



POLICY BRIEF

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS OF CAMEROON – 2025

Yaoundé – March 2026

Policy Brief
Conscience Africaine

Key Findings and
Recommendations



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The publication of this 2025 Report represents the culmination of a demanding collective effort carried out in a context marked by persistent violence and ongoing challenges related to the protection of civilians in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon.

Conscience Africaine expresses its appreciation to the Government of Canada, whose support has significantly contributed to the continuation of this independent documentation effort. This support has made it possible to strengthen analytical capacities, improve the methodological quality of the data collected, and ensure the continuity of work that is essential to understanding the current dynamics of the crisis.

We also acknowledge the role of the African Centre for Study and Training on Development, Democracy and Peace (CEFODEP Centre) for its technical and strategic support. Through its expertise in capacity building, research methodology, and data consolidation, the CEFODEP Centre has contributed to enhancing the level of rigor and analytical coherence of this report.

Our gratitude goes particularly to the volunteers and member organizations of the Civil Society Coalition for Human Rights and Peace in the North-West and South-West Regions (“The Coalition”). Their commitment in the field, often in unstable security environments, made it possible to collect, verify, and triangulate essential information. Their determination demonstrates the resilience of civil society in the face of the risks and constraints that surround the work of documenting human rights violations.

We also recognize the decisive contribution of partner organizations such as Mandela Center International and Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme, whose consistent involvement strengthened the credibility, depth, and strategic reach of this report.

This document forms part of the continuation of an institutional commitment that Conscience Africaine has formalized since 2019: the rigorous, independent, and consistent documentation of human rights violations in regions affected by the crisis. By maintaining this annual tradition of documentation, we affirm the need to preserve the memory of events, contribute to truth, and support prospects for accountability, justice, and dialogue.

This commitment reflects the vision that has guided Conscience Africaine since its creation in 1994.

Beyond numbers and analyses, this report reflects a collective commitment to human dignity and to rejecting the normalization of violence.

Amadou Tarnteh Ngangpanweh
Executive Secretary-Conscience Africaine

PREFACE

Documenting human rights violations in a context of prolonged crisis is not a neutral exercise. It is an act of civic responsibility. It is a commitment to truth. It is a deliberate refusal to normalize violence.

Since 2016, the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon have experienced a crisis whose human and institutional consequences have progressively worsened. Years pass, narratives multiply, and positions harden, yet civilian populations continue to pay the heaviest price. When violence becomes prolonged, the most insidious danger is not only its intensity; it is its gradual integration into everyday life, until it becomes a tragic normality.

The 2025 Report of Conscience Africaine is part of an important tradition initiated since 2019: independent, methodical, and consistent documentation. In an environment marked by fragmented narratives and politicized discourse, maintaining a verified factual basis is itself an act of democratic courage.

The trends highlighted in this report raise serious concerns. The persistence of targeted killings, the growing structuring of kidnappings for coercive or financial purposes, repeated restrictions on freedom of movement through the imposition of “ghost town” measures, the increased exposure of women and children to both direct and indirect violence, as well as the tensions between security imperatives and fundamental guarantees all illustrate a crisis that can no longer be analyzed through simplistic categories.

The question of the legal qualification of the situation must be addressed with rigor and intellectual honesty. When the criteria of intensity of violence and organization of armed actors are met, international humanitarian law becomes applicable. Recognizing this reality does not constitute a political stance; it is a legal requirement. Refusing to engage in this discussion ultimately weakens the standards of protection applicable to civilians.

Beyond legal qualification, another question arises with equal urgency: that of the future. No society emerges sustainably from crisis without confronting its past. Transitional justice is not an ideological option; it is a structural necessity. Truth, accountability, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition are the pillars of any durable reconstruction. Without these elements, peace remains fragile and exposed to relapse.

Cameroonian civil society, despite multiple constraints and occasional attempts to obstruct its work, continues to assume its role as a watchdog. This report is a clear illustration of that commitment. It does not claim to replace judicial institutions, but it contributes to preserving the memory of facts, enriching public debate, and reminding us that human dignity cannot be relativized.

It is now up to national decision-makers, political actors, international partners, and the vital forces of the nation to demonstrate lucidity and courage. The protection of civilians cannot be subordinated to competing narratives. It is both a legal obligation and a moral imperative.

