



CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE C.A

**2025 REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION  
IN CAMEROON'S NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST  
REGIONS**

**NWSW**

# **BETWEEN PERSISTENT VIOLENCE AND THE IMPERATIVE OF PROTECTION**

**STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS, RESPONSIBILITIES,  
AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVES**



CAMEROON

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FOREWORD.....	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	7
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	9
PRELIMINARY NOTE: DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK.....	10
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	11
<b>PART I : CONTEXT, FRAMEWORK AND POSITIONING.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PART II : METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>PART III: QUANTITATIVE DATA AND TYPOLOGY 2025.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>PART IV : STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS OF VIOLATIONS IN NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>PART V : LEGAL FRAMEWORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OUTLOOK.....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>PART VII : DOCUMENTED HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENTS IN 2025.....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>PART VIII : TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND PROSPECTS FOR EXIT FROM THE CRISIS.....</b>	<b>145</b>
RECOMMANDATIONS.....	149
GENERAL CONCLUSION.....	155

Documenting human rights violations in the context of a protracted crisis is not an easy task. It is an act of civic responsibility, a commitment to truth, and a conscious refusal to allow violence to become normalized.

Since 2016, the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon have been experiencing a crisis whose human and institutional consequences have steadily deepened. As the years pass, narratives multiply and positions harden, yet civilian populations continue to bear the heaviest burden. When violence becomes prolonged, its most insidious effect is not only the scale of its impact, but its gradual entrenchment in everyday life, until it risks being perceived as a tragic form of normality.

The 2025 Report of Conscience Africaine forms part of an important tradition established since 2019: that of independent, methodical, and sustained documentation of human rights violations. In a context where narratives are often fragmented and public discourse increasingly polarized, maintaining a reliable and verified factual record represents an essential contribution to democratic accountability.

The patterns highlighted in this report are deeply concerning. 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” orders, the heightened exposure of women and children to both direct and indirect forms of violence, and the tensions between security imperatives and fundamental rights together illustrate a crisis that can no longer be understood through simplistic analytical frameworks.

The question of the legal qualification of the situation deserves to be approached with rigor and intellectual honesty. When the criteria relating to the intensity of violence and the organization of armed actors are met, international humanitarian law becomes relevant. Acknowledging this legal reality should not be interpreted as a political position; rather, it reflects a commitment to ensuring that the highest possible standards of protection are applied to civilian populations.

Beyond the legal characterization of the situation lies an equally important

question: that of the future. No society can sustainably emerge from a crisis without confronting its past. Transitional justice should not be viewed as an ideological option but as a structural necessity. Truth, accountability, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence constitute the pillars of any credible and lasting process of reconstruction. Without these elements, peace remains fragile and vulnerable to renewed cycles of violence.

Despite numerous constraints and, at times, attempts to restrict its work, Cameroonian civil society continues to fulfill its essential role as a watchdog. This report is one illustration of that commitment. While it does not seek to replace judicial institutions, it contributes to preserving the memory of events, informing public debate, and reaffirming that human dignity must never be treated as a negotiable principle.

It now falls upon national decision-makers, political leaders, international partners, and the broader forces of Cameroonian society to demonstrate clarity and courage. The protection of civilians cannot be subordinated to competing narratives or political calculations. It remains both a legal obligation and a moral imperative.

Refusing the normalization of violence ultimately means refusing to allow the future to be built upon silence and forgetting.

“When violence becomes routine, the greatest danger is indifference. This report is therefore not only a record of violations it is a call to restore the primacy of human dignity.”

**Dr. Hilaire Kamga**  
*Human Rights Expert*

The publication of this 2025 Report is the outcome of demanding collective work, carried out in a context marked by persistent violence and challenges linked to protecting civilians in Cameroon's North-West and South-West Regions.

Conscience Africaine expresses gratitude to the Government of Canada, whose support significantly contributed to this independent documentation effort. This support strengthened analytical capacities, improved data collection methodology, and ensured the continuity of essential work to understand current dynamics.

We also acknowledge the African Center for Study and Training on Development, Democracy and Peace (CEFODEP Center) for its technical and strategic support. Through expertise in capacity building, research methodology, and data consolidation, CEFODEP helped raise this report's rigor and analytical coherence.

We thank volunteers and member organizations of the Coalition of Civil Society Human Rights Organizations for Peace in the North-West and South-West ("The Coalition"). Their engagement in sometimes unstable security environments enabled collecting, verifying, and fact checking essential information. Their determination shows civil society's resilience amid risks and constraints surrounding documentation work.

We also recognize partner organizations like Mandela Center International and Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme, whose involvement strengthened this report's credibility, depth, and strategic reach.

This document continues Conscience Africaine's institutional commitment, formalized since 2018, to rigorously, independently, and constantly document human rights violations in crisis-affected regions. Maintaining this annual documentation tradition affirms the need to preserve facts, contribute to truth, and support responsibility, justice, and dialogue perspectives – aligning with Conscience Africaine's vision since 1994.

Beyond figures and analyses, this reflects a collective commitment to human dignity and refusing the normalization of violence.

**Tarnteh Amadu Ngangpanweh**  
*Executive Secretary, Conscience Africaine*



**NIAC:** Non-international armed conflict

**CA:** Conscience Africaine

**IED:** Improvised explosive device

**FDS:** Defense and Security Forces

**OHCHR:** Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Human Rights

**HURICA:** Human Rights Information and Documentation Center  
(Amnesty International West Africa)

**MCI:** Mandela Center International

**NDH:** Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme

**NOSO:** North-West and South-West regions

**CSO:** Civil society organization(s)

**AP II:** Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions

**ICCPR:** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

**MDR:** Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting Reporting  
(secure and respectful documentation)

**CDHC: Cameroon Human Rights Commission**

**UN:** United Nations

This report uses several legal and analytical concepts whose understanding is essential to reading the document. The definitions below aim to clarify the conceptual framework without prejudging a jurisdictional qualification.

**Non-international armed conflict (NIAC):** Situation of prolonged armed violence pitting state armed forces against organized armed groups or pitting such groups against each other, reaching a sufficient threshold of intensity within the meaning of international humanitarian law.

**Reasonable grounds to believe:** An evidentiary standard used by international fact-finding mechanisms, indicating that the available information is sufficiently credible, consistent and corroborated to justify a preliminary factual conclusion.

**Direct victims:** People explicitly identified as killed, injured, kidnapped, detained or subjected to documented violence.

**Ghost town / Lockdown:** Days of confinement imposed in a coercive manner, characterized by the ban on movement and the forced closure of activities under threat of sanctions.

**Ransom economy:** Structured dynamic of kidnappings for payment constituting both a financing mechanism and an instrument of territorial control.

**Transitional justice:** Set of judicial and non-judicial mechanisms aimed at addressing massive human rights violations from a perspective of truth, accountability, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

The terms “alleged”, “attributed to” or “alleged” reflect consistent methodological caution and do not constitute a declaration of guilt.

The year 2025 confirms the persistence and consolidation of a prolonged armed crisis in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon. Based on a rigorous methodology consistent with international documentation standards, this report establishes 136 credible incidents of human rights violations occurring during the year 2025 in the North West and South West (NOSO) regions, in a context of persistent armed violence initiated in 2017. These incidents were established on the basis of an evidentiary standard based on “reasonable grounds to believe”, in accordance with international practices in documenting violations.

## 1. Global data

Of the 136 documented incidents:

29 cases (21.3%) are attributed to the defense and security forces;

107 cases (78.7%) are attributed to armed separatist groups.

The dominant violations are:

**Homicides and executions: 65 cases;**

**Kidnappings/kidnappings: 42 cases;**

**Contested arrests/detentions: 9 cases;**

**Torture and ill-treatment: 5 cases;**

**Sexual violence: 3 cases;**

**Destruction of civilian property: 4 cases;**

**Serious injuries during armed attacks: 8 cases.**

These data reveal a worrying trivialization of lethal violence against unarmed civilians.

## 2. Estimated direct victims

Beyond the 136 incidents, the use of the descriptions allows us to estimate that at least 278 people were directly affected (killed, kidnapped, injured or detained). A conservative estimate, including cases described as “several” or “numerous”, places the range between 327 and 451 direct victims. These figures do not reflect all of the actual victims in the year 2025, but only those explicitly mentioned in the documented cases.

## 3. Major structural trends

### 3.1 Trivialization of homicides

Homicide remains the dominant form of violence. Targeted executions, punitive reprisals and shootings in civilian areas reflect a normalization of the lethal use of force in contexts where the distinction between civilians and combatants is frequently compromised.

### 3.2 Institutionalization of a ransom economy

The documented kidnappings reveal a progressive structuring of a coercive economy based on ransom. Road interceptions, collective kidnappings, systematic financial demands and executions despite payment illustrate a dynamic which seriously affects traders, farmers, transporters and students, lastingly weakening the local economy.

### 3.3 Systematic attack on freedom of movement

The coercive imposition of so-called “ghost town” days continues to massively restrict the freedom to come and go. Failure to comply has led to targeted killings, burning of property, physical attacks and public intimidation. The resulting economic and social paralysis affects access to education, health care and livelihoods.

### 3.4 Collective arrests and contested detentions

Several cases document mass arrests, prolonged detentions, allegations of extortion and the use of military courts to try civilians.

## 4. Emblematic case: detention of infants

The continued pre-trial detention of two infants aged 3 and 4 months at Bamenda central prison, arrested with their mothers in June 2025 and prosecuted before a military court, constitutes one of the most worrying cases documented this year. Infants, devoid of any criminal responsibility, remain incarcerated in an adult penitentiary establishment. Despite national and international mobilization, particularly as part of the “No Babies Behind Bars” campaign, and formal referral to the competent authorities, no releases had been recorded as of the date this report was finalized. This case raises serious concerns about respect for the best interests of the child, the proportionality of custodial measures and the fundamental guarantees applicable to vulnerable people. It constitutes a revealing indicator of the persistent tensions between security imperatives and the protection of fundamental rights.

## 5. Geographic concentration

The documented violations are mainly concentrated in:

- Mezam (Bamenda and surrounding areas);
- Ngoketunjia (Ndop, Bamessing, Balikumbat, Baba 1, Babungo, Babessi etc);
- Muyuka (South-West);
- Bui (Kumbo,);
- Belo (Fundong)
- Fako (Buea, Tiko, Limbe).

These areas appear to be persistent hotbeds of violence, characterized by repeated cycles of attacks, reprisals and social coercion.

## 6. Legal qualification of the situation

Given the prolonged intensity of the violence, the duration of the conflict (more than eight consecutive years), the use of structured armed operations and the degree of organization observed among the separatist armed groups, the documented factual elements appear to correspond to the criteria of a non-international armed conflict (NIAC) within the meaning of international humanitarian law. This qualification, based on international jurisprudential standards, implies the application of Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions as well as the fundamental principles of distinction, proportionality and protection of civilians. It does not constitute a political position, but a normative analysis aimed at clarifying the applicable legal framework and strengthening the protection of affected populations.

## 7. Position of civil society and call for dialogue

Conscience Africaine and its partners are calling for the opening of a direct and inclusive dialogue between the central State and separatist movements. The purpose of documenting violations is not to fuel divisions, but to promote truth, accountability, reparation and a credible process of transitional justice. The persistence of violence in 2025 confirms that the strictly security response does not make it possible to sustainably resolve the root causes of the crisis.

## Conclusion

The year 2025 confirms not only the persistence of the conflict in the North-West and South-West regions, but also its structural roots. The 136 documented incidents, and the hundreds of direct victims they represent, reflect a worrying normalization of violence, a consolidation of a coercive economy and a progressive weakening of mechanisms for the protection of civilians.

The situation calls for a dual requirement: strict compliance with applicable international standards particularly those relating to international humanitarian law and international human rights law and resolute commitment to an inclusive political dialogue likely to pave the way for a credible transitional justice process.

The effective protection of civilians, the restoration of freedom of movement and the safeguarding of the most vulnerable people, in particular children, now constitute urgent imperatives for any prospect of lasting stabilization.

## ***Detention of two infants at Bamenda central prison***

On June 24, 2025, two babies aged 3 and 4 months respectively were arrested with their mothers in Ndop and placed in pretrial detention at Bamenda central prison.

The mothers are being prosecuted before the Military Tribunal. Infants, completely deprived of legal or penal capacity, remain incarcerated in an adult penitentiary establishment.

Credible allegations of torture have been made regarding the conditions of initial police custody.

### **A consortium of national and international organizations including:**

Conscience Africaine  
Mandela Center International,  
Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme  
All Women Together,  
and other partners

### **officially addressed:**

the Attorney General,  
the Government Commissioner,  
the Presidency of the Republic,  
the Minister of Defense,  
the Cameroon Human Rights Commission.

Despite these formal steps and the international “No Babies Behind Bars” campaign, none of them have been released as of the date of writing of this report.

The prolonged detention of infants in prison constitutes an exceptionally serious situation and symbolizes the weakening of fundamental guarantees of protection.

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# **PART I :** **CONTEXT, FRAMEWORK AND POSITIONING**

## 1. GENERAL CONTEXT

Evolution of the crisis in the North-West and South-West regions (2016–2025)

### 1.1. Origins and gradual transformation of the crisis

The crisis in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon finds its origins in the corporatist demand movements launched in 2016 by English-speaking teachers and lawyers. These demands focused primarily on the protection of the educational and legal system of the Anglo-Saxon tradition and concerns about perceived institutional marginalization. The initial security response to the protests including arrests, restrictions on access to Internet and bans on organizations contributed to the radicalization of part of the protest movement. From 2017, the situation gradually transformed into an armed confrontation between:

- the defense and security forces of the Cameroonian state;
- organized separatist armed groups claiming the independence of a territory called “Ambazonia”..

This shift marked the transition socio-political protest to a lasting security crisis.

### 1.2 Intensification and militarization of the conflict

Since 2018, the regions concerned have experienced:

- recurring armed clashes;
- the use of automatic weapons;
- the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs);
- military search operations;
- targeted assassinations of civilians accused of collaboration;
- systematic kidnappings for ransom.

The continued duration of hostilities now eight consecutive years far exceeds the threshold for sporadic internal unrest.

In 2025, violence remains territorially concentrated but structurally persistent, confirming the consolidation of a climate of chronic insecurity.

## 2. Framework and Indicator

### 2.1 Territorial fragmentation and local control dynamics

Some rural and peri-urban areas have experienced, to varying degrees, local influence or control exercised by separatist armed groups. These dynamics favored:

- the imposition of so-called “ghost town” days;
- the establishment of informal coercive systems;
- the collection of illegal financial contributions;
- the establishment of parallel mechanisms of authority.

At the same time, state forces have intensified their security presence in areas considered separatist strongholds, leading to increased militarization of civilian space. This coexistence of competing forms of authority contributes to local instability.

### 2.2. Macro-structural indicators of the crisis

Beyond the incidents documented for the year 2025, the crisis has generated prolonged humanitarian and socio-economic impacts.

#### *\* Internal travel*

Since 2017, several hundred thousand people have been displaced at the height of the crisis, according to various public estimates from humanitarian actors.

In 2025, travel will persist in more discreet forms:

- circular mobility;
- temporary departures to urban centers;
- relocations to other regions of the country;
- passages to neighboring Nigeria.

These movements reflect a climate of lasting insecurity.

#### *\* Educational disruptions*

Since the outbreak of violence:

- schools were burned or closed;
- teachers were targeted;
- students were kidnapped or intimidated;
- establishments operated intermittently.

Although certain infrastructures have gradually reopened, the year 2025 confirms the persistent fragility of the education system in several localities.

**\* *Economic paralysis***

The weekly imposition of “ghost towns” results in:

- regular closure of markets;
- drastic reduction in transport;
- drop in daily income;
- increased precariousness of households.

Workers in the informal sector motorcycle drivers, traders, farmers, market sellers are among the most exposed.

The ransom economy, consolidated over the years, aggravates this vulnerability.

**\* *Militarization of civil space***

The crisis has led to:

- multiplication of checkpoints;
- regular armed patrols;
- raking operations;
- recourse to military courts to try civilians.

At the same time, armed groups established multiple informal checkpoints and illegal taxation systems. This cross militarization reduces civic space and accentuates the vulnerability of populations.

## **2.3. Structurally compromised freedom of movement**

The freedom to come and go has become one of the most affected freedoms.

The coercive imposition of “ghost town” days, often on Mondays or during symbolic events, has resulted in:

- targeted killings for non-compliance with instructions;
- vehicles set ablaze;
- destruction of businesses;
- public intimidation.

The repeated paralysis of economic activity limits access:

- to health care;
- to education;
- to administrative services;
- to means of subsistence.

At the same time, certain security operations have caused additional mobility restrictions.

## 2.4. Factual indicators relevant for legal qualification

Several elements observed consistently for several years and confirmed in 2025 are indicative of a situation meeting the generally accepted criteria of a non-international armed conflict (NIAC), in particular:

- the prolonged intensity of the violence;
- the structured organization of armed groups;
- the capacity for planning and coordinated operations;
- the use of weapons of war and explosives;
- the continued duration of hostilities;
- the multiplicity of lethal incidents;
- the territorial extension of the clashes.

The legal qualification aims to determine the applicable normative corpus, and not to produce a political position.

## 2.5 Security narrative and public debate

The Cameroonian authorities mainly describe the situation as a fight against terrorism and organized crime, placing government action within a logic of maintaining reinforced order. However, part of civil society believes that recognition of the appropriate legal framework would clarify the applicable obligations and strengthen the protection of civilians.

## 3. Institutional commitment of Conscience Africaine

Since 2018, Conscience Africaine has been carrying out structured work to document human rights violations in affected regions. In 2019, the organization contributed to the creation of a Coalition of Civil Society Organizations working for human rights and peace in the North West, South West and other impacted regions. The members of this coalition benefited from specialized training in Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting of human rights violations (MDR) delivered by HURICA of Amnesty International, with the support of Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme. This 2025 report is part of this consolidated methodological continuity.

## 4. Positioning and purpose of the report

The 2025 report aims to:

- rigorously document violations occurring during the year;
- identify structural trends;
- contribute to the legal debate;
- support the protection of civilians;
- fuel accountability mechanisms and ;
- promote a lasting political solution.

It constitutes neither a judicial indictment nor a jurisdictional decision, but a factual document intended to reinforce truth, accountability and the search for lasting peace.

Given the context described above, it is essential to adopt a rigorous methodological approach guaranteeing the reliability, consistency and credibility of the information collected. The following chapter sets out the evidentiary standards, the sources used and the structural limits governing the documentation of the 136 incidents in 2025

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# PART II : METHODOLOGY

# I. APPROACH, EVIDENTIARY STANDARDS AND GUARANTEES OF INDEPENDENCE

## 1.1. General methodological framework

This documentation is based on a structured qualitative methodology, inspired by the standards used by international fact finding mechanisms, in particular:

- United Nations commissions of inquiry;
- the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- the documentation practices of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

The objective is to establish plausible, credible and coherent facts, without claiming to exercise jurisdictional competence.

