



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

## STATEMENT N°09/2024

### SOUTH WEST CAMEROON: OVER 80 UNARMED CIVILIANS ARRESTED AND DETAINED BY DEFENSE AND SECURITY FORCES IN BUEA

The Coalition of Civil Society-Human Rights organizations for Peace in the Anglophone Regions, and other affected Regions (The Coalition), wishes to bring to:

#### THE ATTENTION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

1. That according to family sources and witnesses, over 80 unarmed civilians, mostly youths, were arrested in some neighborhoods in Buea, particularly Bonakanda (Fako division, South West region) between September 7th and 16th, 2024.
2. That they are currently detained at Legion Gendarmerie and other detention centers in Buea
3. That our sources further revealed the arrests were made without warrants or notifications of reason for arrests, thereby violating their fundamental human rights.
4. That on September 16th 2024, family members staged a peaceful protest demanding their release. They equally threatened further action if their children aren't freed as soon as possible by the authority.
5. That it should be noted that these arrests started at the eve of the resumption of 2024/2025 academic year in Cameroon, after armed Separatists declared a three weeks lockdown in Anglophone regions with the intention of frustrating back to School to pupils and Students in those regions.
6. That at the time of writing this report, there has not been any official reaction from the authorities in Buea, despite the fact that the acts of Defense and Security Forces

That in view of the above, the COALITION ;

- CONDEMNS the recurrent violation of the rules of criminal procedure in general, and in particular the arbitrary arrest and detention of more than 80 people
- CALLS UPON the Judiciary to respect and guarantee the rights of defense in criminal proceedings and the rights of all Cameroonians to a fair trial; this includes but is not limited to the obligation to inform arrested persons of the reason for their arrest, the right of access by family members, the right to a lawyer, the right to a doctor, and respect for the legal conditions of police custody.
- DEMANDS the release of all persons arrested in violation of the aforementioned rules and principles.
- URGES the Cameroonian government to put an end to impunity, by ensuring that the perpetrators of human rights violations in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon are held to account.

Yaounde, September 23rd 2024

**For the Coalition,  
The Secretariat**

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