Rejecting the normalization of violence means refusing to build the future on forgetting.

Dr Hilaire KAMGA
Human Rights Expert



INTRODUCTION

This document presents the main findings and recommendations of the 2025 Report on the Human Rights Situation in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon, prepared by the organization Conscience Africaine with the support of its partners within the Coalition of civil society organizations working for human rights and peace in these regions.

Since 2017, the crisis affecting these two regions has progressively evolved into an armed confrontation between the defense and security forces of the Cameroonian State and several separatist armed groups. After more than eight years of violence, civilian populations continue to bear the heaviest burden of this conflict through targeted killings, kidnappings for ransom, restrictions on freedom of movement, and various forms of abuse committed in a context of prolonged insecurity.

The report from which this Policy Brief is derived is based on documentation carried out throughout 2025 by Conscience Africaine and its partners, in accordance with international standards for documenting human rights violations.

A total of 135 credible incidents were documented in the regions concerned during the year.

Beyond the simple compilation of incidents, the analysis of documented cases makes it possible to identify several structural trends characterizing the evolution of the crisis, including the normalization of violence against civilians, the emergence of a ransom economy, and persistent restrictions on freedom of movement.

This Policy Brief aims to present, in a concise manner, the main data and trends observed in 2025, while formulating recommendations intended to strengthen civilian protection, encourage accountability of the actors involved, and contribute to efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the crisis.

1. CONTEXT OF THE CRISIS

The crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon originated in corporate protests launched in 2016 by Anglophone teachers and lawyers. These mobilizations denounced what was perceived as the gradual marginalization of the Anglo-Saxon educational and judicial systems.

The security response to the protests, marked by arrests, restrictions on Internet access, and the dissolution of certain protest organizations, contributed to the progressive radicalization of the movement. From 2017 onwards, the situation evolved into an armed confrontation between the defense and security forces of the Cameroonian State and several separatist armed groups claiming the independence of a territory referred to as “Ambazonia.”

Since then, the regions concerned have experienced a situation of prolonged violence characterized by armed confrontations, attacks against civilians, kidnappings for ransom, and the coercive imposition of so-called “ghost town” days, which regularly paralyze economic and social activity.

After more than eight years of violence, the crisis remains deeply entrenched. The incidents documented in 2025 demonstrate the persistence of structural dynamics of violence marked by the normalization of lethal force, the expansion of the ransom economy, and recurrent restrictions on freedom of movement.

2. DOCUMENTATION METHODOLOGY

The findings presented in this Policy Brief are based on documentation carried out in 2025 by Conscience Africaine and its partners within the Coalition of civil society organizations working for human rights and peace in the North-West and South-West Regions.

The methodology used draws inspiration from international standards applied by United Nations fact-finding mechanisms as well as by several international human rights organizations. Information was collected from direct testimonies of victims or relatives, interviews with eyewitnesses, and community networks trained in secure documentation of human rights violations (Safe and Dignified Reporting – SDR).

These networks benefited from specialized training provided by the Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre (HURICA) of Amnesty International, with the support of the organization Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme. Whenever possible, information was cross-checked with credible secondary sources, including local media publications, public statements, and contextual analyses relating to incidents occurring in the same areas.

Cases were included when they met the evidentiary standard of “reasonable grounds to believe,” widely used in international investigations. This standard implies that the available information shows internal consistency, that sources are considered credible, and that the context renders the reported facts plausible.

Given the constraints related to access to certain areas and the risks of reprisals, the figure of 135 documented incidents should be considered a verified minimum rather than the total number of violations that occurred in 2025.

QUANTITATIVE DATA AND TYPOLOGY – 2025

Category of Violation	Main Observations	Number of Cases
Killings and executions	Dominant form of violence; cases attributed to both	65
Kidnappings and ransom	Mostly attributed to separatist armed groups	42
Arrests and contested detention	Alleged arrests without warrants; transfers to	9
Torture and ill-treatment	Severe physical violence, humiliation and cruel	5
Sexual violence and gender-based violence	Sexual violence occurring in a context of conflict and	3
Destruction of civilian property	Vehicle burnings and destruction linked to “ghost	4
Injuries without confirmed death	Attacks against markets, public spaces or places of	8

Overall structure of documented incidents

- Section A – Defense and security force: 29 cases (21.5%)
- Section B – Separatist armed groups: 106 cases (78.5%)

The analysis of this typology highlights several structural dynamics of violence observed in 2025, including the predominance of killings, the expansion of kidnappings for ransom, and persistent coercive restrictions on freedom of movement.