The report documents 136 cases occurring in 2025, distributed as follows: 29 cases attributed to defense and security forces; 107 cases attributed to armed separatist groups.

Each case was classified according to a dominant primary violation.

## 1.2. Sources of information

The information was collected from: direct testimonies from victims or relatives; interviews with eyewitnesses; community networks trained in Monitoring and documentation; verification by secondary sources (local publications, official press releases, media platforms); cross-contextual analyzes with similar incidents in the same area. Where possible, information was triangulated.

## 1.3. Standard of proof applied

The report applies a standard of proof based on the notion of “reasonable grounds to believe”, a standard frequently used in international investigation reports.

A case is included when the information is internally consistent, the sources are considered credible, the available elements do not reveal obvious inconsistencies, and the local context makes the facts plausible. In case of substantial uncertainty, the case was not included.

## 1.4. Classification of violations

Each case was analyzed according to a grid including:

- nature of the violation;
- status of victims (civilian, detained person, minor, community leader, etc.);
- precise location;
- alleged actor;
- operational context (ghost town, military operation, road interception, detention, etc.);
- sources available.

When several violations were present (e.g.: kidnapping followed by execution), the classification retains the most serious violation.

## 1.5. Neutrality, impartiality and independence

The report takes a non partisan approach. Violations attributed to state forces and those attributed to armed groups are documented according to the same methodological criteria. The terms “alleged,” “alleged,” and “attributed to” reflect continued caution. The report does not aim to establish individual criminal responsibility but to identify structural trends.

## 1.6. Protection of sources and ethical considerations

Given the high risks of reprisals:

- some identities have been anonymized;
- sensitive details have been deliberately omitted;
- the interviews respected informed consent;
- the information was handled under strict confidentiality protocols.

Particular attention was paid to women victims of sexual violence, minors, detained people and witnesses exposed to risks.

## 1.7. Structural limits

Several constraints affected the collection:

- limited access to some rural areas;
- travel restrictions linked to “ghost towns”;
- climate of fear;
- lack of institutional transparency;
- difficulty of access to places of detention.

The figure of 136 cases therefore does not represent all of the violations occurring in 2025, but a sample documented according to rigorous criteria.

## II. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK AND POSITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

### 2.1. Approach based on the protection of civilians

The report adopts as its guiding principle the centrality of the protection of civilians. Any legal or political analysis is subordinate to this fundamental imperative: the protection of life, dignity and fundamental freedoms.

### 2.2. Legal qualification of the situation

Considering the factual criteria observed for several years, and confirmed in 2025, Conscience Africaine believes that the situation in the North-West and South-West presents the characteristics of a non-international armed conflict (NIAC).

This qualification is based on the prolonged intensity of the violence, the existence of organized armed groups, the conduct of coordinated operations, the duration of the hostilities and the militarized nature of the clashes.

The legal qualification does not constitute a political position, but a normative determination aimed at clarifying the applicable rules.

Consequently, civil society maintains that:

- International humanitarian law is applicable;
- obligations relating to the protection of civilians must be fully respected;
- the fundamental guarantees provided for in Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions must be observed.

### 2.3. Debate on the security narrative

The Cameroonian authorities maintain an interpretation centered on “big banditry” and “terrorism”, placing government action within a paradigm of reinforced law enforcement. This approach, although legitimate in the fight against criminal acts, may prove insufficient when the factual reality corresponds to the thresholds of an armed conflict. Civil society considers that the recognition of the appropriate legal framework strengthens the protection of civilians, clarifies the obligations of the parties, reduces areas of impunity and promotes transparency.

### 2.4. Freedom of movement and social coercion

The imposition of “ghost towns” constitutes one of the most structural attacks on fundamental rights in 2025. These practices have led to: homicides; settings properties ablaze ; economic intimidation; paralysis of essential services. The State remains obliged to guarantee the freedom to come and go, even in situations of

insecurity. The continued failure to neutralize these coercive mechanisms contributes to the erosion of institutional trust.

## **2.5. Advocacy for inclusive dialogue**

Since 2017, Conscience Africaine has advocated for a true inclusive national dialogue between:

- the central state;
- representatives of separatist movements;
- community leaders;
- civil society organizations;
- the victims.

Documentation of violations aims to:

- establish the truth;
- prepare the foundations for transitional justice;
- promote accountability;
- support a lasting political solution.

Sustainable peace cannot be based solely on security responses.



---

# **PART III**

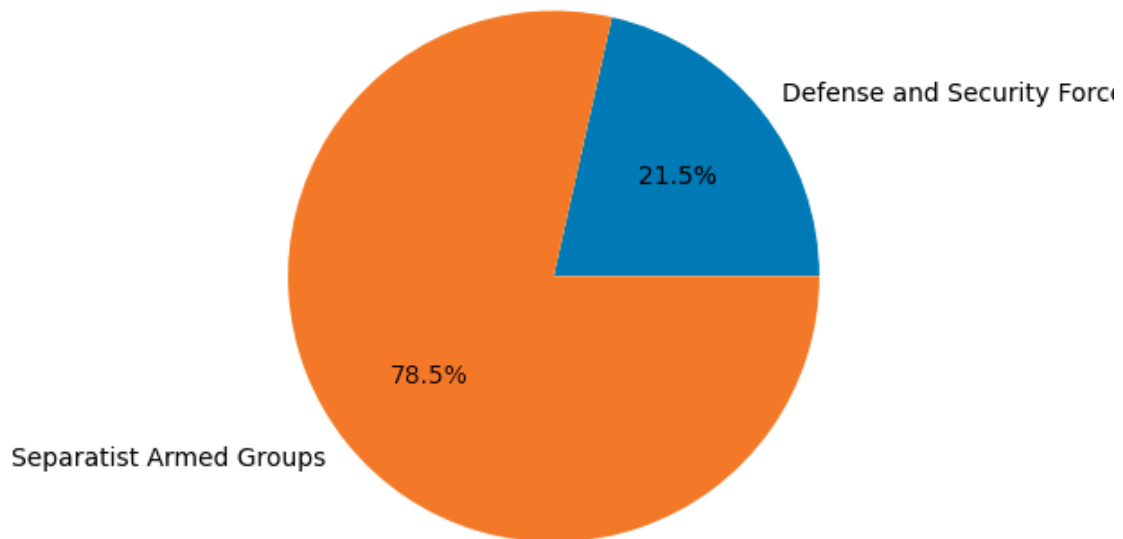
# **QUANTITATIVE DATA AND TYPOLOGY 2025**

# CHAPTER 1 : STATISTICAL DISTRIBUTION

## 1. Overall distribution of documented incidents

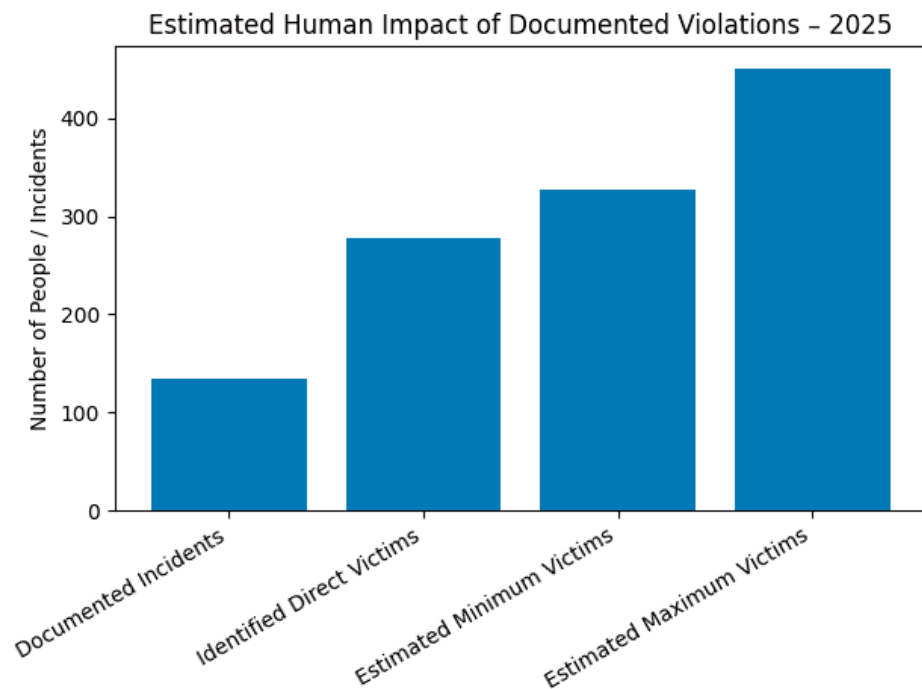
Section	Number of Cases	Percentage
<b>A (Defense and Security Forces)</b>	29	21.5%
<b>B (Separatist Armed Groups)</b>	106	78.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>100%</b>

Distribution of Documented Incidents by Actor (2025)



## 2. Statistical table by type of violation (main category)

Main Category	Section A	Section B	Total
<b>Killing / Execution</b>	16	49	65
<b>Kidnapping / Abduction</b>	0	42	42
<b>Arrest / Detention</b>	9	0	9
<b>Torture / Ill-treatment</b>	2	3	5
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	1	2	3
<b>Destruction / Attacks against Property</b>	0	4	4
<b>Attacks / Injuries (without confirmed death)</b>	1	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>135</b>



### 3.Synthèse

The dominant category is Homicide/execution (65/136), followed by Kidnappings (42/135).

Arrests/detention cases consistent with the A/B structuring of the report.

Kidnappings and the majority of homicides are concentrated in Section B.

## 1.2 Main typology of violations Methodological Element for Analysis of 2025 Trends

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

29 cases (21.3%) attributed to defense and security forces (Section A)

107 cases (78.7%) attributed to separatist armed groups (Section B)

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

### 1. Homicides and executions: dominant form of violence

With 65 cases out of 135, homicides constitute the most represented category in 2025, including 16 cases in Section A and 49 cases in Section B.

Homicides attributed to armed groups are mainly linked to accusations of collaboration, non-compliance with “ghost town” instructions and punitive regulations. Homicides attributed to state forces mainly concern security operations, and deaths in the context of arrest or armed intervention. This trend confirms a worrying trivialization of lethal violence against civilians.

### 2. Expansion of kidnappings and the ransom economy

Kidnappings represent 42 cases out of 135, the second dominant category.

These cases are almost exclusively attributed to armed separatist groups.

Observed characteristics include:

- interceptions on highways,
- collective kidnappings,
- systematic ransom demands,
- executions despite payment in certain cases.

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

### 3. Contested arrests and detentions

Arrests and detentions represent 9 main cases, all documented in Section A. The cases include arrests without an alleged warrant, prolonged detentions, transfer to military courts and detention of vulnerable people, including infants. The case of babies detained at Bamenda central prison constitutes the most worrying incident in this category.

### 4. Torture and ill treatment

5 main cases document allegations of torture or cruel treatment.

Descriptions include:

- severe physical violence,
- electrocution,
- drowning simulation,
- public humiliation.

These cases appear in Section A and Section B, although mainly linked to detention contexts.

### 5. Sexual violence and gender-based abuse

3 main cases concern documented sexual violence.

The elements noted include:

- rape in the context of an operation,
- sexual violence linked to political intimidation,
- public humiliation of women accused of collaboration.

### 6. Destruction of property and attacks on civilian property

4 main cases document fires or destruction of property.

These incidents are mainly linked to:

- to the imposition of “ghost town”,
- to economic retaliation. deaths

### 7. Attacks and injuries without confirmed death

8 cases document attacks resulting in injuries without confirmed deaths.

They include:

- shootings in markets or public places,
- attacks on places of worship,
- attacks at social gathering,
- gunshot wounds during armed incursions.

### 1. 3. Estimated direct victims 2025 (beyond incidents)

#### A. “Very solid” minimum estimate (only what is explicitly quantified)

Minimum direct casualties (people):  $\approx 278$

This figure corresponds to a documented minimum, because it only adds up the victims clearly identified/quantified in the stories.

#### B. Expanded estimate (conservative range based on “several/many/etc.” formulations)

Estimated range:  $\approx 327$  to 451 direct victims

Here, we maintain a cautious approach: we do not invent figures, we only transform certain vague terms into conservative ranges.

#### 2) Data by type of victim

These totals may overlap (e.g. a person kidnapped and then killed appears in 2 categories).

**Minimum (explicit) → Range (estimated)**

**People killed: 101 → 123 to 164**

**People kidnapped: 103 → 125 to 168**

**People injured: 12 → 42 to 94**

**People detained/arrested: 75 → 93 to 120**

**Sexual violence: (not explicitly quantified) → 6 to 17**

**Torture/ill-treatment: (not explicitly quantified) → 9 to 24**

Beyond the 135 documented incidents, the use of the descriptions allows us to estimate that in 2025, these incidents will have directly affected at least  $\sim 278$  people.

By including a conservative estimate for cases described in non-quantified terms (e.g. “several victims”), the number of direct victims could be in the range of  $\sim 327$  to  $\sim 451$  people.

These estimates are based exclusively on the victims mentioned in the documented cases and do not claim to reflect all actual victims in the year 2025.

## CHAPTER 2 : GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION: STRUCTURAL AND GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

The analysis is based on 136 cases documented in 2025, covering the North-West and South-West regions. These cases reveal not only recurring typologies of violations, but also a significant territorial concentration, suggesting persistent centers of violence.

### I. Geographic concentration of violations

Examination of the 136 cases highlights a marked concentration in certain divisions and sub divisions.

#### 1. Mezam Division (Bamenda and surrounding areas)

The Mezam division appears to be one of the epicenters of documented violence. The most affected localities include: Bamenda (Nkwen, Ntarikon, Mile 2, Mile 3), Bambili, Santa, Bafut, Bambui).

Specific trends observed:

- Targeted killings of civilians in urban areas;
- Kidnappings and assassinations of religious leaders;
- Violence linked to non-respect of “ghost towns”;
- Arrests and transfers to military jurisdictions;
- Discovery of abandoned bodies on the urban outskirts.

The Mezam thus presents a combination of urban violence, social coercion and intensified security operations.

#### 2. Ngoketunjia Division (Ndop, Bamessing, Baba 1, Babessi)

Ngoketunjia is distinguished by:

- collective kidnappings;
- systematic road blockages;
- executions linked to accusations of collaboration;
- emblematic cases of prolonged detention.

The Babessi–Baba 1 and Ndop–Bamessing axes appear to be particularly vulnerable. This area appears structured around a consolidated ransom economy, with repeated kidnappings and organized financial demands

### 3. Muyuka sub division (South-West)

Muyuka remains a major focus of violent incidents, including: targeted killings; attacks on traders; kidnappings for ransom; destruction of property; attacks on places of social gathering. The recurrence of incidents suggests ongoing instability and competition for territorial control.

### 4. Bui Division (Kumbo, Jakiri)

In Bui, documented cases reveal: assassinations of teachers and community actors; mass kidnappings; attacks on schools; community retaliation operations. The violence directly affects the education sector and civilian infrastructure.

### 5. Fako Division (Buea, Tiko, Limbe)

Incidents documented in Fako include: homicides of drivers and traders; attacks against employees of industrial Agro- companies; vehicle set on fires; attacks against administrative representatives. The area appears marked by tensions between economic imperatives and the imposition of coercive instructions.

## II. Dominant Typologies by Area: Trends in Violations Across Zones

A cross-analysis of zones and violations reveals distinct trends, highlighting area-specific patterns of human rights abuses.

Area	Dominant Violations
<b>Mezam</b>	Urban killings, arrests, attacks against religious figures
<b>Ngoketunjia</b>	Collective kidnappings, ransom-related executions
<b>Muyuka</b>	Targeted killings and arson attacks
<b>Bui</b>	Attacks against teachers and schools
<b>Fako</b>	Killings of transport workers and economic pressure

## III. Interaction between Geography and Operating Methods

The violence observed is not random; it is intricately linked to territorial control schemes. Different locations are exploited for specific types of violence:

- Roads are key sites for abductions.
- Markets and gathering places are used for intimidation.
- Dense urban areas see concentrated targeted homicides.
- Isolated rural areas are prone to prolonged detentions and covert executions.

## IV. Cumulative Territorial Impact

Areas experience repeated incidents in a short timeframe, leading to:

- Chronic insecurity
- Undocumented internal displacements
- Partial economic paralysis
- Erosion of trust in institutions

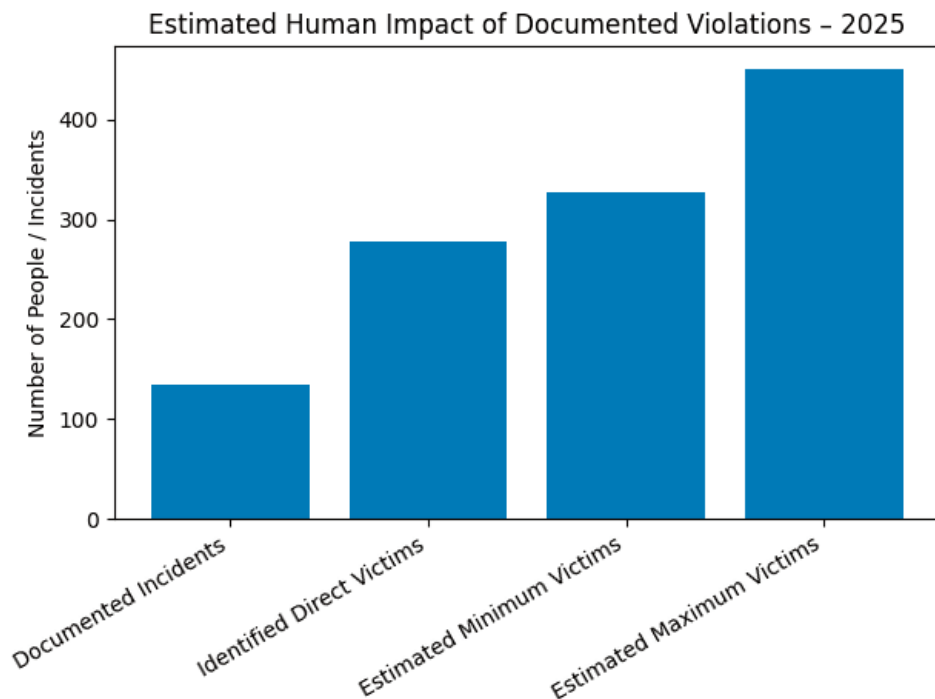
## V. Geographic Conclusion

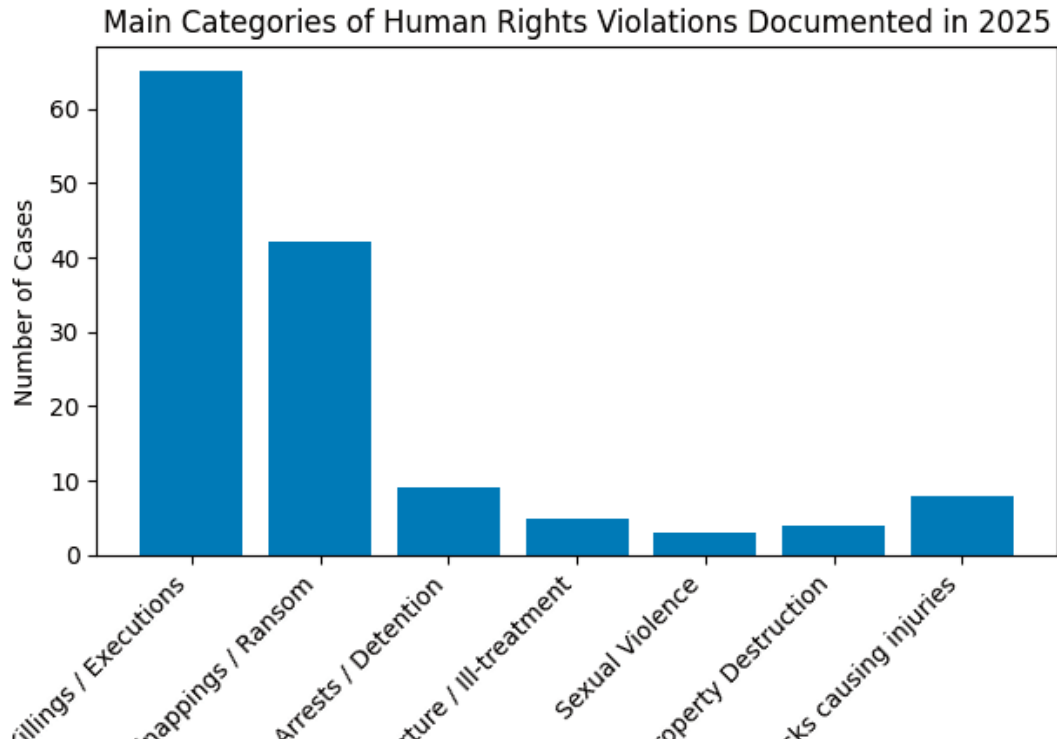
2025 data confirms that violence in North-West and South-West regions is:

- Territoriality concentrated
- Structurally recurrent
- Area-specific
- Linked to local control and retaliation dynamics

Incident mapping highlights vulnerability corridors, including:

- Bamenda–Bambili
- Ndop–Bamessing
- Muyuka–Ekona
- Kumbo–Jakiri
- Buea–Bomaka
- Ndu- Nkambe





# PART IV :

## STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS OF VIOLATIONS IN NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS

This analysis is based on 136 cases documented in 2025, with 29 attributed to defense and security forces and 107 to armed separatist groups. Beyond the numbers, these cases reveal structural, territorial, and functional trends indicating a normalization of violence and erosion of civilian protection mechanisms.

