

Cameroon Civil Society

PRESS RELEASE AND URGENT CALL TO ACTION

The national and international community is informed that we have learned, with shock and dismay, the suspension of some civil society organizations working primarily in the field of human protection.

Through social networks, we have had access to several decisions by Cameroon's Ministry of Territorial Administration, including two concerning REDHAC and one concerning REACH OUT.

Concerning REDHAC, Order n°000121 of December 06, 2024 suspending the organization for 03 months, and another Order n°000122 of December 06, 2024 declaring REDHAC null and void and banning its activities.

Concerning REACH OUT, Order n°000120 dated December 06, 2024 suspending for 03 months.

We express our profound disagreement and call for the annulment of these decisions, many of which are clearly based on false allegations and unfounded claims.

Although we are not familiar with the offence of “*activities likely to undermine the financial integrity of the national financial system*”, REDHAC, as an association recognized under Law No. 90/053 of December 19, 1990, has always complied with the standards in force in Cameroon. With regard to “*illicit and exorbitant funding unsuited to the profile of the activity*”, although we find it difficult to understand what this is about, REDHAC has always, whenever necessary, been able to justify not only the source of the funds received, but also the use made of them.

As an organization governed by law N°99/014 of December 22, 1999, and law N° 90/053 of December 19, 1990, REACH OUT has always complied with all the requirements, rules and standards in force in Cameroon.

The suspension and banning orders issued against these organizations are a flagrant violation of the right to freedom of association in Cameroon.

It is important to remember that these MINAT orders were signed in the wake of REDHAC's active participation in the defense of human rights during Cameroon's appearances before both the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture.

It should be noted that, as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on the one hand, and to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, on the other, Cameroon must comply with the “*Guidelines, on Freedom of Association and Assembly of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission) adopted at its 60th Ordinary Session held in Niamey, Niger from May 8 to 22, 2017*”.

Cameroonian Civil Society therefore condemns, with the utmost energy, this restrictive approach to civic space at a time when Cameroon will be embarking on a new high-risk electoral cycle from 2025 onwards, which requires a more visible climate of appeasement.

Cameroonian Civil Society calls on the Government of Cameroon to rescind these decisions, which are incompatible with democracy.

Signed /

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- 2- Cyrille Rolande Bechon, Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme
- 3- Dr Hilaire Kamga, Plate Forme de la société civile pour la Démocratie
- 4- Jean Claude Fogno, Mandela Center International

- 5- Philippe Nanga, Un Monde Avenir
- 6- Amadu Tarnteh, Coalition pour les droits de l'homme et la paix dans le NOSO et les régions affectées
- 7- Me Nkongho Felix Agbor-Balla, CHRDA
- 8- Flaubert Djateng, Coordonnateur de Zenü Network
- 9- Serges Mboumegne, Fondation internationale pour la Paix, les DH et le développement
- 10- Me Claude Assira
- 11- Me Calvin Job
- 12- Me Francine Nyobe
- 13- Me Felenon Mahop Sen
- 14- Me Gladys Mbuya
- 15- Me Simh Emmanuel
- 16- Me Tchilibou
- 17- Me Dorcas Nkongme
- 18- Me Sadrack Woappi
- 19- Dr Richard Makon
- 20- Dr David Eboutou
- 21- Prof Jean Takougang
- 22- Paul Joel Kamtchang, ADISI
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