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ATTACK ON EDUCATION AGAIN: SAINT PETER'S CLEVER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MUYUKA, ANGLOPHONE CAMEROON SET ON FIRE BY ALLEGED ARMED SEPARATISTS

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

1. That according to eyewitnesses and other sources, building hosting St. Peter Clever's Catholic Primary School, Strangers quarter, opposite Telcar junction, Muyuka, Southwest region, was set ablaze on August 20, 2025, by alleged armed separatists. The armed men stormed the school and set it on fire, alleging the school was preparing to reopen for the new academic year after seeing a group of young children who recently visited the school;
2. That Students, school infrastructure, and educational stakeholders are protected zones that should never be targeted, whether in times of war or peace. However, since the onset of the armed conflict in Cameroon's Anglophone regions, armed separatist groups have consistently used education as weapons of war, systematically enforcing school boycotts and launching attacks on schools, teachers, and students;
3. That according to recent report from OCHA(United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), the crisis in Cameroon's Anglophone regions continues to severely impact education with over 40 percent of schools still not functioning due to attacks and threats by armed separatists. This has resulted in thousands of children being out of school. The situation remains serious, with many schools forced to close due to violence, kidnappings, and threats from separatist groups who have been calling on boycott of Schools, especially at the beginning of each academic year since 2017;
4. That the education of children cannot wait. Conflicting parties must guarantee that students can attend school without any problems. The right to education is universal and a fundamental right guaranteed by national and international legal instruments and should not be disrupted under any circumstances. Attacking schools constitutes war crimes and crimes against humanity, prohibited and punishable by the 1998 Rome Statute creating the International Criminal Court and ;
5. That at the time of writing this report, there has been no official reaction from local authorities, and no group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.



THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE,

1. Strongly condemn the burning of Saint Peter's Clever Catholic School, Strangers Quarter, Muyuka, South West region, allegedly carried out by armed separatists;
2. Urges immediate and impartial investigations to hold perpetrators accountable, ensuring those responsible for such barbaric act face justice, so as to scare others from further atrocities;
3. Demands an end to impunity in Anglophone regions, where perpetrators of grievous human rights abuses and violations often go unpunished;
4. Ensure Schools operating in these conflict regions are protected from attacks by providing or guaranteeing a safe learning environment for students or pupils and staffs. They should equally provide assistance to the affected Schools, providing support, Security and necessary resources to them to be resume this academic year effectively;
5. Call on the continous promotion of Education as a Fundamental Right by Government and partners like Civil society organizations, media etc, while raising awareness about the importance of education as a fundamental right and the need to protect schools and students from attacks;
7. Continously encourages dialogue and peacebuilding efforts to resolve the conflict in the Anglophone regions and ensure a stable environment or return to normalcy for population to freely go about their normal activities and effective back to school.

Done in Douala, this August 21, 2025.

Signed



Amadu TARNTEH,

Executive Secretary



Edit with WPS Office