## CHAPTER 1: FUNDAMENTAL DETERMINANTS OF STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS

### A. Consolidation of Lethal Punitive Violence

Homicides dominate documented violations in 2025, reflecting a qualitative shift in violence. They often serve as punishment:

- For non-compliance with armed group instructions
- Presumed collaboration with authorities
- Reprisals after security operations
- Public executions as deterrence

Lethal violence is used for social and territorial control. In urban areas like Bamenda, it's targeted and symbolic (e.g., market assassinations). In rural areas, it's often concealed (e.g., executions on outskirts).

### B. Structuring a Ransom Economy

Kidnappings are frequent, recurrent, and involve systematic financial demands, indicating a parallel economy based on deprivation of liberty. Patterns include:

- Interception or home intrusion
- Accusation and ransom demand
- Detention in forests or rural areas
- Conditional release on payment (sometimes followed by execution)

This affects economic players, weakens the regional economy, and entrenches a war economy.

### C. Security Arrests and Extension of Detention

Cases attributed to state forces show a distinct dynamic: mass arrests and prolonged detentions. Incidents include:

- Collective arrests
- Transfers to military jurisdictions
- Prolonged police custody
- Allegations of mistreatment

The use of military courts for civilians raises concerns about procedural guarantees. This reflects an increasing securitization of the state response, treating the conflict as a prolonged exception.

The detention of infants at Bamenda Central Prison illustrates extensive detention use, even for vulnerable individuals, highlighting an imbalance between security and fundamental rights.

Documented injuries affect at least 12 people (actual numbers may be higher), with:

- Gunshot wounds
- Physical attacks
- Permanent disabilities
- Increased financial burden on families
- Limited access to care in some areas

At least 75 people were arrested or detained. Contested detentions, torture allegations, and harsh prison conditions lead to:

- Prolonged family separation
- Social stigma
- Job loss
- Economic insecurity

## **D. “Ghost Town”: Territorial Coercion Mechanism**

“Ghost town” instructions are a structuring instrument of territorial control by armed groups, involving:

- Killings of Monday travelers
- Vehicle arson
- Attacks on traders
- Violence against non-compliant individuals

This strategy aims to impose collective discipline and alternative authority, affecting access to healthcare, education, and essential goods.

Lockdowns by armed groups restrict freedom of movement, with:

- Road blocks (e.g., Kumbo-Mezam road)
- Confinements during national events
- Pressure on authorities (e.g., release of detained civilians)

Reprisals against non-compliant individuals include:

- Targeted killings
- Torture
- Business burnings
- Kidnappings

Civilians are caught between intersecting risks from both armed groups and security forces.

## E- Increased Vulnerability of Women and Children

The analysis highlights women's and children's particular exposure to conflict dynamics, including:

- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Public humiliations
- Kidnappings of minors
- Detention of infants
- Attacks on schools

Women are doubly exposed as direct victims and relatives of targeted individuals. Children face direct violence and indirect effects like school closures and chronic insecurity, revealing the conflict's differentiated impact and weakened family/community protection mechanisms.

## F. Geographic Concentration and Persistent Outbreaks

Incidents concentrate in several divisions:

- Mezam (Bamenda): urban homicides and arrests
- Ngoketunjia (Ndop, Bamessing): collective kidnappings and executions
- Muyuka: targeted killings and arson
- Bui (Kumbo, Jakiri): attacks on teachers and schools
- Fako (Buea, Tiko, Limbe): homicides of transporters and economic attacks

These areas are strategic axes or high-density urban centers, suggesting lasting vulnerability corridors.

## G. Impunity and Lack of Accountability

No independent investigations are publicly documented for most incidents, contributing to:

- Persistence of violence
- Weakened institutional trust
- Structuring factor in the conflict's entrenchment

## CHAPTER 2: HUMAN IMPACT 2025

At least 278 people were directly affected by serious violations (estimated 327-451 victims). These aren't just numbers they represent interrupted lives, disrupted families, and weakened communities.

### 1-Impact on Women and Gendered Vulnerabilities

#### ***Women are affected specifically:***

- **Direct victims:** killed, injured, kidnapped, sexually abused
- **Indirect victims:** widowhood, increased childcare responsibility, economic vulnerability
- **Prisoners with children:** weakened mother-child bond, health risks

#### ***Affected Children: A Generation Exposed***

Minors were killed, injured, kidnapped, or detained. Detention of infants highlights child protection fragility, with likely profound long-term effects.

The conflict's impact isn't gender-neutral. Women face disproportionate structural consequences. Any response must integrate a gender-sensitive approach, including protection against sexual violence and psychosocial support.

#### ***Cumulative Impact on Social Cohesion***

The conflict weakens communities through:

- Generalized distrust
- Social polarization
- Erosion of institutional trust
- Normalization of violence

The economic consequences of lockdowns and “ghost towns” are profound.

#### ***Traders and Entrepreneurs***

Traders face significant financial losses, supply disruptions, and increased debt due to forced shop closures. Women traders are particularly affected, relying on daily income.

#### ***Farmers***

Farmers struggle to access their farms during confinements, fearing attacks or sanctions, impacting agricultural production and worsening local food insecurity.

#### ***Commercial Carriers and Drivers***

Motorcycle taxi drivers and intercity drivers suspend activities, losing their sole source of livelihood.

## 2-Impact on Health and Education

### ***Confinements hinder access to care, causing:***

- Patients dying at home due to lack of access
- Children missing school, worsening academic delays

### ***Structural Restriction of Freedom of Movement***

Repeated confinements and “ghost towns” make daily mobility risky, compromising fundamental rights:

- Right to life
- Right to health
- Right to education
- Right to work

Restoring freedom of movement is key to effective public security policies and lasting stabilization.

### ***A Situation of Chronic Violence***

2025 confirms the conflict's central mechanisms:

- Lethal violence with punitive aims
- Structured ransom economy
- Systematic territorial coercion
- Increased civilian vulnerability
- Apparent accountability deficit

The 136 incidents documented in 2025 reflect a profound human crisis, with at least 278 direct victims (up to 451). Protecting civilians, safeguarding children, and restoring freedom of movement are crucial for lasting stabilization.

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# **PART V :** **LEGAL FRAMEWORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND OUTLOOK**

## CHAPTER 1. LEGAL QUALIFICATION OF THE SITUATION

### 1 Qualification issue

The legal qualification of a situation of armed violence is not a terminological or political question. It determines the applicable normative framework and, consequently, the extent of the legal obligations of the parties concerned. In international law, the main distinction is between: internal disturbances and tensions; non-international armed conflict (NIAC).

This distinction has been clarified by international jurisprudence, notably by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (Tadić case, 1995).

### 2 Legal criteria for non-international armed conflict

According to Tadić case law and consistent international practice, a NIAC exists when two cumulative criteria are met:

- A sufficient level of intensity of violence
- A minimum degree of organization of armed groups

#### A. Intensity of violence

Intensity is measured in particular through: the frequency of clashes; the severity of the attacks; the type of weapon used; the number of victims; the duration of the conflict; the deployment of state armed forces.

Since 2017, the situation in the North-West and South-West regions has been characterized by: regular clashes; the use of weapons of war; structured military operations; repeated homicides and kidnappings; a crisis prolonged over several years.

The duration of the conflict (more than eight years) constitutes a strong indicator of exceeding the threshold of sporadic internal unrest.

#### B. Organization of armed groups

International jurisprudence retains several organizational indicators: existence of a chain of command; ability to plan and conduct operations; partial territorial control; ability to recruit and discipline members; ability to negotiate or communicate as an entity. Elements documented in the affected regions include: identification of local leaders; the coordinated imposition of “ghost town”; the ability to carry out mass kidnappings; structured ransom management; the exercise of intermittent territorial control.

These elements suggest a level of organization beyond simple disorganized banditry.

### 3 Distinction from organized crime

The qualification of “high banditry” implies isolated or opportunistic criminal acts without an identifiable military structure.

However, the elements observed indicate: strategic continuity; repetitive operating procedures; logics of territorial control; direct armed clashes with state forces. The political and territorial dimension of the conflict goes beyond the framework of reinforced policing.

### 4 Legal consequences of qualification

If the situation constitutes a NIAC:

- Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions applies in full;
- Additional Protocol II becomes relevant;
- the parties to the conflict are required to respect the principles of distinction and proportionality;
- hostage-taking and summary executions constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law;
- certain violations may, depending on the circumstances, qualify as war crimes.
- Legal recognition does not legitimize any armed group.

It aims exclusively to strengthen the protection of civilians.

### 5 Articulation with international human rights law

Even in a CANI situation:

- international human rights law continues to apply;
- certain guarantees are non-derogable (prohibition of torture, right to life).
- The cumulative application of international humanitarian and human rights law provides a more protective framework.

### 6 Position of civil society

The position defended by civil society organizations, including Conscience Africaine, is analysed on the objective of legal criteria; the desire to strengthen the protection of civilians, the need to align operational practices with applicable standards.

This is not a political position, but a legal analysis based on recognized international standards.

The report formulates the qualification in cautious terms: The elements observed appear to correspond to the criteria of a non-international armed conflict within the meaning of international humanitarian law.

## CHAPTER 2: CROSS-RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES

The repeated restriction of freedom of movement in the North-West and South-West regions cannot be analyzed solely from the angle of facts. It calls for clarification of the respective responsibilities of the actors involved.

### 1. Responsibility of separatist armed groups

Lockdowns, mandatory “ghost town” days and violent sanctions imposed on offenders constitute coercive restrictions imposed on the civilian population. Under the standards applicable in situations of non-international armed conflict:

- civilians cannot be targeted;
- collective punishments are prohibited;
- acts aimed at terrorizing the population are prohibited;
- hostage-taking and reprisals against civilians are strictly prohibited.
- The imposition of general bans on movement accompanied by threats or acts of violence places civilian populations in a situation of constraint incompatible with these principles.

Freedom of movement cannot be conditioned on political support, real or supposed.

### 2. State responsibility for protection

The State remains required, in all circumstances, to guarantee: the security of people found on its territory; effective protection of the freedom to come and go and access to essential services. Even in the context of non-international armed conflict, obligations under international human rights law continue to apply alongside humanitarian law. In particular, the State has a positive obligation: to prevent serious violations committed by non-State actors; to investigate violations; to protect populations against foreseeable violence; ensure secure access to vital infrastructure. When movement restrictions are imposed by security forces, they must be strictly necessary, proportionate, limited in time, and based on a clear legal framework.

Any arbitrary or disproportionate restriction weakens institutional legitimacy and increases community distrust.

### 3. Civilians caught between competing constraints

The data collected shows that civilian populations are sometimes exposed to risks from both sides: violent sanctions in the event of non-compliance with “ghost towns”; arrests or suspicions in the event of traffic deemed irregular by the security forces. This situation creates a gray zone of vulnerability where the exercise of a fundamental right to move can lead to serious consequences.

The protection of civilians involves reducing this exposure zone and restoring an environment where mobility no longer constitutes a risk factor.

# PART VI : MAJOR STRUCTURAL ISSUES OBSERVED IN 2025

## **Gradual erosion of fundamental protection mechanisms**

The 135 incidents documented for the year 2025 do not constitute only a succession of isolated events. Taken as a whole, they reveal a progressive weakening of several fundamental mechanisms for protecting civilians. This erosion affects procedural guarantees and the protection of vulnerable people; informational and civic space, community mediation mechanisms and household economic security.

The analysis of transversal dynamics makes it possible to identify four major axes.

## CHAPTER 1. SPECIAL CATEGORIES

Detention of infants: weakening of fundamental guarantees

The prolonged detention of two infants at Bamenda central prison constitutes one of the most emblematic cases documented in 2025.

Beyond the individual situation, this case highlights a structural tension between security imperatives and fundamental guarantees.

### 1-A legally and symbolically worrying situation

Infants, arrested with their mothers and held in pre-trial detention in an adult prison, have no criminal responsibility. Their continued detention can only be understood as an indirect consequence of the proceedings brought against their mothers.

This situation raises major concerns regarding:

- in the best interests of the child;
- the proportionality of custodial measures;
- to the special protection due to vulnerable people.

### 2- Revealing effect

This case should not be analyzed as an isolated anomaly, but as an indicator of broader dysfunctions:

- extensive use of pretrial detention;
- use of military courts to try civilians;
- procedural slowness;
- weakness of effective control mechanisms.

The detention of infants thus becomes the symbol of a weakening of institutional safeguards.

### 3- Strategic implication

The protection of children constitutes a central test of the strength of a protection system. When the most vulnerable find themselves affected by security dynamics, this calls into question the overall balance between security and fundamental rights.

This case crystallizes the concerns of civil society about the need for a structural re-examination of detention practices in a crisis context.

## 4-Criminalization of journalists and contraction of the information space

The year 2025 confirms that media professionals operating in the North-West and South-West regions continue to carry out their activity in an environment marked by distrust, security pressure and a constant risk of assimilation to a party to the conflict.

In a context of prolonged armed confrontation, information becomes a strategic issue. The narration of events, the broadcast of images or testimonies, as well as the coverage of security operations or the activities of armed groups can be perceived as influencing local and national public opinion.

### ***1-A climate of structural suspicion***

Several incidents documented in 2025 show that journalists were summoned or questioned by security forces, temporarily detained, subjected to confiscation of identity documents, questioned about their online publications. These situations arise in particular as sensitive political deadlines approach or after the broadcast of content relating to the security situation. In some cases, social media posts have served as the basis for interrogations or temporary restraining measures. This climate contributes to establishing a structural suspicion around journalistic activity.

### ***2-The risk of being assimilated to a party to the conflict***

In a polarized environment, journalists can be seen as:

- favorable to the defense forces;
  - sympathizers of separatist groups;
- or actors likely to “destabilize” public order.

This perception increases the risk of intimidation, increased surveillance, self-censorship, and even legal action. The confusion between journalistic activity and participation in the conflict weakens the protection due to media professionals.

### ***3-Reduction of civic and information space***

The pressure placed on journalists has effects beyond individual cases. It contributes to the progressive contraction of civic space in the affected regions. The consequences include reduced independent coverage of violations, increased circulation of unverified rumors, polarization of public discourse and difficulties in accessing reliable sources of information.

In a context of protracted conflict, the absence of robust independent media can increase tensions and hinder transparency.

#### ***4-Impact on violation documentation***

The restriction of media space also has a direct impact on the documentation of human rights violations. When journalists are reluctant to cover certain events, access to information becomes more difficult for civil society organizations and monitoring mechanisms.

The protection of journalists thus constitutes an indirect but crucial element of the protection of civilians.

#### ***5-Strategic implications***

Press freedom and the safety of journalists are not only a matter of formal respect for fundamental rights. They constitute a key indicator of institutional resilience in times of crisis. With a view to lasting stabilization:

- guaranteeing a secure media environment;
- protection against retaliation;
- and the clear distinction between journalistic activity and participation in hostilities appear essential.

Preserving a pluralistic information space helps reduce disinformation, limit polarization and foster a climate conducive to dialogue.

## **5-Attacks on religious leaders and weakening of community mediation**

The incidents documented in 2025 highlight a worrying phenomenon: the targeting of religious leaders in a context of protracted armed crisis. Several cases report armed attacks, assassinations, attempted kidnappings, or intimidation targeting pastors, priests, or religious community leaders.

### ***1. Religious Leaders as Pillars of Local Stability***

In the North-West and South-West regions, religious leaders play a structuring role beyond the spiritual dimension, serving as informal mediators, social cohesion relays, humanitarian assistance actors, and moral benchmarks. Their endangerment affects the social balance beyond the direct victim.

### ***2. Erosion of Spaces of Neutrality***

Attacks on places of worship contribute to generalized insecurity, breaking down the sanctuarized character of these spaces and reducing areas perceived as “safe”. The neutrality of religious institutions is key to community stability.

### ***3. Risk of Community Fragmentation***

Targeting religious leaders can polarize communities, increase suspicion, and weaken traditional dialogue mechanisms, reducing the capacity to absorb tensions.

#### **4.Strategic Implications**

Attacks against religious figures affect collective resilience and weaken social structures capable of supporting future dialogue and reconciliation processes.

## **6- Economic Violence and Targeting of Workers**

The year 2025 confirms a worrying trend: armed violence transforming into systemic economic pressure. Civilian workers, particularly in informal and rural sectors, are exposed.

### **1. Work as a Factor of Vulnerability**

Victims include commercial motorcycle drivers, market traders, intercity carriers, teachers, farmers, and employees of local companies. Their activity places them in constant exposure, especially during “ghost town” days.