TOTAL DOCUMENTED INCIDENTS: 135

Main Typology of Violations

In order to identify the main dynamics of violence observed in 2025, the documented incidents were classified according to a typology based on the dominant nature of the reported acts. This classification makes it possible to identify the principal categories of violations and analyze their relative frequency.

Methodological Element for the Analysis of 2025 Trends

This analysis is based on 135 documented cases in 2025, including:

- 29 cases (21.5%) attributed to defense and security forces (Section A)
- 106 cases (78.5%) attributed to separatist armed groups (Section B)

Each case was classified according to a principal category of violation based on the dominant facts described.

1. Killings and Executions: The Dominant Form of Violence

With 65 cases out of 135, killings constitute the most prevalent category of violations documented in 2025, including 16 cases in Section A and 49 cases in Section B. Killings attributed to armed groups are largely linked to accusations of collaboration, failure to comply with “ghost town” instructions, or punitive actions.

Killings attributed to state forces mainly occurred during security operations or in the context of arrests or armed interventions.

This trend confirms a deeply concerning normalization of lethal violence against civilians.

2. Expansion of Kidnappings and the Ransom Economy

Kidnappings represent 42 cases out of 135, making them the second most frequent category.

These incidents are almost exclusively attributed to separatist armed groups.

Common patterns include:

- interceptions along roads
- collective kidnappings
- systematic ransom demands
- executions despite payment in some cases

This trend suggests the institutionalization of a ransom economy in certain areas.

3. Arrests and Contested Detentions

Arrests and detentions represent 9 main cases, all documented in Section A.

These cases include:

- alleged arrests without warrants
- prolonged detention
- transfers to military courts
- detention of vulnerable persons, including infants

The case of the babies detained at Bamenda Central Prison represents the most concerning incident in this category.

4. Torture and Ill-Treatment

Five cases of torture or cruel treatment were documented.

Descriptions include:

- severe physical violence
- electrocution
- simulated drowning
- public humiliation

These incidents appear in both Section A and Section B, although most are associated with detention contexts.

5. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Three cases of sexual violence were documented.

The elements reported include:

- rape during security operations
- sexual violence linked to political intimidation
- public humiliation of women accused of collaboration.

6. Destruction of Property and Attacks Against Civilian Property

Four main cases of destruction of civilian property were documented.

These incidents are mostly linked to: enforcement of “ghost town” measures ; economic reprisals.

7. Attacks Resulting in Injuries Without Confirmed Death

Eight documented incidents involve attacks causing injuries without confirmed fatalities.

These include:

- shootings in markets or public spaces
- attacks against places of worship
- gunshot injuries during armed incursions

3. MAIN DATA AND DISTRIBUTION OF INCIDENTS

The documentation work conducted by Conscience Africaine and its partners identified 135 credible incidents of human rights violations occurring during 2025 in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon.

These incidents were documented through direct testimonies, information from community networks, and credible secondary sources.

The distribution of incidents reveals differentiated involvement of actors in the conflict.

Out of the 135 documented cases:

- 29 incidents are attributed to defense and security forces
- 106 incidents are attributed to separatist armed groups

