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PRESS RELEASE N°_61/CA-NW-LT/24

SUBJECT MATTER: ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN ANGLOPHONE CAMEROON: RISING KIDNAPPINGS, KILLINGS AND RANSOM DEMANDS

WE WISH TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS FOLLOWS;

1. That according to reliable sources, the Advocate General No. 2 at the Procureur General's Office, Court of Appeal in Bamenda, North West region, Justice Nchang Augustin Amongwa, was kidnapped by unknown armed men at his Nkwen residence on the evening of December 29, 2024, and his whereabouts remain unknown. Similarly, many other civilians were kidnapped on the same day, December 29, 2024, at Nchoubou quarter, still a locality in Bamenda, and taken to unknown destinations by armed men alleged to be armed separatists.
2. That the Anglophone regions, especially the North West region, have witnessed an increase in kidnappings, mostly for ransom, which has become a new normal in the area as the violence intensifies. Furthermore, it's worth noting that Ngalla Roland, a student at the University of Buea, South West region, was killed, and his body found on December 27, 2024, after he was kidnapped and ransom demanded from his family.
3. That in another incident, the body of Sirri Ernestine, a woman who was kidnapped, was found at Mile 90 Bambui, Turbah sub-division, North West region, on December 22, 2024, after a failed ransom demand, according to family sources. Additionally, Careille, a student at the University of Bamenda, was kidnapped, and his body later found on December 24, 2024, allegedly after failed ransom demands.
4. That amidst the systematic kidnappings, killings, and violence in these regions, the Cameroon Government has remained silent.

THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE,

1. Condemns the Systematic Attacks: Condemns in the strongest terms the systematic attacks, kidnappings, killings, and violence in conflict Anglophone regions, while urging the competent judicial authority to conduct an immediate, impartial, and independent investigation into these alleged human rights abuses.
2. Demands Release of Kidnapped Persons: Demands the immediate and unconditional release of Justice NCHANG AUGUSTIN AMONGWA and all persons kidnapped and still under the captivity of armed groups in the Northwest and Southwest regions.



- 3. Establish Protection Mechanism: Strongly recommends that the Cameroon Government establish a protection mechanism for the civilian population and properties in general.
- 4. Respect Human Rights: Urges belligerent forces to respect fundamental human rights and principles of international humanitarian law.
- 5. End Impunity: Urges the Cameroonian government to end impunity by ensuring perpetrators of these human rights abuses are identified and held accountable.
- 6. Call for Peaceful Resolution: Calls on the international community and friendly partner States to persuade the Cameroonian government to seek peaceful means of resolving the over 7-year-old armed conflict in the Anglophone regions

Done in Bamenda, this December 31st, 2024

Signed



Amadu TARNTEH
Executive Director