### **2. Destruction of Property and Weakening of Livelihoods**

Destruction of vehicles, burning of businesses, and forced closures directly affect family income, debt repayment capacity, access to care and education, and household food stability.

### **3. The Economy of Ransom as a Structuring Mechanism**

Kidnappings for ransom target economically active people, leading to debt, forced sale of goods, and lasting impoverishment.

### **4. Cumulative Effects and Transformation of the Crisis**

Economic violence contributes to a prolonged socio-economic crisis, reducing commercial activity, disorganizing supply chains, and increasing reliance on informal survival mechanisms, creating a vicious circle of poverty and instability.

### **5-Implications for ending the crisis**

The economic dimension of the conflict cannot be dissociated from any future stabilization strategy. The restoration of economic security protection of workers, security of roads, fight against the ransom economy – constitutes a prerequisite for any sustainable reconstruction. Without stabilizing livelihoods, policy dialogue efforts risk encountering persistent structural fragility.

## 7- Cross-sectional reading: a cumulative erosion of the pillars of resilience

The cross-analysis of the previous sections reveals that the incidents documented in 2025 are not a simple accumulation of sectoral attacks. They reflect a cumulative dynamic of weakening of essential mechanisms of protection and social stabilization.

Four fundamental pillars appear simultaneously weakened:

Institutional guarantees for the protection of vulnerable people, illustrated by the prolonged detention of infants and the extensive use of pre-trial detention;

The independent information space, affected by the pressure exerted on journalists and contraction of public debate;

Community mediation mechanisms, weakened by attacks targeting religious leaders;

Basic economic stability, compromised by kidnappings for ransom, destruction of property and coercive restrictions on movement.

Taken in isolation, each of these phenomena constitutes a serious concern. Taken together, they reveal a gradual transformation of conflict into systemic crisis.

### ***1-Transformation of a security conflict into a structural crisis***

The simultaneous erosion of these pillars produces a multiplier effect. The weakening of procedural guarantees reduces institutional trust. The contraction of media space limits transparency. The attack on religious leaders weakens mediation channels. Economic pressure increases social vulnerability. These dynamics interact and reinforce each other. Poverty promotes instability; instability reinforces security measures; security measures accentuate distrust; distrust weakens community cohesion. This cycle contributes to the rooting of the conflict in local social and economic structures.

### ***2-Reduced community resilience***

The resilience of a community generally relies on: minimal trust in institutions; the existence of neutral spaces for dialogue; relatively stable access to livelihoods; the circulation of pluralistic information. When these elements are simultaneously weakened, the collective capacity to absorb shocks linked to violence diminishes considerably. The crisis then ceases to be solely security-related and becomes structural.

### ***3-Risk of lasting rooting***

If these trends continue, the conflict risks producing lasting effects: normalization of the ransom economy; trivialization of violations of procedural guarantees; prolonged weakening of social cohesion; intergenerational transmission of trauma. The cumulative erosion of these pillars compromises the minimum conditions necessary for any lasting de-escalation.

### ***4-Strategic implication***

Stabilization of affected regions cannot be limited to a security response. It involves the gradual restoration of social and institutional mechanisms capable of supporting trust, mediation and economic activity. This transversal reading confirms that the response to the crisis must be multidimensional, simultaneously integrating: legal protection, economic security, preservation of civic space, and strengthening of community dynamics.

It is in this perspective that the reflection on transitional justice takes place.

## CHAPTER 2. MULTIPLE VIOLENCE SUFFERED BY WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF PROTRACTED CONFLICT

### 1-Differentiated exposure to violence

The incidents documented in 2025 show that women in the North West and South West regions are experiencing the crisis in a specific and multidimensional way.

Beyond homicides and kidnappings which affect men and women indiscriminately, women are exposed to:

- sexual and gender-based violence;
- public humiliations;
- pressures linked to accusations of collaboration;
- detentions with young children;
- increased economic insecurity;
- trauma linked to the loss of spouses or loved ones.

The conflict thus accentuates pre-existing vulnerabilities.

### 2-Violence linked to accusations of collaboration

Several incidents reveal that women were targeted because of:

- alleged relationships with members of the defense forces;
- accusations of logistical support to a party;
- simple family ties.

These charges can result in:

- kidnappings;
- public humiliations;
- physical violence;
- community threats.

In some cases, social stigma continues even after release.

### 3-Detention and maternity in a crisis context

The case of infants detained with their mothers illustrates a particular dimension: the indirect penalization of motherhood in the context of conflict.

The detention of pregnant women or mothers of young children raises specific concerns related to:

- protecting maternal health;
- in the best interests of the child;
- gender-appropriate detention conditions.

This situation highlights the intersections between gender, criminal justice and security.

## 4-Gendered economic violence

The economic paralysis linked to “ghost towns” particularly affects:

- market traders;
- women heads of households;
- street vendors;
- rural women farmers.

In many localities, women play a central role in the informal economy. The destruction of businesses or mobility restrictions therefore have a direct impact on family survival.

Economic insecurity also increases exposure to exploitation and abuse.

## 5-Trauma, social burden and invisible resilience

Women often take care of children, support the injured, manage internal displacement, and maintain subsistence activities. The cumulative psychosocial burden remains largely invisible in the statistics. This dimension must be recognized in any approach to ending the crisis.

## 6-Strategic implications

Integrating a gender-sensitive perspective into conflict analysis allows us to better understand the differentiated impact of violence, identify specific protection needs and strengthen prevention mechanisms.

Any stabilization or transitional justice strategy must fully integrate the participation of women and recognition of the violence they suffer.

## 7-Participation of women in peace and stabilization processes

Beyond the specific violence they experience, women in the North-West and South-West regions remain essential actors in community resilience and peace-building.

Despite security constraints, they are involved in informal local mediation, community humanitarian assistance, psychosocial care for victims, management of displaced households, and local dialogue initiatives.

However, their formal participation in institutional conflict resolution mechanisms remains limited.

### **7.1-Under representation in formal settings**

National dialogue initiatives and institutional mechanisms put in place since the outbreak of the crisis have generally given a limited place to women as decision-making actors.

This under-representation limits the integration of specific gender-related concerns, the consideration of the differentiated impacts of the conflict, and the formulation of inclusive solutions.

However, the exclusion of women from formal processes weakens the sustainability of agreements and the legitimacy of stabilization mechanisms.

### **7.2 -Women and community resilience**

In several affected localities, women's groups played a discreet but significant role in:

- prevention of local escalations;
- the management of intercommunity tensions;
- maintaining economic survival activities;
- the protection of children in vulnerable situations.

This contribution often remains invisible in institutional narratives.

Recognizing and strengthening these dynamics constitutes a strategic lever for stabilization.

### **7.3 -Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

The effective integration of women in peace processes is part of the international Women, Peace and Security agenda, which highlights:

- the need for the full participation of women;
- prevention of sexual violence in times of conflict;
- protection of women's rights;
- and their involvement in post-conflict reconstruction mechanisms.

In the context of the NOSO, an inclusive approach would:

- to better identify specific needs;
- to strengthen the legitimacy of dialogue initiatives;
- to consolidate prevention mechanisms.

### **7.4 -Implications for transitional justice**

Any future transitional justice architecture must integrate:

- recognition of gender-based violence;
- suitable repair mechanisms;
- the effective participation of women in truth commissions or similar structures;
- gender-sensitive guarantees of non-repetition.

The sustainable reconstruction of affected regions cannot be envisaged without the substantial participation of women in the definition of priorities and solutions. The cumulative erosion of these pillars compromises the minimum conditions necessary for any sustainable de-escalation.

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# **PART VII :** **DOCUMENTED** **HUMAN RIGHTS** **INCIDENTS IN 2025**

## SECTION A: VIOLATIONS ATTRIBUTED TO DEFENSE AND SECURITY FORCES

### Case A1. Homicide of six civilians in Kungfune, Pinyin (Northwest)

#### Date and place.

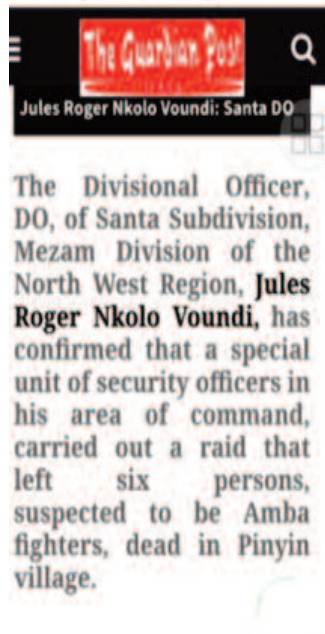
According to consistent testimonies and family sources, on the night of February 23, 2025, six unarmed civilians were killed in Kungfune, a neighborhood located in Pinyin, Santa district, Mezam division, North-West region.

#### How the facts unfolded?

Witnesses indicate that the victims were in a local drinking establishment when a military pick-up vehicle carrying elements of the defense and security forces arrived in the neighborhood. Shortly after the vehicle passed through the Maben area towards Kungfune, gunshots were reportedly heard. According to an eyewitness: “We heard shots shortly after a military vehicle passed. When we came out, six people were dead, the bar owner was seriously injured and two others had been taken away.»

Sources report that in addition to the six people who died, one person was seriously injured and two others arrested. The two arrested, identified as Formendu Derick Penn and Muluh Ernest Mbuh, were reportedly held incommunicado, with their location not communicated to the families at the time of documentation.

Among those killed was Mulu Promise, a driver employed by a road construction company operating in the locality.



### Official version

In a statement, the traditional ruler of Pinyin, His Majesty Kenneth K. Asobo III, condemned the incident and called for calm. In an interview with The Guardian Post newspaper, the Sub Divisional Officer of Santa, Jules Roger Nkolo Voundi, confirmed that a special security unit had carried out an operation in the area the same night, specifying that six people suspected of belonging to armed groups had been killed.

No information has been provided regarding an independent investigation into the exact circumstances of the operation.

### Case A2. Death of two brothers in Baba 1 during a military operation (North-West)

According to family and local sources, on March 17, 2025, two unarmed civilians were killed in Baba 1, Ngoketunjia Division, North-West region.

#### Victims

The victims were identified as Petinjoh Raymond and Petinjoh Mama, biological brothers from Baba 1.

#### Background and facts

According to information gathered, the two men were previously kidnapped and detained by armed separatist groups as part of a local land conflict.

When the defense forces launched an operation against the kidnappers' camp, the latter fled, leaving behind several people held captive.

Sources indicate that around eight people were found there. According to a brother of the victims who managed to escape, the kidnappers fled towards the bush as the security forces approached. The two brothers apparently chose to stay, thinking they would be rescued.



Family sources say the defense forces then killed the two brothers on the spot, while other people detained including Fulani men were released.

### **Contradictory elements**

On the Facebook page of a pro-government activist known as “My Kontriman Jr,” the victims were presented as separatist fighters. No official independent investigation has been announced to clarify the circumstances of these deaths.



### Case A3. Death of two civilians in Mautu (Muyuka, South-West)

According to eyewitnesses, on March 19, 2025, two unarmed civilians were killed in Mautu, Muyuka sub division, South West region.

#### How the facts unfolded

Sources indicate that elements of the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) would have carried out an operation in the locality as part of a search for separatist fighters. However, according to the testimonies collected, the people killed were not armed and were not participating in hostilities at the time of the events. The exact circumstances of the use of lethal force have not been officially clarified. No public communication has been made regarding the opening of an investigation.

### Case A4. Death in custody of a 72-year-old man in Bamenda

According to family sources, a 72-year-old man was arrested on January 22, 2025 by elements of the defense forces in the North-West region. He reportedly died on March 22, 2025 while being held in a military detention center in Bamenda.

#### Progress

Relatives indicate that the man was kept in detention for two months. His state of health is said to have gradually deteriorated during his detention. Requests for bail and requests to allow his transfer to a health facility were reportedly rejected. He reportedly died in custody on March 22, 2025.

#### Official reaction.

There have been no public statements from authorities regarding the causes of death or the opening of an investigation.

### Cas A5. Homicide of Suh John alias Jean Makon in Bafut

#### Date and place

According to family sources and witnesses, on April 26, 2025, Suh John, also known as Jean Makon, owner of a drinking establishment, was killed in Man-kankong, Bafut, North-West region.

#### How the facts unfolded

Armed men, described by witnesses as wearing military uniforms and speaking French, reportedly burst into his home. The victim was allegedly taken out of his house by force, in the presence of his wife and children, before being shot dead nearby. No official reason was given at the time of the incident.

No public communication from authorities has been recorded regarding this incident.

## Case A6. Deadly shooting during a security operation at the Asanyere market, Santa

According to eyewitnesses, the defense and security forces carried out an operation in Asanyere, Ndapang market, in the Santa Sub division North-West region, on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. According to information gathered, the security forces burst into the market on a



busy commercial day and opened fire in an indiscriminate manner. The reported balance sheet shows:

- 03 unarmed civilian businessmen killed,
- 03 individuals presented as armed separatists killed,
- several other people injured.

Among the civilian victims identified are:

- Akum Richard, aged 52,
- Tah Maluder, also known by the pseudonym Lapiro.

Witnesses claim that security forces were informed of the supposed presence of separatist fighters in the area. However, according to these same sources, the intervention was carried out without sufficient precautions to avoid or limit civilian losses. The facts described raise concerns about respect for the principle of distinction between civilians and combatants, the principle of proportionality, and military necessity, as set out by international humanitarian law applicable in situations of non-international armed conflict.

## Case A7. Mass arrests of civilians in Bambili

On Thursday, May 24, 2025, elements of the defense and security forces reportedly carried out mass arrests of unarmed civilians in Bambili, in the town of Bamenda, North-West region.

According to eyewitnesses, several students were forcibly removed from their university residences and taken to different detention centers in Bamenda. Sources indicate that this operation was motivated by an increase in insecurity in the area, marked by kidnappings and assassinations of professors and students by armed men in exchange for ransoms.

It is reported that the majority of those arrested were subsequently released after payment of sums varying between 10,000 and 25,000 CFA francs each.

This case raises concerns about arbitrary arrests, respect for procedural guarantees, and allegations of financial extortion in the context of security operations.

## Cas A8. Suspicious death in custody of Cho Tenisin in Bamenda



According to sources deemed reliable, the lifeless body of Cho Tenisin, resident of the Pinyin in Bamenda, North-West region, was discovered on Saturday June 14, 2025 at the Rendezvous Junction intersection, showing multiple bullet holes.

According to the information collected, the victim was arrested on Tuesday June 10, 2025 in the Pinyin, Santa sub division by elements of the defense forces, at the same time as his landlady. The two were reportedly taken to an unspecified place of detention. Residents reported hearing gunshots around 3 a.m. in the area. At daybreak, they discovered the body of the young man, described as leading a peaceful life in the neighborhood.

Some sources indicate that the victim was arrested after security forces searched his cell phone and discovered images considered “incriminating,” similar to those found on the phone of a recently killed separatist fighter in Pinyin. However, no official communication has been published regarding the charges against him, the conditions of his detention, nor the exact circumstances of his death.

The discovery of his bullet-riddled body at the Rendez-vous intersection raises serious concerns about a possible extrajudicial execution and the responsibility of the authorities in protecting those arrested.

## Case A9. Arrests, alleged torture and detention of two infants at Bamenda central prison

**Date of arrest:** June 24, 2025

**Location:** Ndop (Ngoketunjia Division), then Bamenda, North-West Region

### 1. Circumstances of the arrest

According to documented facts, on June 24, 2025 around 11 a.m., Mr. Julius Weyang, a mechanic on duty at the Upper Nun Valley Development Authority (UNVDA), was arrested without a warrant in his garage in Ndop by elements of the defense and security forces.

He was then allegedly taken to the village of Bamessing, where other civilians were also arrested.

Those arrested included:

- Mrs. Seraph Woh (68 years old)
- Julius Weyang (39 years old)
- Joycelyn Ndum (22 years old), mother of a 4-month-old baby
- Blanche Yocnteh (22 years old), mother of a 3-month-old baby
- Justine Bechu (24 years old)

The two infants aged 4 months and 3 months respectively were arrested with their mothers.

These arrests reportedly came after the kidnappings of 14 unarmed civilians by separatist fighters led by a leader identified locally as "General A Nova Die". All the hostages were reportedly released after payment of a ransom, with the exception of a gendarme. According to available information, the people arrested are related to the alleged separatist leader, without any evidence indicating their direct involvement in the kidnappings

### 2. Initial detention and allegations of torture

The people arrested were detained at the Ndop gendarmerie brigade.

According to the "NGO consortium", they were deprived of contact with their families for several days.

Detailed allegations include: beatings with machetes and batons, use of electric current, simulation of drowning, physical violence with rangers and clubs, forced to sign confession reports without prior reading.

These acts were allegedly committed during approximately 25 days of police custody, before being brought before the Government Commissioner at the Bamenda Military Court.

### 3. Administrative elements of concern

A prefectural decree No. 213/PO/L31/CA/PS/2025 of June 27, 2025 would have ordered the administrative detention of an individual named Justine Bechangu, for serious acts linked to banditry. However, the fact-finding mission noted that none of the detainees had that name. This discrepancy raises questions about the real

administrative basis of the detentions.

#### **4. Pre-trial detention**

By order of a military investigating judge, the seven civilians were placed in pre-trial detention for a renewable period of six months, with charges of non-denunciation, concealment of criminals, lack of national identity card.

They are currently detained at Bamenda central prison. The two infants remain incarcerated with their mothers.

#### **5. Conditions of detention and verification mission**

A Consortium mission carried out on December 23, 2025 in Bamenda reportedly noted:

- that the victims had not been questioned on the merits by the military investigating judge;
- that informal financial demands (around 1.5 million FCFA from victim ) would have been mentioned to proceed with the hearings;
- that mothers and their babies would be detained in conditions described as deplorable;
- that the complaint for torture lodged against elements of the defense forces would not have given rise to any action.

#### **6. Institutional mobilization and international advocacy**

As part of the international “No Babies Behind Bars” campaign, coordinated in particular by:

- Conscience Africaine,
- Mandela Center International,
- Nouveaux Droits de l’Homme
- All Women Together,

and several other national and international organizations.

It should be noted that several steps have been taken:

- Official briefing note (July 14, 2025) demanding the release of detainees;
- Criminal complaint registered on August 14, 2025 with the Government Commissioner (No. 14);
- Request for release filed on November 25, 2025;
- Launch of an international petition and public mobilization campaign.

The Cameroonian authorities contacted include:

- the competent Attorney General,
- the Government Commissioner at the Military Tribunal,
- the Presidency of the Republic,
- the Minister of Defense,
- the Cameroon Human Rights Commission.

As of the date of writing of this report, no release of the infants or corrective judicial decision has been observed.

## Case A10. Arrest and alleged extortion of Paul Aka in Ndop

On June 24, 2025, Paul Aka, aged 59, was arrested by elements of the defense and security forces in Bamessing-Ndop, North-West region.

According to family sources, he was on his way to sell firewood when he was intercepted and arrested for no apparent reason. He would have been taken to the Ndop Gendarmerie Brigade without any charges being notified to him. Upon his arrival, he was reportedly required to pay one million (1,000,000) CFA francs to obtain his release. His family, unable to immediately raise the requested sum, is said to have initiated negotiations. Finally, on July 17, 2025, he was released after payment of 500,000 CFA francs.

