves. Any constituent party engaged in negotiations on behalf of Southern Cameroonians is expected to uphold/advocate for these 20 Guiding Principles and others, as shall be further determined.

4. International Community

The conference urges the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the European Union, and individual states within the international community, including the United States of America to;

- Oblige an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and demilitarization of the Southern Cameroons to guarantee access to aid and humanitarian workers into the Southern Cameroons by using their leverages.
- Pressure the Cameroon Government to release all prisoners arrested and jailed within the context of the ongoing armed conflict and to cease the arrest and detention of Southern Cameroonians.
- Initiate a fact-finding mission to document all international human rights violations and atrocities committed against the civilian population of the Southern Cameroons and determine acts of genocide.
- Impose targeted sanctions on the cabinet members and military hierarchy implicated in the war, to force them to abandon the military solution in favor of a peaceful, mediated and negotiated solution.
- Designate a credible mediator, acceptable to both sides of the armed conflict, so that a meaningful negotiated settlement of the conflict can take place.
- Engage former African Heads of States to influence parties to the armed conflict to achieve a mediated and negotiated settlement.

These resolutions are an expression of the aspirations of 1,297 Southern Cameroonian delegates who participated in the virtual international conference, 3,749 who participated in the pre-conference survey and over a hundred thousand who engaged on social media platforms and shared their views through written statements, videos/audios or online comments. There is a consensus amongst Southern Cameroonians that international stakeholders therein, including the United Nations and the United States of America, must actively engage in facilitating mediation and negotiations to bring an end to the escalating armed conflict.

These Resolutions shall be made public, documented, and shared with all national and international stakeholders to the armed conflict in the Southern Cameroons for appreciation and action.

Done, November 1, 2020

Dr. Christopher Fomunyoh
Conference Co-Chair

Mr. Augustine Ndamgam
Conference Co-Chair

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www.coalitionfdn.org