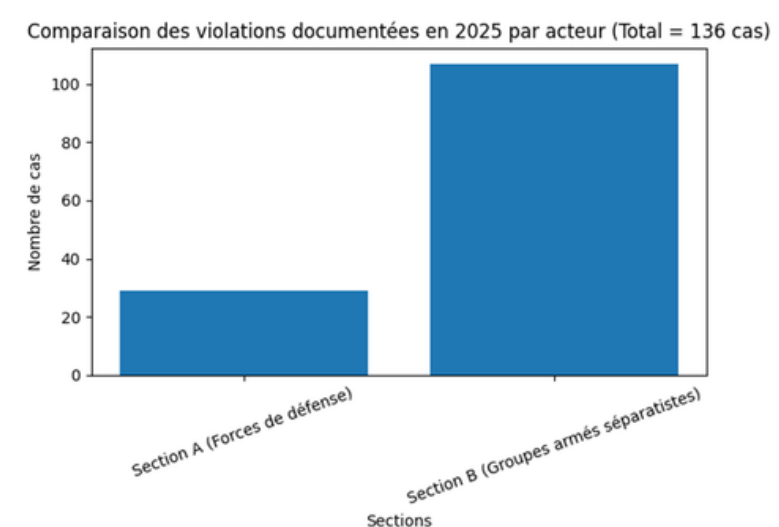
However, this distribution should not be interpreted as a comprehensive measure of all violations that occurred during the year. Due to limited access to certain rural areas, persistent insecurity, and risks of reprisals for witnesses, documented incidents represent a verified minimum rather than the total number of violations committed in 2025.

The most frequently documented categories of violations include killings, kidnappings for ransom, contested arrests, cases of torture or ill-treatment, and the destruction of civilian property.

These data reveal several structural trends in violence affecting the regions.

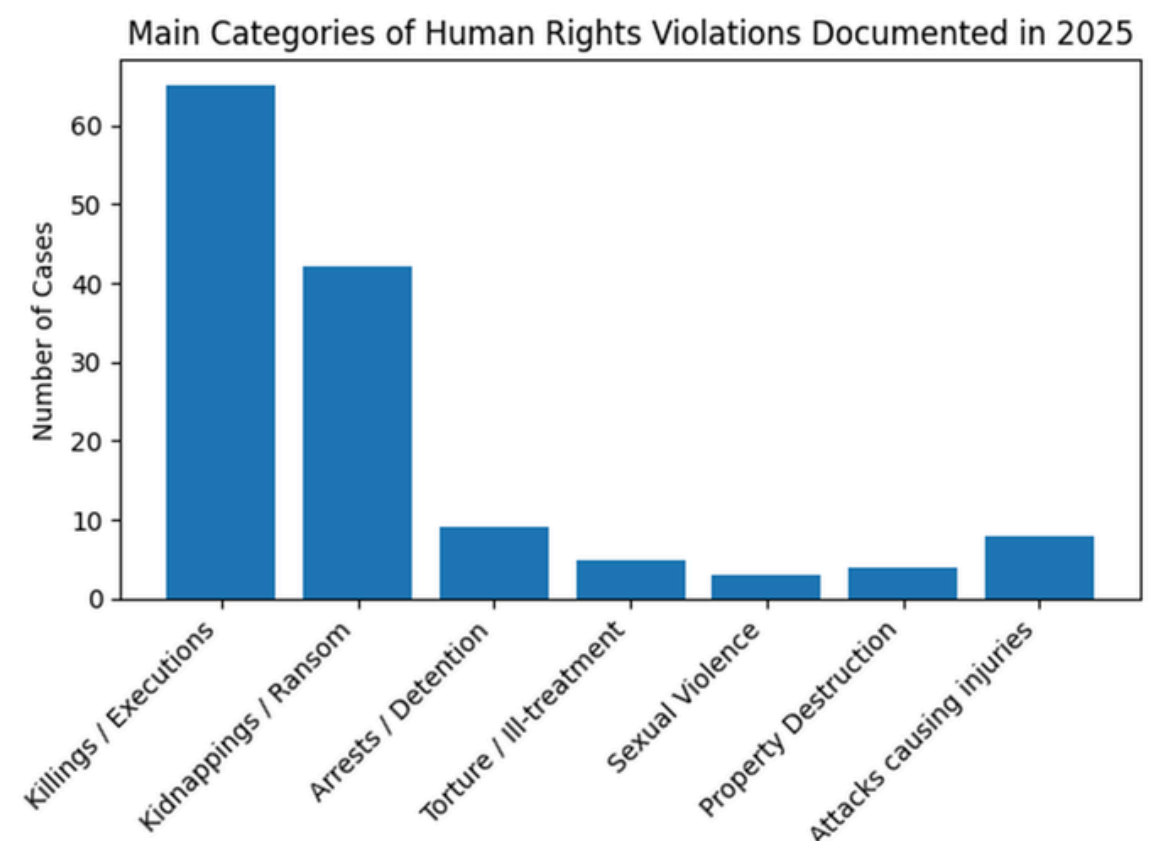
1.1 OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTED INCIDENTS