This case highlights allegations of arbitrary arrest followed by financial extortion.

## Case A11. Public execution of Basil in Ndop (North-West)

On June 1, 2025, according to witnesses and family sources, a man identified as Basil, a photographer, was arrested in Ndop (Ngoketunjia, North-West) by elements of the defense forces and publicly executed at the Total filling station in Ndop, around 5 p.m.

### How the facts unfolded



Sources report that Basil was arrested, subjected to physical violence, then taken to a busy public place. He would have been executed in front of civilians, without any legal procedure being made visible (presentation before a judge, notification of charges, access to a defense).

### Alleged motive

The authorities allegedly accused him of having filmed and photographed the official ceremony of May 20, 2025 (National Day) at the Grand Stand of Ndop and of having transmitted these images to armed separatist groups.

### Observation

No information has been collected on the opening of an investigation or on disciplinary/criminal proceedings against the alleged perpetrators.

## Case A12. Homicide of a 17-year-old minor in Fundong

On January 30, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, a 17-year-old young man named Stanley was killed by elements of the defense forces in Fundong, capital of Boyo division, North-West region.



Witnesses report that security forces went to Fundong market and demanded payment of 10,000 CFA francs each from traders selling beans. Young Stanley, a bean seller, reportedly declared that he did not have the requested amount. He was then allegedly taken away by the forces. Hours later, his body was reportedly found by the side of the road with a fatal wound to his neck, described as a deep gash. The incident reportedly occurred two days after the assassination of a soldier by separatists in the locality. Witnesses believe that the act would

have constituted a retaliatory measure against an unarmed civilian.

## Case A13. Arrest and secret detention of journalist Hans Achomba

According to sources deemed reliable, Hans Achomba, independent journalist and documentary filmmaker, was arrested on November 5, 2025 in Bamenda by elements of the defense and security forces. He was allegedly forced, at gunpoint, to board an unregistered vehicle.

### 1. Course of events

Information gathered indicates that he was taken to the Gendarmerie Legion located at Up Station, in Bamenda, where he was held incommunicado for several days.

The exact reasons for his arrest remain unknown. However, sources report that this incident occurred a few days after he was summoned and questioned by the police about his reporting and his publications on social net-

works, in the context preceding the contested election of October 12, 2025. It is also reported that his passport and his national identity card were confiscated during these interrogations. He was to appear before the police again a few days later, before being arrested. According to available information, he was released about a week after his kidnapping.

## 2. National and international reactions

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), along with 19 other national and international press freedom and human rights organizations, issued a joint statement calling on Cameroonian authorities to take urgent action to locate Hans Achomba and demanding his immediate and unconditional release.

### Case A14. Arrest followed by execution of a young civilian in Bafut

According to local and family sources, a young unarmed civilian was arrested at dawn on November 10, 2025 by elements of the defense forces in the Akissia neighborhood, Bafut district, Mezam division, North-West region.

He would have been taken to an unknown destination. On November 11, 2025, his lifeless body was found with bullet wounds.

No official communication has been made regarding the circumstances of his arrest or the reasons for his death.

### Case A15. Shooting death of a motorcycle driver in Bamenda

On November 11, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, Ndeh Desmond, a commercial motorcycle driver, was fatally shot near the Old Town central police station, in Bamenda, North-West region.

#### 1. Context

The Old Town area in Bamenda is regularly marked by security tensions, particularly in the post-election period or during law enforcement operations. The presence of police units and defense forces is frequent there, particularly around administrative buildings and police stations.



## 2. Course of events

According to several testimonies collected on site, a shot was fired in the immediate vicinity of the central police station. Some sources indicate that a police officer handled his firearm recklessly, leading to an accidental shooting. The bullet allegedly hit Ndeh Desmond, who was riding commercial motorcycle in the area as part of his professional activity. Other civilians present were also reportedly injured during the incident.

No prior warning or exchange of fire was reported by witnesses at the time of the event. The authorities have not published a detailed official version concerning the exact circumstances of the shooting nor announced the opening of a public investigation.

### Case A16. Execution of Pastor Njoh Desmond by elements of the BIR(Rapide Intervention Bartallion

According to reliable sources, Pastor Njoh Desmond, a member of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, was shot dead on November 8, 2025 by elements of the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), an elite unit of the Cameroonian defense forces.

The events allegedly occurred near the village of Nshiodoh, along the road linking the Ndu Baptist Hospital, Ndu sub division, Northwest region. The victim was riding a motorcycle when he was allegedly targeted.

In an official statement dated November 9, 2025, Rev. Dr. Teke John Ekema, Executive President of the Cameroon Baptist Convention, confirmed the death of the pastor, condemning an act described as brutal and unacceptable. He called on the relevant authorities to open an independent investigation to establish responsibilities and ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. Before his death, Pastor Njoh Desmond worked at the Temba preaching station.



### **Case A17. Allegations of kidnapping and rape attributed to BIR elements in Bamenda**

According to information relayed by the victim's family and by an online information platform, a young woman aged 27 was kidnapped and raped on September 28, 2025 in Bamenda by alleged elements of the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR).

The family claims that the perpetrators were traveling in a white Hilux type vehicle, images of which were allegedly captured during the kidnapping. Medical examinations reportedly confirmed sexual violence.

However, in a post attributed to a person identifying himself as a member of the BIR, the accusations were dismissed, saying the unit does not use the type of vehicle mentioned.

No official independent investigation was made public at the time the facts were documented.

### **Case A18. Security operations in Kumbo: civilian deaths and destruction**

According to victims and local sources, two unarmed civilians were killed and another seriously injured on September 22, 2025 in the Kumbo Squares area, near the cathedral, Bui division, North-West region, during an operation carried out by defense and security forces. The incidents reportedly began on September 21, 2025, after the death of a soldier and the wounding of two others in an improvised explosive device attack attributed to armed separatist groups. Witnesses indicate that security forces then carried out operations in the neighborhoods of Mbveh, Kiyam and Romanajai, during which homes were destroyed, property looted and civilians attacked.

Around 23 goats were also killed during these operations, according to residents.

## Case A19: Mass arrest of civilians in Muyuka (South-West)

According to local and family sources, at least 64 unarmed civilians were arrested by defense and security forces in several villages in the Muyuka sub division (notably Owe, Malende, Yoke, Bahia and Mauru), South-West region, on a date during the year 2025, following a major security incident in the area.

### 1. Context

The district of Muyuka is regularly the scene of security operations carried out in response to attacks attributed to armed separatist groups, in particular attacks with improvised explosive devices targeting the defense forces. These operations often take place in a context of collective reprisals, marked by mass arrests of civilians suspected of collaboration with armed groups, without clear individualization of responsibilities.

### 2. Course of events

According to information gathered, the arrests took place following an improvised explosive device attack which caused losses within the defense forces. Soldiers reportedly carried out simultaneous raids in several villages in the Muyuka sub division arresting at least 64 unarmed civilians. The people arrested were reportedly taken to places of detention that were not clearly identified. The families claim to have received no official information regarding the charges against those arrested, the expected duration of their detention and their exact location.

Witnesses also report that two people were injured while trying to escape arrest. No official list of those arrested was communicated at the time of documentation.

## Case A20. Young man shot dead on football field in Kumbo, Bui division, Northwest region



According to eyewitnesses, a young unarmed civilian was shot dead on August 23, 2025 while participating in a football match in a neighborhood of Bamenda, North-West region.

Local sources indicate that a dispute broke out on the ground, during which the victim was accused of being affiliated with an armed separatist group. Shortly after, elements of the defense forces reportedly intervened on the scene and opened fire, killing the young man.

Residents say it was later established that the victim was not a member of an armed group. No official communication has been released to clarify the exact circumstances of the intervention.

### Case A21. Shooting death of Cho Robinson in Bamenda

According to family sources and witnesses, Cho Robinson was shot dead on August 18, 2025 in Gashu City, Bamenda, North-West region, by elements of the defense and security forces.

The victim was in a Hilux vehicle moving towards Nanga Junction when he was allegedly intercepted by a military patrol. According to information gathered, the situation became tense when the victim attempted to leave the scene, provoking a chase during which the defense forces opened fire.

Relatives indicate that he had just closed his business and was returning home. August 18 being a Monday a day generally marked by respect for the slogans of “ghost town” some sources believe that this could have influenced the intervention.

### Case A22. Arrest of more than 25 people during a funeral ceremony in Ekona



According to reliable sources, more than 25 people who came from Douala to attend a funeral in Ekona, South-West region, were arrested by defense and security forces on August 9, 2025, then detained from August 10 around 6 a.m. Those arrested included members of the deceased's family children, brothers, sisters and close relatives.

The authorities reportedly indicated that the operation aimed to arrest seven suspected members of armed groups who had infiltrated the ceremony. Those arrested were released on August 11, 2025.

Relatives nevertheless denounce a collective arrest without a clear individualized basis.

## Case A23. Alleged torture against travelers in Mbingo (Belo)

According to victims and witnesses, elements of the defense and security forces intercepted and severely beat travelers on August 9, 2025 around Mbingo, in the



Belo sub division, Boyo division, North-West region.

The events allegedly occurred after the death of two soldiers in an attack attributed to armed separatist groups. Fundong-bound vehicles were reportedly stopped and passengers forcibly removed. Several victims report having been violently beaten and insulted, accused of being complicit with armed groups.

No official information has been communicated regarding the opening of an investigation.

## Case A24. Execution of Jude Penn in Nkwen (Bamenda, North-West)

According to witnesses, Jude Penn, an unarmed civilian, was shot dead on July 27, 2025 in Nkwen, in the town of Bamenda, North-West region, by elements of the defense and security forces.

### 1. Context

The Nkwen area, in Bamenda, experiences persistent insecurity marked by security operations, tensions linked to “ghost town days” and recurring accusations of collaboration with armed groups, which can lead to coercive interventions and the use of lethal force. In this context, several cases reported in the report indicate arrests and armed actions in urban areas, with high risks for civilians.

### 2. Course of events

According to available information, the victim was shot in circumstances that have not been fully independently established at the time of documentation. The testimonies collected attribute the shooting to elements of the defense and security forces. No public information has been reported concerning a prior summons, a situation of imminent threat justifying the use of lethal force, a formal arrest with notification of the reasons, or a procedure to control the legality of the intervention.

No official justification has been made public and no communication has been recorded regarding the opening of an investigation into the circumstances of the death.

## Case A25. Homicides and destruction in Muyuka (Tambo Clovis affair)

According to local sources, Tambo Clovis, a commercial motorcycle rider from Bafia (Muyuka), was killed on July 30, 2025 in Owe, in the Muyuka sub division, South-West region, during an operation attributed to elements of the defense forces. The same day, other killings of civilians as well as destruction of property were reported in the area.



### 1. Context

According to the information contained in the report, the facts occurred in the context of an improvised explosive device (IED) attack attributed to armed separatist groups, having caused losses within the security forces. In several documented situations, this type of attack often serves as a trigger for search operations and intensified security interventions, with a high risk of harm to civilians when operations do not strictly respect the principles of precaution, necessity and proportionality.

### 2. Course of events

According to local sources reported: Tambo Clovis was initially injured in the leg. While two colleagues tried to evacuate him to a health center, the three men were shot dead.

The report also mentions that another civilian was killed the same day in the locality of Muyunge. Furthermore, witnesses indicate that homes were set on fire and that property was destroyed during the operation. At the time of documentation, there were no detailed official communications regarding the identity of the victims other than Tambo Clovis, the individual motives for the use of lethal force, or the opening of an independent investigation into the alleged killings and destruction.

## Case A26. Public execution of five people in Bamessingsing

According to local and family sources, five unarmed people were publicly executed on July 20, 2025 in Bamessing, Ngoketunjia division, North-West region, by elements of the defense and security forces.

The victims were allegedly brought to the village before being executed in the presence of members of the population.

Relatives say that some of those killed had previously been associated with separatist armed groups, but that they had abandoned any conflict-related activity for several years and were leaving civilian lives in other localities (Buea, Tiko, Mamfe, among others) before their arrest. They were reportedly detained in different detention centers before being returned to their communities.

Sources indicate that they were forced to collaborate with security forces to locate camps of armed groups before being executed. No legal proceedings were allegedly initiated against them before their death.



## Case A27. Military operation in Mveh (Kumbo): death of a student and destruction of property

According to local sources, on December 29, 2025, elements of the defense forces carried out an operation in the Mveh , in Kumbo, Bui division , North-West region.



Clashes reportedly broke out between soldiers and armed separatist groups. During these events, a Form 2 student was reportedly killed and several other people injured. The next day, December 30, 2025, three businesses valued at several million CFA francs were set on fire by the defense forces, according to witnesses.

Residents also report looting of private property. Some sources indicate that the locality was considered a stronghold of armed separatist groups and that economic operators in the area were forced to make financial contributions to these groups.

## Case A28. Attack in Nforya (Bafut) attributed to elements in military uniform

According to eyewitnesses, on December 5, 2025, armed men dressed in military uniforms attacked the village of Nforya, in the Bafut, Mezam division, North-West region.

### 1. Context

The Bafut area is regularly the scene of security operations and clashes between defense forces and separatist armed groups. In this context, the movement of armed men in military uniform whether they actually belong to the regular forces or whether they are impersonating uniforms creates significant confusion and increases the risks for civilian populations. Previous incidents in the region have also been marked by reprisals and armed interventions in populated areas, often after attacks attributed to separatist groups.

### 2. Course of events

According to reports, the attackers broke into a local restaurant and opened fire indiscriminately. The toll would show four unarmed civilians killed, several other people injured. The perpetrators are said to have left the scene after the attack.

The exact circumstances including the formal identity of the perpetrators, their possible unit, and the precise reasons for the attack were not officially clarified at the time of documentation.

No detailed public communications have been reported regarding the opening of an independent investigation.

## Cas A29. Arrestations massives et allégations d'extorsion à Wotutu (Limbe)

Selon des témoins et des victimes, plus de cinquante jeunes auraient été arrêtés le 1er janvier 2026 à Wotutu, dans l'arrondissement de Limbe, région du Sud-Ouest, lors des célébrations du Nouvel An.

Bien que l'incident soit survenu au début de l'année 2026, il est mentionné ici dans la continuité des opérations sécuritaires menées fin 2025 dans la zone. Les personnes interpellées auraient été accusées de vagabondage et détenues arbitrairement. Des habitants affirment que leur libération aurait été conditionnée au paiement d'environ 50 000 FCFA par personne.

Aucune réaction officielle n'a été rapportée au moment de la documentation des faits.

## SECTION B .Violations attributes to armed separatist groups

### Case B1. Homicide of a vegetable seller in Mile 2 Nkwen (Bamenda, North-West)



On January 16, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, an unarmed civilian woman was shot and killed in front of the Amour Mezam travel agency, located in Mile 2 Nkwen, Bamenda, North West region.

#### How the facts unfolded

Armed men riding motorcycles reportedly opened fire in the area. According to some sources, the shooting targeted a nearby security checkpoint. The victim, who was selling vegetables in front of the agency at the time of the incident, was allegedly shot and transported to a hospital where she died of her injuries. Four other civilian women were reportedly injured during the shooting.

#### Context

The incident takes place in a climate of sporadic clashes and targeted attacks against security positions in the city of Bamenda, with collateral consequences for civilians.

Observation.

No formal claims have been registered at the time of documentation.

## Case B2. Abduction of Shey Komi and Shey Mbisen in Wainamah (Bui, North-West)

On January 9, 2025, according to local sources, two unarmed civilians identified as Shey Komi and Shey Mbisen were kidnapped in Wainamah, Bui division, North West Region.

### How the facts unfolded

The victims were reportedly intercepted by armed men presented as separatists and taken to an unknown location. The available information does not specify the duration of captivity, the possible ransom demand, nor the conditions of their release.

### Observation

The incident reflects the persistence of kidnappings targeting civilians in rural areas of Bui division.

## Case B3. Assassination of Teghen Ephraim in Ekona (South-West)

On January 20, 2025, according to family sources, Teghen Ephraim, Assistant Farm Manager at the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC), was attacked and killed in Ekona, in the Muyuka sub division, South-West region.

### How the facts unfolded

Armed men presented as separatists allegedly targeted the victim. The exact circumstances of the attack have not been detailed, but the victim was reportedly fatally injured.

### Context

The CDC and its employees have been regularly targeted in the context of the armed conflict, with some armed groups accusing the company of collaboration with state authorities.

### Observation.

No official claims have been released at the time of documentation.



### **Case B4. Abduction of Reverend Emmanuel Miyanwe in Bamenda (North-West)**

On January 21, 2025, around 8 a.m., according to local sources, Reverend Emmanuel Miyanwe, parish priest of St. Edmund Catholic Church in Mulang (Bamenda II), was kidnapped from within his church.

#### **How the facts unfolded**

Armed men reportedly entered the parish grounds and took the religious leader to an unknown destination.

#### **Issue**

He was released the same day around 8 p.m., under unspecified circumstances.

#### **Observation**

Kidnappings of religious leaders have been recurrent in the region in recent years, often followed by ransom demands.

### **Case B5. Kidnapping of five students in Bambili (North-West)**

On January 22, 2025, around 3 p.m., according to reliable sources, five female students from the University of Bamenda were kidnapped in Down Quarter, Bambili, Tubah sub division, North West region.

How the facts unfolded.

Armed men reportedly burst into their university residences, shooting in the air to disperse the population before taking the students to an unknown location.

Alleged ransom.

According to the relative of one of the victims, phone calls were received demanding the payment of a ransom for their release.

Observation.

The information available does not specify the exact date of their release or the amounts actually paid.

## Case B6. Assassination of Komta Elyse in Bamenda II

On February 4, 2025, Komta Elyse, a driver and employee of Edge Road Construction Company, was shot dead at Small Mankon Bridge (also referred to as La Change Bridge), Bamenda II council, North West region.

According to eyewitnesses, the victim was participating in rehabilitation work on a damaged bridge when he was attacked by armed men who arrived on motorcycles. He would have been hit by shots at very close range.

In a press release signed on February 4, 2025, the Senior Divisional Officer of Mezam division declared that, around 10:30 a.m. that day, “armed terrorists” attacked a team of workers from the EDGE company at La Change Bridge, killing Komta Elyse, identified as a machine operator on the site. He indicated that an investigation had been opened.

It is not clear from available information whether other workers were injured in the attack.

This case illustrates the targeting of civilian infrastructure and workers engaged in construction activities, which has direct repercussions on economic development and the security of civilians.



## Case B7. Kidnapping of Justice Maureen Chibili in Buea

On February 6, 2025, in the morning, Justice Maureen Chibili was kidnapped by armed men near her residence located at Kawa Street, Buea town, South West region.

According to family sources, she was attacked while leaving her home. The kidnapers allegedly took her and her driver, abandoning her vehicle at the scene. The exact circumstances of the kidnapping, the duration of his detention as well as the conditions of his possible release are not detailed in the information available at the time of documentation.

