SURVEY
OF SOUTHERN
CAMEROONIANS

Alan Lucas, BSc, RSS
Mauro Iannace, PhD
Valentine Ngwabo Fontama, PhD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This survey had a large sample size with 3,749 respondents. One of the largest number of Southern Cameroonian surveyed to date.

Majority of respondents were from Southern Cameroons (38%)

The results suggest a strong preference for independence:

- 86% of respondents chose full independence as the best form of state to address root cause of conflict
- 7% chose federation and
- 4% selected confederation
- Only 1% chose Government-sponsored “Special status”

Most respondents prefer a UN-backed body as best mediator of conflict (80%)

- 9% prefer Swiss-backed negotiations
- Only 1% think the Government of Cameroon is a good mediator

A large majority (87%) prefer an independent judiciary system based on common law. Another 10% chose common law system controlled by central government.

While Anglo-Saxon Educational system was favorable (57%), many Southern Cameroonians would like to see a newly developed educational system (38%)

Most Southern Cameroonians would like to see their Elderly Statesmen and women play a more active advisory role.

Most Southern Cameroonians would prefer their traditional leaders to serve as custodians of culture and traditions only. A sizeable minority are happy for their chiefs to play a more active role in local administration, so long as they are exempted from political parties.

95% Southern Cameroonians rejected the CFA franc as their currency while 96% do not recommend the Gendarmes as security officers. 80% of them preferred locally vs centrally controlled police forces.
These trends are steady across different gender, age groups, and level of education. No major difference in results after adjusting for gender imbalance.

Deeper statistical analysis showed the choice of form of state was highly correlated with citizen’s preferences for their ideal system for law, economy, education and security

- Those who (i) prefer an independent judiciary system, (ii) reject the Franc CFA, (iii) prefer an Anglo-Saxon educational system, or (iv) reject the Gendarmes, tend to prefer full independence
LARGE SAMPLE WITH STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM CAMEROON

- Large sample size: 3,749 respondents.
- One of the largest number of Southern Cameroonians surveyed to date.
- Cardinal Christian Tumi’s survey had 1,000 respondents.
- Majority of respondents were from Cameroon (38%).

Majority of Southern Cameroonians believe failed decolonization is the root cause of the armed conflict.
THE RESULTS SUGGESTS A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR INDEPENDENCE

What form of state would address the root cause of armed conflict?

- **Fully Independent State from the Republic of Cameroon**: 86%
- **Federal state within the Republic of Cameroon**: 7%
- **Confederated state with the Republic of Cameroon**: 4%
- **Decentralized state within the Republic of Cameroon**: 2%
- **Government-sponsored "Special Status"**: 1%

**86%**
- 86% of respondents chose full independence to address root cause of conflict
- 7% chose federation
- 4% selected confederation
- Only 1% chose Government-sponsored “Special status”

MOST RESPONDENTS PREFER A UN-MANDATED BODY AS BEST MEDIATOR OF CONFLICT

- **80%** prefer a UN-mandated body
- 9% prefer Swiss-backed negotiations
- Only 1% think the Government of Cameroon is a good mediator
A LARGE MAJORITY (87%) PREFER AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY SYSTEM BASED ON COMMON LAW

- 87% prefer an independent judiciary system based on common law
- Another 10% chose common law system controlled by central government
- 2% chose a judiciary system with civil law controlled by central government.

While Anglo-Saxon Educational system was favorable, many Southern Cameroonians would like to see a newly developed educational system.
95% SOUTHERN CAMEROONIANS REJECTED THE CFA FRANC AS THEIR CURRENCY

Would you recommend the Franc CFA as currency for Southern Cameroons?

MOST SOUTHERN CAMEROONIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR ELDERLY STATESMEN AND WOMEN PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ADVISORY ROLE

- 73% would like Elderly statesmen and women to play a more active role to end the armed conflict
- 52% prefer a more active advisory role
- 21% want them to take an active role in negotiations
- Only 9% preferred a leadership role for them.
MOST SOUTHERN CAMEROONIANS PREFER A LOCALLY CONTROLLED POLICE FORCE AND NO GENDARMES

![Graph showing the preference for locally controlled police force vs. centrally controlled police force. 80% prefer locally controlled force, 20% prefer centrally controlled force.]

MOST SOUTHERN CAMEROONIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEIR ELDERLY STATESMEN AND WOMEN PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ADVISORY ROLE

- A sizeable minority are happy their chiefs to play a more active role in local administration, as long as they are exempted from political parties.