Section	Number of Cases	Percentage
A (Defense and Security Forces)	29	21.30%
B (Separatist Armed Groups)	107	78.70%
Total	136	100%



2. STATISTICAL TABLE BY TYPE OF VIOLATION (MAIN CATEGORY)

Main Category	Section A	Section B	Total
Killing / execution	16	49	65
Kidnapping / abduction	0	42	42
Arrest / detention	9	0	9
Torture / ill-treatment	2	3	5
Sexual violence	1	2	3
Destruction / attacks on property	0	4	4
Attack / injuries (without confirmed death)	1	7	8
Total	29	107	136



4. MAJOR TRENDS OBSERVED IN 2025

The qualitative analysis of documented incidents highlights several recurring dynamics that characterize the evolution of the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions.

The first major trend concerns the normalization of lethal violence against unarmed civilians. Killings represent the most significant category of violations recorded in 2025. In several cases, victims were targeted due to alleged collaboration with one or another party to the conflict, failure to comply with locally imposed instructions, or attacks intended to instill fear among the population.

The second major trend concerns the growing structuring of a ransom economy. Kidnappings for ransom have become a recurrent practice in certain areas, particularly affecting traders, transport workers, farmers, and livestock breeders.

The third important dynamic concerns systematic restrictions on freedom of movement, particularly through the coercive imposition of “ghost town” days. These days, during which populations are forced to remain at home and suspend economic activity, have significant consequences for access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and commerce.

These trends illustrate the gradual normalization of violence and coercion affecting local communities.

Estimated Human Impact of Documented Violations – 2025
The analysis of documented incidents suggests that at least 278 individuals were directly affected by human rights violations in 2025. Taking into account cases where the number of victims could not be precisely verified, a cautious estimate indicates that the total number of direct victims may range between 327 and 451 persons.

5. HUMAN IMPACT OF DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

Beyond the number of incidents recorded, the cases documented in 2025 reveal the scale of the human consequences of the crisis. Analysis of the incidents suggests that at least 278 people were directly affected by the violations documented during the year.

Taking into account cases where additional victims were mentioned but not precisely quantified, a cautious estimate suggests that the total number of direct victims could range between 327 and 451 people.

The consequences of these violations extend beyond the direct victims. Killings, kidnappings, and severe injuries often have profound effects on families and communities.

In many cases, victims represented the main economic providers for their households, thereby worsening the vulnerability of families already living in conditions of prolonged insecurity.

Psychological trauma, permanent fear, and forced displacement also contribute to weakening the local social fabric.

Increased Vulnerability of Women

Women appear particularly exposed to both the direct and indirect consequences of the conflict.

Several cases documented in 2025 involve sexual violence, public humiliation, or other forms of coercion specifically targeting women.

Beyond these direct abuses, women frequently bear a disproportionate share of the socio-economic consequences of the crisis. In many documented situations, they are left to assume sole responsibility for their families following the death, kidnapping, or displacement of their spouses.

Impact on Children

Children are also among the most vulnerable groups in the conflict.

Several documented incidents exposed minors to armed violence, kidnappings, or forced displacement. Repeated disruptions to schooling caused by insecurity and “ghost town” measures continue to affect access to education in many communities.

The detention of infants in Bamenda Central Prison illustrates particularly concerning challenges related to the protection of children in this context.

Overall, the violations documented in 2025 demonstrate the profound and lasting human impact of the crisis on civilian populations.

WHAT THE DOCUMENTED CASES REVEAL IN 2025

The incidents documented in the North-West and South-West Regions highlight several alarming realities regarding the situation of civilian populations:

- Civilians remain the primary victims of violence through targeted killings, kidnappings, and attacks against unarmed persons.
- Kidnappings for ransom have become a recurring practice affecting traders, transport workers, farmers, and livestock breeders.
- Women bear a disproportionate share of the social and economic consequences of the conflict.
- Children are directly exposed to the effects of the conflict, including school disruptions and psychological trauma.
- The detention of infants in an adult prison represents one of the most alarming examples of children's vulnerability in this context.