This case highlights the vulnerability of public figures and professionals in the judicial sector in a context of conflict marked by targeted kidnappings.

## Case B8. Double homicide of George and Chaneline at Mile 87 Naka (Bamenda, North-West)

On February 11, 2025, according to sources deemed reliable, George Fomatum, President of the Presbyterian congregation of Naka, as well as a woman identified as Chaneline, President of the Catholic Youth Fellowship in the locality, were killed in Naka, in the town of Bamenda, North-West region.

### 1. Course of events

According to information collected, armed men presented as separatists went to the respective homes of the two victims. They were allegedly forcibly taken from their homes before being executed. The exact circumstances of their killing, including the precise location of the execution and the method used, have not been independently established at the time of documentation.

No official claim has been registered, and no motive has been communicated to justify these killings.

### 2. Analysis

The facts described present the characteristics of targeted executions of civilians occupying religious and community functions.

The forced extraction of victims from their homes followed by their execution constitutes: a serious violation of the right to life; a violation of the inviolability of the home; an act of intimidation potentially targeting community and religious leaders.

Targeting local religious leaders contributes to weakening social cohesion and increasing fear within communities. Even in the context of non-international armed conflict, civilians not directly participating in hostilities benefit from protection against direct attacks. The intentional execution of civilians constitutes a serious violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.



## Cas B9. Double homicide and vehicle set ablaze in Bolifamba, Buea

On June 30, 2025, according to sources deemed reliable, two unarmed civilians were killed and several properties burned in Bolifamba, in the town of Buea, South-West region.

Information gathered indicates that armed men presented as separatists carried out the attack. The victims were allegedly accused of violating the observance of “ghost town day” (generally imposed on Mondays in certain areas).

In addition to the two civilians killed, the attackers are said to have: set fire to four vehicles, destroyed a motorcycle with fire, and set fire to a house in the area. Images of the burned vehicles as well as the victims were said to have circulated after the events.

This incident illustrates the use of lethal violence and destruction of property for purposes of social coercion, particularly in the context of the imposition of containment measures decreed by armed groups.



## Case B10. Assassination of Chief Maliwe in Ikata, Muyuka



On June 25, 2025, Chief Maliwe, traditional chief of Wonjamba village (Limbe I Council, South West region), was killed in an attack described by local sources as a surprise ambush in Ikata, Muyuka district.

Available information indicates that armed men presented as separatists are responsible for the attack. The exact reasons for this assassination are not clearly established. Some sources claim that the leader also collaborated with the Cameroonian defense forces. No official claims or public statements from the alleged perpetrators were documented at the time of information collection.

This case highlights the targeting of local traditional figures, perceived rightly or wrongly as affiliated with or cooperating with state authorities.

## Case B11. Kidnapping of three traders in Nkwen (Bamenda, North-West)

On June 21, 2025, around 4 p.m., according to local sources, three people carrying out commercial activities were kidnapped by armed men in Nkwen, in the town of Bamenda, North-West region.

### 1. Course of events

According to the information collected, the victims - including a pregnant woman - were intercepted and then taken by force to an unknown destination.

The precise circumstances of the kidnapping, the identity of the alleged perpetrators, as well as the conditions of detention of the victims have not been independently established at the time of documentation.

No confirmed information was available regarding their possible release or payment of a ransom.

### 2. Analysis

The facts described constitute an arbitrary deprivation of liberty affecting unarmed civilians, including a pregnant woman, which aggravates the seriousness of the incident.

The kidnapping of civilians violates the right to liberty and security of the person, exposes victims to increased risks of ill-treatment, and reinforces the climate of insecurity affecting local economic actors.

The presence of a pregnant woman among the victims also raises specific concerns relating to the protection of women in vulnerable situations in the context of non-international armed conflict.

## Case B12. Arson of a civilian vehicle in Bomaka, Buea (South-West)

**Date and venue:** February 17, 2025, Bomaka Chief Street, Buea, South West Region.

### Documented facts:

According to reliable local sources, a civilian vehicle was set on fire by armed men presented as separatists. The act would have taken place as part of the forced application of a “ghost town” slogan.

No human casualties were reported in this incident, but the act resulted in the total destruction of the property.

### Contextual analysis:

The burning of civilian property constitutes a recurring strategy for imposing coercive measures aimed at controlling movement and economic activity.

## Case B13. Assassination of Frederick Ande in Ekona (South-West)

On the night of June 16 to 17, 2025, Frederick Ande, an unarmed civilian, was killed in Ekona, South-West region.



### 1. Course of events

According to local sources, the victim was traveling towards Kumba around 10 p.m. when he was attacked by armed men presented as separatists.

The attack reportedly occurred a few meters from the camp of the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) of Ekona.

Frederick Ande was reportedly fatally injured during the attack. The exact circumstances and motive for the assault were not clarified at the time of documentation.

### 2. Analysis

The attack against a civilian traveling on a road constitutes a serious attack on the right to life and freedom of movement. The fact that the incident occurred in the immediate vicinity of a military installation highlights the persistent climate of insecurity in the area.

## Case B14. Serious gunshot wounds in Mile 3 (Bamenda, North West)

On Monday June 16, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, a woman and a teenage girl were seriously injured by gunshots in Mile 3, Bamenda, North West region.

### 1. Course of events

Armed men presented as separatists reportedly arrived on motorcycles in the area and opened fire indiscriminately. The woman was reportedly hit in the leg and the teenager in the neck. Both victims were immediately transported to a nearby hospital to receive medical treatment.

Local sources indicate that the attackers accused the residents of the neighborhood of not respecting the “ghost town” slogans imposed on Mondays.

### 2. Analysis

The facts resemble an indiscriminate use of force in a populated area, a violent sanction aimed at imposing forced confinement, a serious attack on the physical integrity of unarmed civilians.

Shooting towards the civilian population constitutes a violation of the principle of protection of civilians and reflects a mechanism of collective intimidation.



## Cas B15. Assassination of Mr. Penn Collins Muluh in Nkwen (Bamenda, North West)

On Sunday, June 15, 2025, Mr. Penn Collins Muluh was shot dead by armed men near a church in Nkwen, Bamenda town, North West region.

### 1. Course of events

According to local sources and witnesses, the incident occurred shortly after the end of a religious service. The victim, an employee of a local microfinance institution, was near the place of worship when he was allegedly targeted by unidentified armed men.

The attackers opened fire before leaving the scene. The exact circumstances of the attack, including the motive and identity of the perpetrators, have not been independently established at the time of documentation.

No official claim has been recorded.

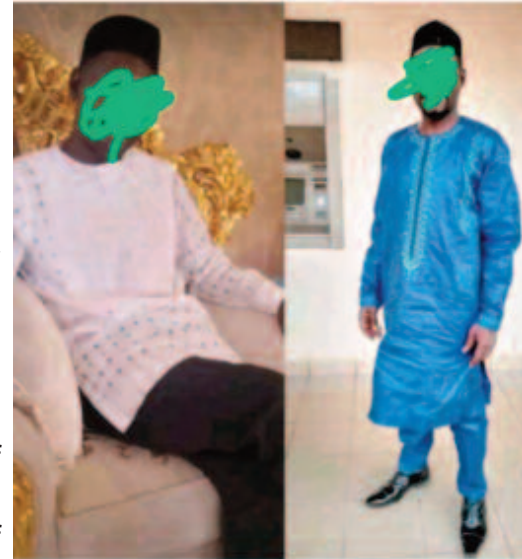
### 2. Analysis

The available elements indicate that this was an intentional homicide targeting an unarmed civilian in a public space of a religious nature.

The attack raises serious concerns about the protection of civilians in places of worship and their surroundings, respect for the right to life, and the security of actors in the local economic sector.

Religious places benefit from special protection under the norms of international humanitarian law when an armed conflict is ongoing. The use of lethal violence against a civilian not participating in hostilities constitutes a serious violation of fundamental guarantees.

This type of attack contributes to the erosion of the sense of community security, by targeting individuals in spaces perceived as safe and protected. translate to English only.



## Case B16. Death of Ateh Amanda in Nkwen (Bamenda, North-West)

On Friday June 5, 2025, Ateh Amanda was fatally shot in Cow Street, Nkwen neighborhood, in the town of Bamenda, North West region.

### 1. Course of events

According to local sources and testimonies collected, the victim was returning from h workplace when she was hit by a bullet. Armed men reportedly arrived in the area and started shooting indiscriminately. It is alleged that the victim was hit by a stray bullet during these shots.

The exact circumstances of the armed men's intervention, as well as their identity and motivations, have not been independently established at the time of documentation.

### 2. Analysis

The facts described suggest that the victim, an unarmed civilian not taking part in the hostilities, was killed in a context of indiscriminate shooting in a populated area.

The use of firearms in a non-targeted manner in a densely populated civilian environment constitutes a serious endangerment of the population, a violation of the precautionary principle, and an attack on the right to life. Even in a context of non-international armed conflict, parties to the conflict have an obligation to distinguish civilians from combatants at all times and to avoid attacks likely to cause excessive

civilian casualties.

The death of Ateh Amanda illustrates the impact of armed violence on ordinary civilians, particularly women carrying out daily professional activities, and highlights the increased vulnerability of urban populations exposed to clashes or uncontrolled armed acts.



## Case B17. Assassination of Tengang Simeon in Bambili (Mezam, North-West)



On Friday June 6, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, Tengang Simeon, a construction contractor, was attacked and killed by armed men in Down Cast, Bambili, in the Tubah sub division, Mezam division, North-West region.

### 1. Course of events

According to information gathered, the victim was supervising construction work at the local Presbyterian Church when he was allegedly targeted by unidentified armed men. The attackers allegedly opened fire on him on the site of the construction site, leading to his death. The exact circumstances of the attack as well as the formal identity of the perpetrators have not been independently established at the time of documentation.

The motive for the attack remains unknown.

### 2. Analysis

The facts described constitute an intentional homicide committed against an unarmed civilian carrying out a professional activity in a religious context. This attack raises serious concerns about the protection of civilian workers, the security of religious infrastructure, and respect for the right to life. Even in situations of non-international armed conflict, civilians not directly participating in hostilities benefit from protection against direct attacks. The assassination of a contractor on a church construction site constitutes a serious attack on the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and contributes to the generalized insecurity of local economic actors.

## Case B18. Targeted executions of two drivers in Bomaka, Buea (South-West)

**Date:** March 19, 2025

**Location:** Bomaka, Buea, South West Region

**Victims:** Two taxi drivers (identities not specified)

**Status:** Unarmed civilians

### 1. Context

The “Ghost Towns” imposed on Mondays by armed separatist groups continue to be strictly monitored. Any vehicle movement is seen as a violation of forced confinement instructions.

### 2. Process

On March 19, 2025, two drivers were circulating around Bomaka when armed men, identified by witnesses as separatists, allegedly intercepted them. They were reportedly accused of violating the “Ghost Town” order. The attackers reportedly opened fire on them before partially damaging their vehicles. Both drivers died on the spot.

### 3. Analysis

This case highlights the coercive imposition of illegal containment measures, the summary execution of civilians for non-compliance with instructions imposed by an armed group, and the exploitation of fear as a mechanism of territorial control.

This is a serious violation of the right to life and the principle of protection of civilians.

## Cas B19. Homicide of Youssouf in Babungo (Ngoketunjia, North-West)

### Date and place.

On May 25, 2025, according to consistent local sources, Youssouf, an unarmed civilian, was killed in Ngole Quarter, in the village of Babungo, Ngoketunjia division, North-West region.

### 1. Course of events

The victim was reportedly attacked by armed men in circumstances that have not been fully independently established.

His lifeless body was discovered shortly after the incident, showing multiple bullet holes, notably in the head and leg.

Local sources attributed the attack to armed separatist groups operating in the area. However, no official claims or public statements from the alleged perpetrators have been recorded at the time of documentation.

The exact motives for this homicide remain unknown.

### 2. Analysis

The available evidence indicates that this was an intentional killing committed against an unarmed civilian, in violation of the fun-



damental principle of protection of persons not directly participating in hostilities. Even in the context of non-international armed conflict, civilians benefit from protection against direct attacks. The execution of a civilian without judicial procedure constitutes a serious violation of the right to life, an attack on the fundamental guarantees provided for by international humanitarian law applicable to non-international armed conflicts, an act likely to amount to an extrajudicial execution. The lack of information on the motivations for the act reinforces concern about the arbitrary nature of the violence exercised against the civilian population.

### **Cas B20. Collective kidnapping of 29 civilians in Wahsi (Babessi – Bangolan Road)**

**Date:** March 19, 2025

**Location:** Wahsi, Babessi–Bangolan axis, Babessi Subdivision, North-West

**Documented facts:**

According to consistent local sources, 29 unarmed civilians were kidnapped by armed separatist groups. The victims were allegedly accused of traveling to Babessi to receive financial assistance allocated to an organization called Safety Network Cameroon.

The kidnapers allegedly claimed that this aid came from the government.

**Detention and ransom:**

The victims were reportedly released on March 22, 2025 after payment of a ransom of at least 100,000 FCFA per person.

**Consequences:** Collective deprivation of liberty, Financial extortion, Coercive restriction of access to humanitarian aid.

### **Case B21. Death of Dubila Emmanuel during armed clashes in Bamessing (Ngoketunjia, March 21, 2025)**

**Date:** March 21, 2025

**Location:** Bamessing Village, Ngoketunjia Division, Northwest Region

**Victim:** Dubila Emmanuel, employee of the ENEO company

**Status:** Unarmed civilian

**1. Security Context**

On March 21, 2025, the village of Bamessing was the scene of armed clashes between elements of the Cameroonian defense forces and separatist fighters. This area, located on the Bamenda–Ndop–Kumbo axis, is regularly marked by military operations and attacks by non-state armed groups. The exchange of fire reportedly intensified in the afternoon, causing widespread panic among civilians.

**2. Sequence of Events**

According to several local sources, Dubila Emmanuel, an employee of the natio-

nal electricity company ENEO, was traveling to Kumbo to install a generator for a client. While passing through Bamessing, he was reportedly caught in a cross-fire between defense forces and armed groups. Witnesses indicate that the victim attempted to flee the area hastily to seek shelter. It was at this moment that he was struck by a stray bullet.

He reportedly died at the scene or shortly thereafter from his injuries.

### 3. Elements of Analysis

Although the source of the fatal shot has not been definitively established, this death occurs within the context of an armed confrontation in a populated area. This case raises concerns regarding respect for the principle of distinction between civilians and combatants, and the obligation to exercise caution in the conduct of hostilities. to the protection of civilians in areas of internal conflict Even in a military operation, international humanitarian law requires parties to the conflict to minimize civilian casualties.

### 4. Local Impact

The death of Dubila Emmanuel sparked concern and outrage within the local community, with residents denouncing the persistent insecurity on this road, considered one of the most dangerous in the region.

## Case B22. Assassination of Melong Étienne alias “PA Binam” in Nkwen (March 6, 2025)

**Date:** March 6, 2025

**Location:** Mobile Nkwen, Bamenda III, Northwest Region

**Victim:** Melong Étienne alias “PA Binam”

**Status:** Businessman, unarmed civilian

### 1. Context

At the beginning of March 2025, the city of Bamenda experienced a surge in kidnappings for ransom and targeted killings attributed to armed separatist groups. Prosperous businessmen and merchants were particularly vulnerable, accused either of "collaborating" with the state or of refusing to finance the separatist struggle.

### 2. Sequence of Events

According to local and family sources, Melong Étienne, a merchant known as "PA Binam," was at his business premises in Mobile Nkwen when a group of armed men, arriving on motorcycles, allegedly attempted to kidnap him. Witnesses indicate that he resisted the kidnapping attempt. The assailants then reportedly opened fire at close range, inflicting several serious wounds, particularly to his abdomen.

He was rushed to the Mbingo Baptist Hospital Bamenda, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

### **3. Analysis**

The available evidence indicates an attempted kidnapping, likely for financial gain, a disproportionate and lethal use of force against an unarmed civilian, and a complete absence of any formal claim of responsibility. This case constitutes a serious violation of the right to life and is part of a pattern of violent extortion targeting local economic actors.

### **4. Community Impact**

The death of PA Binam has deeply affected the Bamenda trading community, reinforcing the climate of fear and economic insecurity.

## **Case B23. Kidnapping and Ill-Treatment of a Young Woman in Bamenda**

On Sunday, May 4, 2025, according to family sources, an unarmed young civilian woman was kidnapped by armed men in Bamenda, Northwest Region, and taken to an unknown location.

### **1. Sequence of Events**

According to information gathered, the victim's family immediately raised the alarm and demanded her release. On May 7, 2025, three days after her abduction, the young woman was reportedly brought back and abandoned by her captors in the Mulang neighborhood of Bamenda. Residents who recognized her immediately alerted her family and took her to a hospital, where she received appropriate medical care.

According to available information, the victim was subjected to inhumane treatment during her captivity.

### **2. Legal Analysis**

The described facts constitute serious violations of fundamental rights, including: Arbitrary deprivation of liberty, prohibited by international human rights law; The absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, enshrined in the Convention against Torture.

## Case B24. Murder of Ayouba, a motorcycle taxi driver in Bamenda

On May 4, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, a motorcycle taxi driver known as Ayouba was killed in Bamenda, Northwest Region.

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to information gathered, unidentified armed men on motorcycles attacked the victim. The assailants reportedly opened fire and fatally wounded him before immediately fleeing the scene. The exact circumstances of the attack have not been independently established. However, several local sources believe the killing was targeted, given the swift and direct modus operandi employed by the assailants. No official claim of responsibility was recorded at the time the events were documented.

### 2. Analysis

The available evidence indicates that this was an intentional homicide committed against an unarmed civilian engaged in regular economic activity. The targeted killing of a motorcycle taxi driver contributes to increasing insecurity in urban centers, further weakens the already vulnerable informal transport sector, and reinforces fear within local communities. Even in the context of non-international armed conflict, civilians not directly participating in hostilities are protected from attack. The intentional killing of a civilian constitutes a grave violation of the right to life and fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

## Case B25. Abduction and execution of Abubarkar Usman and Ibrahim Muhammed

### Date and location.

On May 5, 2025, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Abubarkar Usman and Ibrahim Muhammed were abducted by armed men identified by local sources as belonging to separatist armed groups. The precise location of the abduction had not been formally established at the time of documentation.

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to information gathered from multiple sources, the two men were intercepted and taken to an unknown location.

The kidnappers reportedly demanded a ransom of approximately 1,000,000 CFA francs. The victims' family paid the ransom in the hope of securing their release. However, despite the ransom payment, the two men were allegedly killed by their captors. The exact circumstances of their execution, including the precise date of death and the location where their bodies were found, had not been indepen-

dently established at the time of information gathering.

## 2. Analysis

The events described exhibit the following characteristics: arbitrary abduction of unarmed civilians; financial extortion through ransom; and execution of the victims despite the ransom payment.

Kidnapping for ransom constitutes a serious violation of the right to liberty and security of person. The execution of the victims after the ransom payment reveals a particularly cruel and arbitrary use of violence, aggravating the gravity of the situation.

