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BAMENDA, CAMEROON: PREGNANT WOMAN AND DRIVER BRUTALLY KILLED BY DEFENSE AND SECURITY FORCES

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

1. That according to reliable sources, an unarmed driver and a pregnant woman were shot to death by members of the Cameroon Defense Forces on August 19, 2025, between Small Mankon and Ngomgham, Bamenda, North West region;
2. That the driver died instantly from bullet wounds, while the severely injured pregnant woman was rushed to a local hospital, where she later died. Despite the medical personnel's efforts, they were unable to save her twin babies;
3. That circumstances surrounding the incident are unclear. That some sources added that the driver initially refused to stop at a police checkpoint, prompting the police to pursue the vehicle and alerted the Defense forces stationed ahead to intercept it. The Defense forces allegedly fired multiple bullets at the vehicle, shattering the back windshield glass and severely injuring the pregnant woman in the back seat. The driver, who then stopped the car and attempted to flee as alleged, was shot multiple times and died instantly. However, other sources say the driver merely signaled that it was an emergency, rather than refusing to comply;
4. That an alternative account says that the pregnant woman, Shella Nemu Garbi, who was behind the vehicle, was crying out upon arrival at the checkpoint, leading the police officers to mistakenly believe she was being held against her will or kidnapped, prompting them to intervene;
5. That it is worth noting that since the beginning of the Anglophone crisis, several unarmed civilians including pupils and pregnant women have been brutally killed by Defense and Security forces under similar unclear circumstances or in a reckless manner, raising questions about their professionalism while carrying out their duty and;
6. That at the time of writing this report, there has been no official reaction from the authorities, consistent with their usual silence in most such incidents.



THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE,

1. Strongly condemns the brutal killing of Shella Nemu Garbi, a pregnant woman, and the unarmed driver, by Defense and Security forces in Bamenda, North West region, on August 19, 2025;
2. Urges immediate and impartial investigations to hold perpetrators accountable, ensuring those responsible face justice without exception or protection from accountability;
3. Demands an end to impunity in Anglophone regions, where perpetrators of grievous human rights violations often go unpunished;
4. Remind the Cameroonian Government of her responsibility to hold senior State officials accountable for ordering the Commission of serious crimes or failing to prosecute serious crimes committed by their subordinates. This is in line with Article 28 of the 1998 Rome Statute establishing International Criminal Court ,which clearly establishes the principle of command responsibility under international law;
5. Continues to call on the belligerents forces to consistently respect International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law during attacks, while reminding them that they will ultimately be held accountable for their crimes sooner or later and;
6. Calls on the International community to support efforts to persuade the Yaoundé regime to engage in an inclusive and sincere dialogue with stakeholders to properly address the root causes of the armed conflict.

Done in Douala, this August 20, 2025.

Signed



Amadu TARNTEH,

Executive Secretary