These elements confirm that the crisis continues to have deep and lasting human consequences for civilian populations.

"Beyond the numbers, the documented incidents in 2025 serve as a reminder that the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions remains, above all, a human tragedy, the heaviest burden of which continues to be borne by the civilian population."



RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this report highlight the urgent need to strengthen the protection of civilian populations and to promote mechanisms capable of addressing the structural causes of the crisis affecting the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon.

The following recommendations are addressed to the various actors concerned.

1. TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON

IMMEDIATE PROTECTION MEASURES

- Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of civilian populations during security operations.
- Conduct independent, impartial and effective investigations into allegations of serious human rights violations committed by members of the defense and security forces.
- Ensure that any official found responsible for serious violations is held accountable in accordance with national and international law.
- Immediately release the infants currently detained at Bamenda Central Prison, in accordance with the principles of child protection and the best interests of the child.

2. Reform of the legal framework governing detention

- Initiate a reform of the Cameroonian Criminal Procedure Code in order to provide a specific legal framework for situations involving pregnant women, mothers of infants, or women responsible for young children when they are deprived of liberty.
- Introduce legal provisions allowing the use of alternatives to detention during the investigation phase, particularly for pregnant women or mothers with dependent children.
- Ensure that detention measures respect the principles of necessity, proportionality, and the protection of vulnerable persons.

3. Dialogue and peaceful resolution of the crisis

- Promote the opening of an inclusive and credible political dialogue involving all stakeholders concerned with the crisis.
- Encourage initiatives aimed at rebuilding trust between communities and public institutions.

4. Transitional justice and accountability

- Consider the establishment of mechanisms capable of supporting a transitional justice process, including truth-seeking, accountability, reparations for victims, and guarantees of non-recurrence.
- Preserve documentation relating to serious violations in order to facilitate future processes aimed at establishing truth and accountability.

B. TO SEPARATIST ARMED GROUPS

- Immediately cease attacks against civilians and refrain from any acts targeting unarmed populations.
- End the practice of kidnapping civilians for ransom, which contributes to the deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation in the regions concerned.
- Respect the freedom of movement of civilian populations, including by refraining from coercive enforcement of “ghost town” measures.
- Respect the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians and the prohibition of hostage-taking.

C. TO INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

- Continue supporting initiatives aimed at strengthening civilian protection and promoting human rights monitoring in the regions concerned.
- Encourage efforts aimed at facilitating dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution.
- Support programs designed to assist victims of violence and strengthen the resilience of affected communities.

CONCLUSION

The crisis affecting the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon remains deeply rooted and continues to have profound human consequences for civilian populations.

The findings of this report underline the importance of maintaining independent documentation efforts and strengthening mechanisms aimed at protecting civilians, promoting accountability, and encouraging dialogue.

A sustainable resolution to the crisis will require a comprehensive approach that combines respect for human rights, accountability for violations, and inclusive political dialogue.

NORMATIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REFORM CONCERNING PREGNANT WOMEN AND MOTHERS ACCOMPANIED BY MINOR CHILDREN

The report's analysis reveals a significant gap in the national legal framework concerning the situation of pregnant women and mothers accompanied by infants or minor children when they are deprived of their liberty, whether in police custody, pre-trial detention, or while serving a sentence.

As the law currently stands, the Code of Criminal Procedure does not provide for:

- the systematic assessment of the family situation before placement in detention;
- the priority given to the best interests of the child;
- alternative measures adapted to the pre-sentencing stage (police custody or investigation).

However, existing alternative sentencing mechanisms only apply to individuals already convicted, leaving a significant legal void for those in pre-trial detention.

This situation exposes infants and young children to unsuitable detention conditions, even though they are not parties to the criminal proceedings.

International normative framework

- Convention on the Rights of the Child (principle of the best interests of the child)
- United Nations Bangkok Rules (2010)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Adopting these reforms would help prevent the recurrence of situations contrary to the fundamental rights of children and strengthen the conformity of domestic law with Cameroon's international commitments.