Even in non-international armed conflicts, civilians not directly involved in hostilities are protected against hostage-taking, extortion, and summary executions. These acts can be classified as serious violations of international humanitarian law, particularly with regard to the prohibition of hostage-taking, cruel treatment, and attacks on life and human dignity.

This case illustrates the persistence of a pattern of kidnappings for the purposes of enrichment or coercive control, contributing to a climate of widespread fear within local communities.

## Case B26. Armed attack during a social gathering in Bambili (Northwest Region)



On Sunday, May 4, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, armed men attacked a social gathering in Bambili, in the Northwest Region. 1.

### Sequence of Events

According to information gathered, the assailants stormed a community gathering and opened fire indiscriminately on those present. Two unarmed civilians were killed during the attack. The victims were identified as: Barrister Ngu Clement Afah, PA Neba Lum.

Several other people were reportedly injured, some seriously, and transported to health facilities for medical treatment. Local sources indicate that the attack was initially motivated by an attempted kidnapping of the Director of the Upper Noun Valley Development Authority (UNVDA), a public company based in Ndop. When the assailants failed to reach their pre-

sumed target, they reportedly fired on the crowd before leaving the scene. No official claim of responsibility had been documented at the time of information gathering.

### **Analysis**

The described facts reveal:

- an armed attack against a civilian gathering;
- the intentional killing of individuals not participating in hostilities;
- serious injuries inflicted on civilians;
- and an attempted targeted kidnapping of an official of a public institution.

Opening indiscriminate fire in the context of a social gathering constitutes a serious violation of the principle of distinction between civilians and combatants.

Even in the context of a non-international armed conflict, civilians are protected against direct attacks. The use of lethal force against participants in a social event, in the absence of an immediately identifiable threat, amounts to a deliberate attack against the civilian population.

This incident also illustrates the use of targeted kidnapping strategies against officials of public institutions, with serious collateral consequences for local communities.

## **Case B27. Assassination of Adamu Lukman Abdou, also known as Adamou Moghamo, in Bambili**



On Thursday, May 1, 2025, Adamu Lukman Abdou, also known as Adamou Moghamo, was shot dead in Mile 9, Bambili, Northwest Region.

### **1. Sequence of Events**

According to local sources, the victim, a driver and branch manager for the Moghamo transport company in Bambili, was moving in the street when he was reportedly intercepted by armed men identified as separatists.

The assailants allegedly opened fire on him, killing him instantly.

Sources indicate that he was accused of violating a lockdown imposed by separatist armed groups in the area.

No official claim of responsibility had

been recorded at the time of this report.

## 2. Analysis

The events described appear to be the targeted execution of an unarmed civilian. An extrajudicial sanction for non-compliance with an order imposed by a non-state actor constitutes a serious violation of freedom of movement and the right to life. The coercive imposition of lockdown measures by armed groups, accompanied by lethal sanctions, constitutes a serious violation of international standards relating to the protection of civilians.

The targeting of a transport sector actor illustrates a strategy of intimidation aimed at controlling local economic activities and strengthening the de facto authority exercised by armed groups in certain areas.

### Case B28. Abduction and execution of Hamidu Yusufa and Adamou Umarou alias Iyawa in Ndu



Date and location.

On May 4, 2025, according to security and local sources, Hamidu Yusufa and Adamou Umarou, also known as Iyawa, were abducted in the Ndu subdivision, Northwest Region.

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The two victims, cattle traders, were traveling in a public transport vehicle when they were allegedly intercepted by armed men identified as separatists in the

Ntaba neighborhood of Sob village, in the Ndu subdivision. The victims were reportedly forcibly removed from the vehicle and taken into the bush. The kidnapers allegedly demanded a ransom of approximately 2,200,000 CFA francs. The victims' family reportedly paid the requested sum. However, despite the ransom being paid, the two men were reportedly executed. Their lifeless bodies were found by the roadside in Ntaba, bearing traces of gunshot wounds.

## 2. Analysis

The facts present several particularly serious elements:

- arbitrary abduction of unarmed civilians;
- financial extortion by ransom;
- execution of the victims after payment;
- abandonment of the bodies in a public space.

Hostage-taking for the purpose of extortion constitutes a serious violation of international humanitarian law applicable to non-international armed conflicts.

The execution of the victims after the ransom was paid reveals a particularly cruel and arbitrary use of violence, reinforcing the climate of terror within local communities, especially among traders and herders.

This case also illustrates the increased vulnerability of those involved in rural trade and the pastoral sector in certain areas of the Northwest.

## Case B29. Murder of Yufemo Anslem in Bambili (Tubah, Northwest Region)

On April 27, 2025, Yufemo Anslem, a geography teacher at the Government Technical High School (GTHS) in Sabga and a businessman, was killed in Bambili, Tubah sub division, Northwest Region.

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to multiple sources, three armed men on a motorcycle arrived in the area at night.

The victim was reportedly forcibly removed from his business before being shot.

The exact motives for this killing had not been independently established at the time of documentation.

### 2. Analysis

The described events constitute:

- the targeted killing of an unarmed civilian;
- an attack on the safety of teachers and economic actors;
- a serious violation of the right to life.

The targeting of a teacher reinforces concerns about the vulnerability of the education sector in conflict-affected areas.



## Case B30. Public Execution of a Civilian in Ekona, South-West region

**Date:** April 17, 2025

**Location:** Ekona, Southwest Region

**Alleged Perpetrator:** Armed Separatist Groups

### 1. Reported Facts

According to eyewitnesses, an unarmed civilian was publicly executed in the presence of residents forced to watch. The victim was allegedly accused of collaborating with state forces. No legal proceedings were observed. The execution was reportedly intended as an example to deter any cooperation with the authorities.

### 2. Analysis

This act exhibits the following characteristics: summary execution, collective intimidation, and the imposition of a parallel justice system.

It constitutes a serious violation of the right to life and the principle of presumption of innocence

## Case B31. Double Homicide in Ntawbaw, Ndu

**Date:** May 9, 2025

**Location:** Ntawbaw, Ndu Subdivision, Northwest Region

**Victims:** Alhadji Mbami, alias "The Mobiliser"

A second victim (identity unconfirmed)

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to local sources, armed men broke into the victims' homes around 9:00 PM. The two men were reportedly taken from their houses and then executed. The motives remained unknown at the time of documentation.

### 2. Analysis

The facts reveal:

- armed intrusion into private residences
- targeted execution
- complete absence of any official claim of responsibility or justification

They reflect a pattern of terror targeting local figures.



## Case B32. Abduction of the Divisional Delegate for Basic Education

**Date:** April 5, 2025

**Location:** Fungom Subdivision, Menchum Division, Northwest Region

**Victim:** Mr. Ndong Gilbert

### 1. Events

According to family sources, Mr. Ndong Gilbert, the Divisional Delegate for Basic Education, was abducted from his home by armed men. He was reportedly taken to an unknown location. Sources indicate that a ransom of 19 million FCFA was demanded.

### 2. Context

Education officials are regularly targeted as part of the opposition to the resumption of schooling imposed by certain armed groups.

### 3. Legal Classification

The facts constitute kidnapping for ransom, violation of individual liberty, and an attack against the educational administration.

## Case B33. Abduction and Murder of Nji Fidelis

**Date:** Abduction: March 22, 2025 – Body Found: May 5, 2025

**Location:** Chomba Village / Barasseries Junction, Bamenda

**Victim:** Nji Fidelis

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to local sources, Nji Fidelis was abducted in Chomba Village in the context of a land dispute. His body was found on May 5, 2025, at Barasseries Junction in Bamenda, bearing gunshot wounds. He was one of three bodies found that day in the city.

### 2. Analysis

This case presents several dimensions:

- prolonged abduction
- delayed execution
- abandonment of the body in a public space

It reflects the exploitation of local disputes in an environment marked by the proliferation of weapons.

## Case B34. Abduction of Reverend Brother Huub Walters and his assistant in Bambui (Tubah, Northwest Region)

**Date:** April 1, 2025

**Location:** Bambui, Tubah Subdivision, Northwest Region

**Victims:**

Reverend Brother Huub Walters, Mill Hill Missionary

Bobé Achoh Henry Kang, Assistant

### 1. Background

Religious and humanitarian actors, including missionaries, have been regularly subjected to kidnapping in the Anglophone regions, often for ransom or as a means of exerting pressure on local communities.

### 2. Sequence of Events

According to reliable sources, Reverend Brother Huub Walters and his assistant were traveling on a routine mission—described as a project visit and inspection towards Boyo division when their vehicle was intercepted in Bambui by unidentified armed men. The two men were abducted and taken to an unknown location. No precise information was provided in the available data regarding the duration of their captivity, the existence of a ransom, or the exact conditions of their eventual release.

### 3. Analysis

These events constitute a serious violation of the liberty and security of individuals and are part of a pattern of criminalizing humanitarian and religious spaces.

Even in the context of armed conflict, civilians including religious actors benefit from special protection against attacks, abduction, and hostage-taking.

## Case B35. Homicide of Nkeng Emmanuel in Agyati-Bafut (Mezam, Northwest Region)



**Date:** March 23, 2025 (date reported as is; possible inconsistency in the original source, to be verified)

**Location:** Agyati-Bafut, Mezam Division, Northwest Region

Victim: Nkeng Emmanuel (unarmed civilian)

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to local sources, Nkeng Emmanuel was shot dead by unidentified armed men. His body was found with gunshot wounds, abandoned in the town of Agyati-Bafut. Available information does not specify whether the victim was abducted before being killed, the time of the attack, or the possible motive.

### 2. Analysis

This type of assassination and abandonment of bodies in public spaces is regularly perceived by residents as a form of intimidation. In the absence of a claim of responsibility, direct attribution remains uncertain, but the

act constitutes a serious violation of the right to life.

## Case B36. Mass abduction of 29 civilians on the Babessi–Bangolan road (Northwest Region)

**Date:** March 19, 2025

**Location:** Wahsi, Babessi–Bangolan road, Babessi Subdivision, Northwest Region

**Victims:** 29 unarmed civilians

### 1. Events

According to local sources, 29 civilians were intercepted and abducted by armed men identified as separatists. The victims were allegedly accused of wanting to travel to Babessi to receive financial aid allocated to an organization called Safety Network Cameroon. The abductors reportedly claimed that this aid came from the government, which they alleged was the reason for the abduction.

### 2. Detention and Ransom

The victims were reportedly held for several days and released on March 22, 2025, after a ransom of at least 100,000 FCFA per person was paid.

### 3. Analysis

This incident reveals a coercive restriction of movement, the criminalization of access to aid perceived as "pro-government," and a systematic extortion scheme on the roads.

## Case B37. Abduction of Nji Fidelis related to a land dispute and subsequent discovery of his body (Northwest Region)



**Date:** Abduction: March 22, 2025 – Body found: May 5, 2025

**Location:** Chomba Village / Bamenda (Barasseries Junction)

**Victim:** Nji Fidelis

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to local sources, Nji Fidelis was abducted in Chomba Village in the context of a land dispute. After a period of disappearance, his body was found on May 5, 2025, at Brasseries Junction in Bamenda, bearing gunshot wounds. The body was among three others observed that day.

### 2. Analysis

The time elapsed between abduction and discovery of the body suggests prolonged detention followed by execution. This case illustrates how local disputes can be exacerbated and militarized in a context of proliferating weapons and impunity.

## Case B38. Double homicide of taxi drivers in Bomaka (Buea, Southwest Region)

**Date:** March 19, 2025

**Location:** Bomaka, Buea, Southwest Region

**Victims:** Two unarmed civilian taxi drivers

### 1. Sequence of events

According to eyewitnesses, two taxi drivers were intercepted by suspected separatist gunmen in the town of Bomaka. The victims were allegedly accused of violating the "ghost town" order imposed on Mondays by certain armed groups.

The two drivers were shot dead. Their vehicles were partially burned.

**2. Analysis**  
This case illustrates the coercive imposition of lockdown measures, the targeting of transport workers, and punitive execution without due process.

These are intentional homicides in violation of the right to life.

## Case B39. Murder of Melong Étienne alias “PA Binam” during an attempted kidnapping (Bamenda, Northwest Region)

**Date:** March 6, 2025

**Location:** Mobile Nkwen, Bamenda III

**Victim:** Melong Étienne alias “PA Binam”, businessman

### 1. Sequence of Events

According to reliable sources, armed men attempted to kidnap the victim from his business premises. When he resisted, they shot him, seriously wounding him. He was transported to Baptist Hospital, where he died.

### 2. Analysis

This case fits a typical pattern of targeted kidnapping for extortion, immediate recourse to lethal violence in the event of resistance, and a climate of economic insecurity for traders.

## Case B40. Gunshot Mutilation in Ndop (GBHS Ndop)

**Date:** March 10, 2025

**Location:** Ndop, Ngoketunjia Division, Northwest Region

**Victims:** Two unarmed civilians

### 1. Facts

According to the victims, armed men intercepted them while they were riding a motorcycle toward their farmland. The assailants accused them of violating the "ghost town" order.

After forcing them to sit on the ground, they shot them in the legs. One victim, identified as Ndashi Elvis, a teacher, stated that he was transporting his wife when they were intercepted.

### 2. Analysis

The facts constitute intentional mutilation, extrajudicial corporal punishment, and violation of physical integrity.



## Case B41. Multiple Attacks in Bamessing and Kedjom Ketingoh (Ngoketunjia/Tubah, Northwest Region)

### **Date and Location**

On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, according to reliable sources, armed separatist groups carried out coordinated attacks in the village of Bamessing, Ngoketunjia division, and in Kedjom Ketingoh, Tubah Subdivision, Northwest Region.

### **1. Sequence of Events**

According to information gathered, armed men intercepted several transport vehicles traveling on the roads connecting these localities. Passengers were forcibly removed from the vehicles. Five unarmed civilians were reportedly killed during these attacks. Several others seriously injured, while some were abducted and taken to unknown locations.

Among the victims were ordinary passengers, including a breastfeeding mother with her newborn, which underscores the humanitarian gravity of the incident.

The exact motives of the attackers had not been independently established at the time of documentation.

### **2. Analysis**

The available evidence indicates that these were deliberate attacks against unarmed civilians on public transportation routes.

The acts described constitute intentional killings, serious injuries inflicted on civilians, arbitrary abductions, and a violation of freedom of movement.

Even in the context of non-international armed conflict, civilians not directly participating in hostilities are protected against direct attacks. The interception of civilian vehicles and the execution of passengers constitute serious violations of fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including: the principle of distinction between civilians and combatants; the prohibition of attacks directed against civilians; and the prohibition of hostage-taking.

The presence of a breastfeeding mother and her newborn among the victims underscores the lack of discrimination in the conduct of the attack and reinforces the gravity of the violations committed.

This incident illustrates a pattern of persistent insecurity on strategic roads, contributing to economic paralysis and widespread fear within local communities.

## Case B42. Arson on Truck and Kidnapping in Muyuka

**Date:** February 22, 2025

**Location:** Muyuka, Southwest Region

### 1. Background

The town of Muyuka regularly experiences traffic restrictions imposed by armed separatists, particularly during so-called "ghost town" days. Certain public activities or events, including sporting events, have already been used as a pretext for coercive measures targeting civilians accused of not complying with these restrictions.

groups

### 2. Sequence of Events

According to concurring local sources, a truck transporting goods was intercepted by armed men described as separatists. The assailants reportedly immobilized the vehicle before setting it on fire, completely destroying its cargo. The driver and other occupants of the truck were allegedly abducted and taken to an unknown location. The perpetrators reportedly accused the victims of violating a "ghost town" order declared because of a sporting event known as the Mountain Race.

No official information has been released regarding the possible release of the abductees or the conditions of their detention.

## Case B43. Murder of Suaibu Umarou after prolonged abduction

### Date:

Abduction: February 17, 2025

Death: Later date unspecified

Location: Ntambaw, Ndu Subdivision, Northwest Region

### 1. Background

The Ndu Subdivision area is regularly affected by abductions targeting traders and herders, often in the context of extortion. The roads and surrounding hills are frequently used to intercept public transport vehicles.

### 2. Sequence of Events

According to family sources, Suaibu Umarou, a Fulani herder, was allegedly forcibly removed from a vehicle near Ntaba Hill on February 17, 2025, by armed men. He was reportedly taken to an unknown location and held for approximately three weeks. The kidnappers allegedly demanded a ransom of



1,500,000 FCFA. According to the victim's relatives, the ransom was paid. Despite this payment, Suaibu Umarou was reportedly executed. His body was later found, but no official details regarding the exact circumstances of his death have been released.

No formal claim of responsibility was recorded at the time of documentation.

## Case B44. Torture followed by execution in Cow Street, Nkwen

**Date:** February 19, 2025

**Location:** Bamenda II Subdivision, Northwest Region

### 1. Background

The Nkwen neighborhood, particularly around Cow Street, is an urban area marked by repeated incursions by armed men and kidnapping attempts targeting civilians.

Previous incidents have reported particularly brutal acts of violence, particularly in contexts of kidnapping or accusations of collaboration.

### 2. Course of events

According to local sources, an unarmed civilian was intercepted by armed men in the Cow Street area. The victim was allegedly subjected to severe abuse before being killed.

Witnesses indicate that he resisted a kidnapping attempt, which led to the escalation of violence. His body was later found near a watercourse in the K-Palace . The exact circumstances and formal identity of the authors have not been independently established at the time of documentation.



## Case B45. Arson on a civilian vehicle in Bomaka, Buea

**Date:** February 17, 2025

**Location:** Bomaka, Buea, South West Region

### 1. Context

The locality of Bomaka, in the city of Buea, is regularly affected by the imposition of so-called “ghost town” days, during which economic activities and travel are prohibited by armed groups. Vehicles traveling during these periods are particularly exposed to acts of intimidation and reprisals.

### 2. Course of events

According to local sources, a civilian vehicle was set on fire by armed men presented as separatists. The incident allegedly occurred as part of the imposition of a “ghost town”. No human casualties were reported in the data available at the time of documentation.

The precise circumstances of the vehicle interception and the identity of the owner have not been independently established.

## Case B46. Assassination of Abraham Tata in Mbengkas (Boyo Division)

**Date:** February 7, 2025

**Location:** Mbengkas, Boyo Division, North West Region

### 1. Context

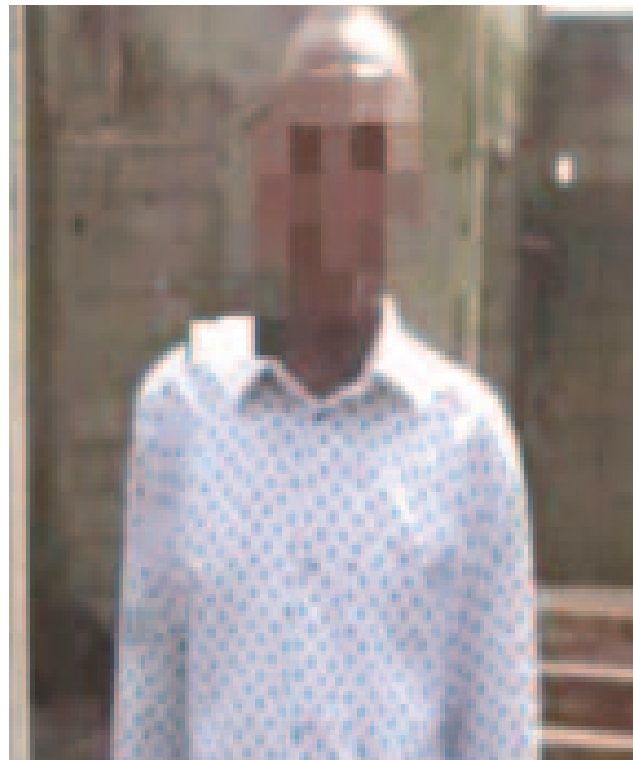
Boyo Division experiences persistent insecurity marked by kidnappings for ransom, local conflicts and acts of targeted violence. In some rural localities, personal or community rivalries may be part of a broader context of armed insecurity, making it difficult to distinguish between criminal violence and conflict-related violence.