The role of traditional leaders

- a) custodians of culture and traditions only.
- b) b & c
- c) exempt traditional leaders from partisan politics.
- b1 a more active role in local administration.
THESE TRENDS ARE STEADY ACROSS AGE GROUPS, GENDERS, AND COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE
In order to reduce the data dimensionality and identify the key drivers, Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) has been performed. Below are the variables that were used:

**Active Variables**
- Conflict Cause
- Conflict Mediators
- Organization Type
- Form State
- Legal System
- Educational System
- Traditional Authorities Role
- Leaders Active Role
- Leaders Active Role Type
- Police Force Type
- Gendarmes Allowed
- Recommend Franc CFA

**Supplementary Variables**
- Gender
- Refugee Indicator
- Police Guns

**THESE TRENDS ARE STEADY ACROSS AGE GROUPS, GENDERS, AND COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE**

MULTIPLE CORRESPONDENCE ANALYSIS HAS BEEN APPLIED TO EXTRACT KEY FACTORS
1ST COMPONENT CAPTURES ORGANIZATIONAL PREFERENCES, WHEREAS 2ND COMPONENT REPRESENTS THE ROLE OF KEY PLAYERS

GRAPHICAL INTERPRETATION IS CONFIRMED BY STATISTICAL TESTS

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Root cause of armed conflict

- Failed decolonization: 56.09%
- Marginalization: 26.35%
- Assimilation: 16.17%
- Other (please specify): 1.80%
- Western imperialism: 0.60%

*55.1% vs. 48% for all Southern Cameroonians

THE RESULTS SUGGEST THE REFUGEES HAVE AN EVEN STRONGER PREFERENCE FOR INDEPENDENCE AS THE BEST FORM OF STATE

Q17 In your opinion, which form of State for Southern Cameroons is most likely to satisfactorily address the root cause of this armed conflict?

- Full independence: 98.8%
- Government-sponsored "Special status": 1.2%
- Decentralized state within...: 1.1%
- Current status: 0.2%
- Federal state within the...: 0.1%
- Confederal state with...: 0.1%

*98.8% vs. 86% for all Southern Cameroonians

98.8%

- *98.8% of refugees chose full independence as the best form of state to address root cause of conflict
- 0% chose federation
- 0% selected confederation
- Only 1.2% chose Government-sponsored "Special status"
EVEN MORE REFUGEES PREFER A UN-MANDATED BODY AS BEST MEDIATOR OF CONFLICT

Preferred Mediator

- 90.4% prefer a UN-mandated body (vs. 80%)
- 7.8% prefer Swiss-backed negotiations (vs. 9%)
- 0.6% prefer the AU as a mediator (vs. 3%)
- 0% think the Government of Cameroon is a good mediator (vs. 1%)

*REFUGEES HAVE AN EVEN STRONGER PREFERENCE (94.61%) FOR AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY SYSTEM BASED ON COMMON LAW

Q21 What Legal system do you want for Southern Cameroons?

- 94.61% prefer an independent judiciary based on common law (vs. 87%)
- Another 4.79% chose common law system controlled by central government (vs. 10%)
- 0.6% chose a judiciary system with civil law controlled by central government (vs. 2%).

*94.6% vs. 87% for all Southern Cameroonians
Like the rest of Southern Cameroonians, the Refugee population prefer a newly developed educational system or and Anglo-Saxon Educational system.

*98.8% of the refugee population rejected the CFA franc as their currency

*98.8% vs. 95% for all Southern Cameroonians
Most refugees would also like to see their elderly statesmen and women play a more active advisory role.

- 77.8% would like Elderly statesmen and women to play a more active role to end the armed conflict (vs. 73%)
- 61.7% prefer a more active advisory role (vs 52%)
- 20.4% want them to take an active role in negotiations (vs 21%)
- Only 7.8% preferred a leadership role for them (vs 9%).

Most refugees also prefer a locally controlled police force and no gendarmes.

Q26 What type of Policeforce would you like to see in Southern Cameroons?

- 85% vs. 80% for all Southern Cameroonians

Q27 Should the Gendarmes be allowed in Southern Cameroons?

- 98.8% vs. 96% for all Southern Cameroonians
MOST REFUGEES WOULD PREFER THEIR TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO SERVE ONLY AS CUSTODIANS OF CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

*79% vs. 47% for all Southern Cameroonians

- Unlike the general Southern Cameroonian population, the refugees mostly prefer their chiefs to be custodians of culture & traditions
- Very few refugees expect Chiefs to be active in politics.
KEY CONCLUSIONS

1. The results clearly and unambiguously indicate a strong preference for independence and greater autonomy in their choices for type of legal system, educational system and security.

2. These trends are robust across multiple segments of society – by age, gender, country of residence, level of education and others.

3. Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) shows a strong correlation between the desire for full independence and preferences for the legal, economic, educational systems and the type of policing the respondents wish for.