COALITION D ACTION POUR METTRE FIN AUX VBG

SEMAINE INTERNATIONALE DES DROITS DES FEMMES

CAMPAIGN NO BABIES BEHIND BARS: PHASE 2

**250 JOURS
EN PRISON**

**CES BÉBÉS N'ONT COMMIS
AUCUN CRIME.**

LIBÉREZ-LES MAINTENANT.

**THESE BABIES HAVE COMMITTED NO CRIME.
THEY BELONG IN CARE — NOT IN PRISON.**

FREE THEM NOW.



LETISIA – 3 MOIS



SERA – 2 MOIS

NOUS DEMANDONS:

- ✓ LA LIBÉRATION IMMÉDIATE ET INCONDITIONNELLE DES BÉBÉS
- ✓ DES MESURES ALTERNATIVES À LA DÉTENTION POUR LES MÈRES
- ✓ LE RESPECT DES ENGAGEMENTS INTERNATIONAUX DU CAMEROUN

WE CALL FOR:

- ✓ THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE BABIES
- ✓ THE USE OF NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES FOR THEIR MOTHERS
- ✓ FULL COMPLIANCE WITH CAMEROON'S LEGAL COMMITMENTS

mail:campaign@allwomentogether.info



10 EMBLEMATIC INCIDENTS DOCUMENTED IN 2025

1. Killing of Six Civilians in Kungfune, Pinyin

On the night of 23 February 2025, six unarmed civilians were killed in Kungfune, in the locality of Pinyin (Santa Subdivision, North-West Region), during an operation attributed to defense and security forces. The victims were in a drinking establishment when a military vehicle reportedly entered the neighborhood, followed by gunfire that resulted in several deaths and injuries.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: DISPROPORTIONATE USE OF FORCE DURING SECURITY OPERATIONS.

2. Detention of Two Infants at Bamenda Central Prison

On 24 June 2025, several civilians were arrested in Ndop, including two young mothers accompanied by their babies aged three and four months. The infants were detained together with their mothers at Bamenda Central Prison. Despite an international advocacy campaign led by several organizations, the babies remained in detention at the time the report was drafted.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: EXCESSIVE USE OF DETENTION AND VIOLATIONS AFFECTING VULNERABLE PERSONS.

3. Arrest and Detention of Journalist Hans Achomba

On 5 November 2025, independent journalist Hans Achomba was arrested in Bamenda by elements of the defense forces and held incommunicado for several days. His arrest occurred in a context of political tensions linked to the electoral process.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: RESTRICTIONS ON PRESS FREEDOM AND INTIMIDATION OF JOURNALISTS.

4. Killing of Infrastructure Worker Komta Elyse

On 4 February 2025, Komta Elyse, an employee of Edge Road Construction Company, was shot dead in Bamenda while participating in bridge rehabilitation works.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: TARGETING OF CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKERS.

5. Killing of Religious Leaders in Bamenda

On 11 February 2025, George Fomatum and Chanceline, local religious leaders, were forcibly taken from their homes and executed by armed men.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: ATTACKS AGAINST RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS.

6. Kidnapping of Five Students in Bambili

On 22 January 2025, five students from the University of Bamenda were abducted from their residences by armed men. The kidnapers reportedly demanded ransom for their release.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: KIDNAPPINGS FOR RANSOM AND VULNERABILITY OF STUDENTS.

7. Collective Kidnapping of 29 Civilians in Wahsi

On 19 March 2025, twenty-nine civilians were abducted along the Babessi-Bangolan road axis and were only released after ransom payments.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: THE STRUCTURING OF A RANSOM ECONOMY.

8. Execution of Drivers for Violating “Ghost Town” Orders

On 19 March 2025, two drivers were executed in Bomaka (Buea) for circulating on a Monday, a day generally marked by the enforcement of “ghost town” restrictions.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: TERRITORIAL COERCION AND VIOLENT RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

9. Armed Attack on a Social Gathering in Bambili

On 4 May 2025, armed men opened fire on a community gathering in Bambili, killing two civilians and injuring several others.

TREND ILLUSTRATED: INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS AGAINST CIVILIANS.

10. Killing of a Traditional Chief in the South-West

On 25 June 2025, Chief Maliwe, traditional leader of Wonjamba village, was killed in an armed attack in Ikata (Muyuka Subdivision).

