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CAMEROONIAN AUTHORITIES HELD 2 & 3 MONTH OLD BABIES INCOMMUNICADO FOR OVER 72 HOURS IN NDOP, NORTH WEST REGION, RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING.

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

1. That according to reliable sources, the whereabouts of the 7 unarmed civilians, including 2 and 3 month old babies, arrested in Bamessing Village on June 24, 2025, by members of Cameroon Defense and Security forces and arbitrarily detained at Ndop Gendarmerie Brigade are unknown. Since July 8, no family member, friend, or relative has been granted access to the Gendarmerie to visit or see the detained civilians, despite repeated attempts;
2. That such acts have heightened skepticism among many regarding their security and safety, with rumors circulating that the detainees may have been taken to an unknown destination where they are allegedly undergoing severe psychological and physical acts of torture;
3. That it should be noted the Commander of the Gendarmerie Brigade at Ndop and the Senior Divisional Officer for Ngoketunjia division Mr Quetong Handerson Kongeh had previously promised hell to the detainees, if the Gendarme officer was killed. This has sparked fear that anything negative could have happened to them;
4. That in the morning of Tuesday July 8 2025, the lifeless body of the kidnapped Gendarme Officer was found around Mile 25 Ndop at the road side. And in reaction to that, the Military invaded Bamessing Village leading to the killing 2 alleged armed Separatists where one was burnt beyond recognition and their lifeless bodies displayed publicly at Total Filling Station Ndop. It should be recalled the 7 unarmed civilians, including newborn babies, were arrested for being relatives of the armed separatist leader few hours after they kidnapped the Gendarme officer.
5. That in a Prefectoral order dated June 27, 2025, the Senior Divisional Officer purportedly ordered the administrative detention of a certain Mr. Justine Bechangu at the Bamenda Central Prison serving in the place of Ndop Principal Prison which is not operational for 15 days, renewable. With motive "Knowingly and willingly funding and abetting the activities of high banditry in Bamessing Village of Ndop sub division including highway robbery on



National road number 11, illegal taxation on the population, kidnapping of passengers for ransom, hostage taking, physical and psychological torture on victims and their families etc". Though our investigation revealed that none of the arrested detainees bears that name Mr Justine Bechangu. However, up until Monday, July 7, 2025, when the detainees were last seen, all of them were still at the Ndop Gendarmerie Brigade;

6. That as a result of the continued detention of the 7 unarmed civilians, including 2 and 3 month old babies, armed separatists in Ngoketunjia, Bui, and Donga-Mantung divisions of the Northwest Region have declared an indefinite lockdown in these divisions. The lockdown which is already in effect in Ngoketunjia and Bui divisions, has paralyzed movement and economic activities, and further increasing the suffering of the vulnerable population already affected by the armed conflict. That the armed Separatists equally threatened to kidnap family members of Defense and Security forces in Ngoketunjia division, if the 7 unarmed civilians were not released soon, an act which has already forced many family members of Defense and Security forces in these localities to involuntarily flee away from their Villages.

7. That their continues detention is strictly in violation of Cameroon's Criminal Procedure Code, and their rights to visits, food, and other basic necessities guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon and International Treaties signed and ratified by Cameroon being deprived by the authorities;

THAT IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE,

1. Condemns in strongest terms, the repeated disregard for criminal procedure rules and fundamental Human Rights principles by authorities at Ndop, particularly the incommunicado detentions of Mrs Serah Woh (68 years), Mr Julius Weyang (39 years), Mrs Joycelyn Ndum (22 years, mother of the 3-month-old baby), Mrs Blanche Yocnteh (22 years, mother of the 2-month-old baby), and Mrs Justine Bechu (24 years) for more than 72 hours, while continuously demanding for their Immediate and Unconditional release;

2. Reiterate to the Government and local authorities that "Criminal Responsibility is Personal". No one should suffer for the crimes of another person. Ensure justice and due process for all individuals regardless of their status or background;

3. Demands an end to impunity in Anglophone regions, where perpetrators of grievous human rights violations and abuses often go unpunished. And equally urging immediate and impartial investigations to hold perpetrators accountable, rather than attempting to shield perpetrators from their crimes;

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 advise 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;

6. Demand the immediate reopening of the roads blocked by armed Separatists. Reminding them that blocking roads and preventing free movement of persons and goods violates



citizens rights to freedom of movement, guaranteed by Cameroon 1996 Constitution and International Treaties;

7. Remind armed Separatists that kidnapping unarmed civilians for ransoms constitutes War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity and those responsible must be held accountable for their actions; and

8. 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 July 11, 2025.

Signed



Amadu TARNTEH,

Executive Secretary