TREND ILLUSTRATED: TARGETING OF TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES.

LIST OF DOCUMENTED INCIDENTS

North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon — 2025

African Conscience
Policy Brief Annex
March 2026

The report documents **135 total incidents** of human rights violations in 2025: **29 cases** attributed to defense forces and **106 cases** attributed to separatist armed groups.

SECTION A: Defense and Security Forces

29 Cases

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1. Killing of six civilians in Kungfuné, Pinyin (NW) | A2. Death of two brothers in Baba 1 during military operation |
| A3. Death of two civilians in Mautu (Muyuka, SW) | A4. Death in detention of a 72-year-old man in Bamenda |
| A5. Killing of Suh John alias Jean Makon in Bafut | A6. Deadly shooting at Asanyere Market (Santa) |
| A7. Mass arrest of civilians in Bambili | A8. Suspicious death in detention of Cho Tenisin in Bamenda |
| A9. Torture and detention of two infants (Bamenda Prison) | A10. Arrest and alleged extortion of Paul Aka in Ndop |
| A11. Public execution of Basil in Ndop | A12. Killing of a 17-year-old minor in Fundong |
| A13. Incommunicado detention of journalist Hans Achomba | A14. Arrest followed by execution of a young civilian in Bafut |

Cases A15 to A29 follow the same methodology and reporting structure.

SECTION B: Separatist Armed Groups

106 Cases

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B1. Killing of vegetable vendor in Mile 2 Nkwen (Bamenda) | B2. Kidnapping of Shey Komi and Shey Mbisen in Wainamah |
| B3. Killing of Teghen Ephraim in Ekona | B4. Kidnapping of Reverend Emmanuel Miyenwe in Bamenda |
| B5. Kidnapping of five students in Bambili | B6. Killing of Komta Elyse in Bamenda II |
| B7. Kidnapping of Justice Maureen Chibili in Buea | B8. Double killing of George Fomatum and Chanceline in Naka |
| B9. Double killing and burning of vehicles in Bolifamba | B10. Killing of Chief Maliwe in Ikata (Muyuka) |
| B11. Kidnapping of three traders in Nkwen (Bamenda) | B12. Burning of a civilian vehicle in Bomaka (Buea) |
| B13. Killing of Frederick Ande in Ekona | B14. Gunshot injuries in Mile 3 (Bamenda) |
| B15. Killing of Penn Collins Muluh in Nkwen | B16. Killing of Ateh Amanda in Nkwen |

Cases B17 to B106 follow the same structure, focusing on killings and kidnappings.



Human Rights Situation in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon - 2025

KEY MESSAGES

1. The crisis continues to have severe consequences for civilians

After more than eight years of violence, the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions remains deeply entrenched. Civilian populations continue to bear the heaviest burden through killings, kidnappings, restrictions on freedom of movement and widespread insecurity.

2. At least 135 incidents of human rights violations were documented in 2025
The report documents 135 credible incidents of human rights violations during the year 2025.

These incidents include killings, kidnappings for ransom, contested arrests, torture, sexual violence and destruction of civilian property. Due to access constraints and security risks, this figure should be considered a verified minimum rather than the total number of violations.

3. Civilians remain the primary victims of the conflict

The documented cases show that unarmed civilians continue to be disproportionately affected by the violence. At least 278 individuals were directly affected by the incidents documented in 2025. The real number of victims is likely higher.

4. Women and children are particularly vulnerable

The crisis has profound consequences for women and children. Women often bear the social and economic consequences of the conflict after the death or disappearance of family members. Children are exposed to violence, displacement and disruption of schooling. The detention of infants in Bamenda Central Prison represents one of the most concerning cases documented in 2025.

5. Protecting civilians must remain a priority

The report calls for:
strengthened protection of civilians
independent investigations into serious violations
the immediate release of the detained infants
reforms aimed at protecting vulnerable persons in detention
renewed efforts toward inclusive dialogue and sustainable peace

This report does not aim only to document violations. It seeks to contribute to the protection of civilians, the search for truth and the promotion of a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the crisis.

Conscience Africaine
Yaoundé - March 2026