### 2. Course of events

According to family sources, Abraham Tata, a teacher, was shot dead around 11 p.m. The exact circumstances of the attack have not been independently established.

Relatives of the victim indicate that he would have previously faced personal tensions and kidnappings for ransom. It is also reported that his home was previously set on fire.

No formal claims have been registered at the time of documentation.



## Case B47. Kidnapping of Rahimatou from Baba 1

**Date:** November 11, 2025

**Location:** Baba 1, Ngoketunjia division, North West Region

### 1. Context

In some conflict-affected areas, armed groups impose strict social and political norms, particularly regarding personal relationships with members of the defense forces. Accusations of “collaboration” can lead to kidnappings, public humiliation and other forms of coercion.

### 2. Course of events

According to local sources, a woman identified as Rahimatou was kidnapped by armed men presented as separatists. The kidnappers allegedly accused her of having a romantic relationship with a member of the defense forces, describing this act as “betrayal”. An amateur video widely distributed on social networks shows the victim surrounded by armed men who publicly accuse her of collaboration. In the same sequence, Rahimatou claims to be unaware that such a relationship was prohibited and declares that she is pregnant by the man in question. According to available information, she was released a few days later.

There is no indication that ransom was paid.

## Case B48. Assassination of a young man at Babungo market

**Date:** November 4, 2025

**Location:** Babungo Market, Ngoketunjia division, North West Region

### 1. Context

Local markets in certain rural areas are sometimes the scene of armed interventions aimed at imposing a form of informal justice or punishing behavior perceived as deviant.

These practices generally take place in the absence of any formal legal procedure.

### 2. Course of events

According to eyewitnesses, an unarmed young man was shot dead by armed men presented as separatists at the Babungo market. No official reason has been communicated. However, some local sources indicate that the victim was accused of stealing goods from the market and was handed over to armed groups, who carried out his execution. The exact circumstances and formal identity of the perpetrators have not been independently established.

## Case B49. Attack on Reverend Nteih Peter in Ndu

**Date:** November 12, 2025

**Location:** Ndu, North West Region

### 1. Context

The locality of Ndu remains affected by persistent insecurity, marked by armed incursions targeting community, religious and economic leaders.

Religious leaders, due to their public visibility and influence within communities, may be exposed to acts of intimidation or violence in a context of prolonged tensions.

### 2. Course of events

According to family sources, Reverend Nteih Peter, a respected religious leader in Ndu, was the victim of an armed attack at his home on November 12, 2025. Armed men burst into his residence and opened fire, wounding him in the arm before fleeing. The victim was rushed to a hospital where he reportedly received appropriate care and responded positively to treatment. No official claim has been reported at the time of documentation, and the motivations of the attackers have not been independently established.

## Case B50. Assassination of Bobe Kuma Ivo in Fundong

On the night of October 14, 2025, Bobe Kuma Ivo, an unarmed civilian from Ikuijua Ngwa, Fundong sub division, Boyo division, North-West region, was shot dead by armed men presented as separatists. Sources indicate that the victim was a committed activist of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM).

It is alleged that he was killed for having defied the lockdown imposed by separatist groups in order to participate in the presidential election of October 12, 2025. It should be remembered that the armed groups had publicly threatened to attack anyone taking part in the electoral process. This case illustrates violence targeting people perceived as participating in or supporting state institutions.



## Case B51 . Kidnapping and assassination of Honorable Abe Michael

On October 15, 2025, the Honorable Abe Michael, MP for the Ako/Misaje special constituency (North-West region), was kidnapped in Ndu, Donga-Mantung Division, by armed men presented as separatists. He was on board a public transport vehicle heading to Yaoundé after participating in the presidential electoral process.

The kidnappers reportedly demanded a ransom of 15 million CFA francs. In a video posted online, the driver of the vehicle — also kidnapped — indicated that his family had paid around 600,000 CFA francs for his release. He also claimed that his vehicle had been confiscated, with the kidnappers maintaining that it belonged to the MP.

According to some sources, a sum of 6 million CFA francs was paid before Honorable Abe Michael was executed. On October 22, 2025, his lifeless body was found in Ngonso, in the Ndu sub division. In an official statement, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honorable Cavayeye Jibril, condemned the act, calling it terrorist and barbaric, and asserting that it undermined national peace and security. This case constitutes one of the most serious political assassinations documented during the year 2025.



## Case B52. Kidnapping and assassination of Dr Dasi in Bamenda III

On October 28, 2025, Dr Dasi, Regional Delegate of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries for the North-West region, was kidnapped and then killed by armed men presented as separatists. According to the information collected, he was driving within the city around noon towards Mile 6 Nkwen when he was intercepted at Ntamuche, in the Bamenda III Council. He was allegedly kidnapped a few minutes before being murdered.

No official reason has been communicated. Some sources suggest that his assassination could be linked to the post-electoral context following the presidential election of October 12, 2025.

This case illustrates the targeting of senior administrative officials in a context of political tensions.

## Case B53. Kidnapping and assassination of Randy in Muea

**Date:** October 28, 2025

**Death:** October 29, 2025

Location: Muea, South West Region

### 1. Context

The locality of Muea was the scene of acts of violence targeting traders and owners of establishments, particularly in a context of accusations of collaboration with the authorities or non-compliance with instructions imposed by armed groups.

The term “black leg” is used locally to designate people perceived as supporting the authorities or refusing to adhere to the slogans of separatist groups.

### 2. Course of events

According to family sources, armed men presented as separatists broke into a bar in Muea on October 28, 2025 and kidnapped its owner, identified under the first name Randy. The next day, October 29, 2025, his lifeless body was found at Plantain Street, Muea. The body had a large wound in the abdomen, described by sources as the result of a gunshot. Some information indicates that the victim was accused of being a “black leg”, that is to say a person suspected of collaboration or non-compliance with instructions imposed by armed groups.

No formal claims have been registered at the time of documentation.

## Case B54. Kidnapping and rape of a 12-year-old minor (Bamenda–Ndop axis)

On September 28, 2025, a 12-year-old minor was reportedly kidnapped on the Bamenda–Ndop road, a corridor regularly affected by kidnappings and informal control operations by non-state armed groups. According to information collected from the victim and her relatives, armed men intercepted the vehicle she was in before taking her by force to an isolated wooded area, where she suffered sexual violence.

The absence of precise information on the length of detention, the circumstances of release and possible medical-psychological care reveals a lack of institutional protection in rural areas experiencing high insecurity.

### **Contextual analysis:**

The Bamenda–Ndop axis appears recurrently in documented cases as an interception zone. Sexual violence appears to be used as an instrument of domination and intimidation. The target a minor suggests a breakdown of traditional community protection mechanisms. This case illustrates an increased vulnerability of women and children in situations of mobility

## Case B55 . Assassination of Okereke Tah Joseph (Bole Bakundu), Southwest region

On September 29, 2025, Okereke Tah Joseph was executed after being taken from his business at Kombone Mission. Available information indicates that he was accused of having violated a day of “ghost town”, a confinement measure imposed by armed groups in certain localities in the South-West.

### Contextual analysis:

The prior removal of the victim from his business suggests a desire for public exposure.

The violent imposition of “ghost town” is recurrent in several documented localities.

Enforcement aims to produce a collective deterrent effect.

This case is part of a coercive model of territorial application of standards imposed by force.

## Case B56. Assassination of Emmanuel Nsahila in Jakiri

On September 29, 2025, Emmanuel Nsahila, an unarmed civilian, was killed by armed men presented as separatists in the village of Kifóm, Jakiri sub division, Bui division, North-West region. He is presented as the younger brother of the late Christopher Nsalai, former Minister of Transport of Cameroon, and the uncle of Barrister Nsalai Emmanuel, a lawyer based in the United States who is involved in handling legal proceedings against certain separatist leaders abroad.

According to sources, a large crowd mobilized and organized a protest march towards Kifóm to denounce the assassination.

This case suggests possible targeting linked to perceived family or political affiliations.

## Case B57. Attack on a church in Likoko (Muyuka)

**Date:** September 28, 2025

**Location:** Likoko, Muyuka district, South-West Region

### 1. Context

In certain areas affected by the conflict, armed groups have attempted to impose symbolic demonstrations and public demonstrations of support for the self-proclaimed entity known as “Ambazonia”, particularly in the run-up to October 1, a date associated with separatist demands. Places of worship, because of their central role in community life, can be targeted to disseminate political messages or exert symbolic pressure.

### 2. Course of events

According to local victims and witnesses, a group of armed men attacked a church in Likoko on September 28, 2025. The attackers allegedly forced the faithful to leave places of worship and tried to impose the wearing of t-shirts displaying the symbols of the self-proclaimed “Ambazonia”, in preparation for a parade planned for October 1, 2025. Security forces, notably the 6th Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), would have intervened quickly to restore calm. Worshipers injured in the incident reportedly received medical treatment.

The exact circumstances of the confrontation and the formal identity of the attackers have not been independently established at the time of documentation.

## Case B58 .Assassination of Kula Henry Penyit Balikumbat September 24, 2025

### 1 Statement of the facts

On September 24, 2025, Kula Henry Penyit, an unarmed civilian, was killed in Balikumbat, Ngoketunjia division, North-West region. According to family sources, unidentified armed men, presented as separatists, extracted him from a drinking establishment before shooting him at point blank range,

leading to his immediate death. The exact circumstances leading to the extraction of the victim and his execution are not known at this stage.

No motive has been confirmed and no claims have been documented.

### 2 Context and factual analysis

In several localities in Ngoketunjia, targeted killings of civilians have been reported in a context of informal armed control and widespread suspicion. Attacks occurring in or near drinking establishments are often punitive or demonstrative in nature, these places constituting spaces of sociability where armed groups can exercise intimidation and surveillance. The absence of an established motive and the unconfirmed identity of the perpetrators reinforce the difficulty of prevention and formal attribution of the facts.

### 3 Documentary observations

Information comes from family and local sources. No public element (press release, complaint made public, official reaction) was documented at the time of collection.

## Case B59. Execution of four civilians Ekona

**Date:** September 20, 2025

### 1. Statement of facts

On September 20, 2025, four unarmed civilians were shot dead in Ekona, South-West region, by armed men presented as separatists. According to information gathered, the victims were taken from their respective homes before being executed. They were allegedly accused of being “blacklegs” or spies working with state forces. Sources indicate that a house was also set on fire during the attack. Images of victims and property damage are said to have circulated online.

No official claims have been documented at the time of documentation.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

Ekona and its surrounding areas regularly appear in incidents linked to accusations of collaboration, which serve as justification for punitive executions. The modus operandi (home extraction, execution, fire) suggests a desire to produce an effect of terror and collective deterrence, while publicly sanctioning people perceived as aligned with the State. This type of incident contributes to increasing fear, fueling internal displacement and reinforcing mistrust between residents, particularly in areas where denunciation and suspicion become structuring.

### 3. Documentary observations

Information is based on local sources and visual content circulating online. The conditions for independent verification (exact number of victims, complete identity, circumstances of the fire) remain limited.

## Case B60: Assassination of Ta Shey Roland Karngong Mbot (Nkambe)

### 1 Statement of facts

On the night of September 18, 2025, Ta Shey Roland Karngong, traditionally affiliated with the Nwerong sacred society and resident of Mbot village, Nkambe, Donga-Mantung division, North-West region, was killed at his home.

According to available information, armed men carried out the attack. No group has claimed responsibility and no clear motive has been established at the time of documentation. It was not possible to confirm whether any property was taken or whether the victim had received prior threats.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

In several localities in Donga-Mantung, assassinations committed in victims' homes are part of complex dynamics combining armed conflict, targeted intimidation and community tensions. The fact that the victim is identified as a figure or member of a traditional institution may indicate targeting linked to local influence, perceptions of alignment or conflicts of authority, without certain attribution being possible.

The absence of an official statement or claim accentuates the opacity surrounding the incident and makes it difficult to understand the real motivations.

### 3 Documentary observations

Information comes from local sources. No communication from administrative or security authorities has been documented at this stage.

## Case B61: Assassination of Techabe Belmond Teghen (“OH Oh”) Mbengwi Bamenda axis

### 1.Statement of the facts

On September 14, 2025, Techabe Belmond Teghen, known by the nickname “OH Oh”, mechanic and motorcycle taxi driver, was shot dead by armed men along the Mbengwi–Bamenda axis, Momo division, North-West region.

The exact circumstances remain unclear. An image widely shared on social media reportedly shows the victim's body lying in a pool of blood at Saint Mary Junction, Bamenda. There is no evidence to confirm whether he was killed at the location where his body was filmed/photographed, or whether the body was moved after the attack.

No motive has been established and no claims have been documented.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

The Mbengwi–Bamenda roads are frequently reported as areas of insecurity, where kidnappings, armed attacks and occasional executions occur. Motorcy-

cle taxi drivers and informal workers are among the most exposed profiles, due to their mobility and their presence on the roads at varying times.

The dissemination of images of the victim's body online can contribute to collective intimidation and the amplification of the psychological impact on the population.

### **3 Documentary observations**

The information is based on local sources and visual content broadcast on social networks. Independent verification limits remain significant.

## **Case B62: Series of deadly attacks and destruction Bamenda**

### **1.Statement of facts**

On September 15, 2025, several violent incidents were reported in Bamenda, North West region, resulting in the death of at least three unarmed civilians and the destruction of property.

According to available information:

At Mile 4 Nkwen, a civilian was reportedly shot dead and his vehicle set on fire.

At Mile 5, a motorcycle was reportedly set on fire.

In Sacred Heart (Mankon), other unarmed young men were reportedly shot dead by armed men.

The attacks were reportedly attributed to separatist fighters. The full identities of the victims have not been confirmed at the time of documentation.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

The simultaneity of the incidents and their geographic dispersion on an urban scale suggest a pattern of coordinated intimidation aimed at imposing a climate of fear and reinforcing compliance with an announced confinement. The destruction of vehicles and motorcycles has an economic and symbolic dimension: they reduce mobility, paralyze daily activities and reinforce the idea of armed control over public space.

The context mentioned - confinement announced to disrupt the start of the school year and the electoral process - sheds light on the possible coercive purpose of these attacks: increasing pressure on populations in order to impose forced adherence to slogans or to reduce institutional activity.

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information is based on local sources and converging stories. The fragmentation of incidents makes it difficult to establish a consolidated and verified assessment (exact number of victims, identity, precise location of each attack).

## Case B63 .Improvised explosive device (IED) attack Batibo (Momo division)

### 1.Statement of facts

On September 14, 2025, several unarmed civilians were seriously injured in Batibo, Momo ,division, North-West region, following the explosion of an improvised explosive device (IED).

According to information gathered, the explosive was placed in a bar located near a police station, a place frequented by members of the security forces. A video relayed online would show in particular:

- a man with a serious leg injury, described as largely destroyed by the explosion;
- a woman of around fifty years old, on the ground, appearing to suffer injuries to both lower limbs.

No official consolidated report (total number of injured, severity of injuries, possible subsequent deaths) was documented at the time of compilation.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

The use of an IED marks a lewhenvel of violence with high indiscriminate potential, particularly the device is placed in a civilian place open to the public. The choice of a bar located near a police station suggests a potential indirect target linked to security forces, but the configuration of the location necessarily exposes civilians.

In the context of the conflict in the North-West, this type of attack contributes to:

- increase fear in sociable spaces (bars, markets, gathering places);
- reduce attendance at public places and affect the local economy;
- amplify collective trauma, particularly through the circulation of particularly shocking images.

Separatist groups are suspected of being behind the explosion, with no formally documented claim at this stage.

### 3.Documentary observations

The information is based on local sources and a video posted online. The limits of independent verification relate to: the total number of victims, the identity of the injured and the absence of an official press release.

## Case B64: Kidnapping and rape amessing (Ndop)

**Date:** September 7 to 10, 2025

### 1.Statement of facts

On September 7, 2025, according to the victim and family sources, a woman was kidnapped in Bamessing, in Ndop, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

The attackers reportedly intercepted a public transport vehicle. The victim, who was traveling with her two children aged 3 and 4, was reportedly taken from the vehicle. The driver was allegedly forced to leave the scene and drove the children to Bamenda.

The woman was reportedly taken to an unknown destination. She was reportedly released on September 10, 2025. According to her testimony, she suffered repeated sexual violence during captivity and identified one of the perpetrators as a separatist leader known as “The Only Bro.”

No information has been confirmed regarding medical treatment or an open investigation.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

This case presents several characteristic elements of violence used for control and intimidation:

- interception of public transport, a recurring practice in certain areas;
- forced separation of a mother and her children, which increases the psychological impact and vulnerability;
- sexual violence reported as repeated, which may be part of a pattern of abuse of power within armed groups.

The fact that the victim attributes the acts to an individual identified by a command alias suggests the existence of internal hierarchies and, potentially, a permissive environment that favors these abuses.

### 3.Documentary observations

The information is mainly based on the testimony of the victim and relatives. The limitations include the absence of independent confirmation, the absence of accessible medical documentation and the absence of official reaction.

## Case B65. Abduction of 9 children and 10 parents Njinikom, Boyo division

**Date:** September 12, 2025

### 1.Statement of the facts

On September 12, 2025, nine (09) children and ten (10) of their parents were kidnapped by armed men presented as separatists at the Njinikom roundabout, North-West region.

According to a parent interviewed, the victims were allegedly targeted for having

enrolled or kept their children in a government public school. The kidnapers mainly sent a warning, instructing families to wait until the end of the “ghost town” period before sending the children back to school.

According to the available testimonies, the abducted people did not suffer serious physical violence. They were subsequently released and resumed their activities. No ransom payments have been confirmed.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

Targeting linked to schooling reflects an intimidation strategy aimed at disrupting access to education and imposing norms of collective behavior through threats. Even without reported physical violence, the collective kidnapping of parents and children constitutes a strong coercive signal, likely to:

- discourage school attendance;
- accentuate fear and self-censorship within families;
- promote the lasting closure of establishments and school drop-outs.

This type of incident highlights the use of deprivation of liberty as an instrument of “warning” and social control.

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information is based on testimonies from parents/victims. The limitations concern the absence of details on the exact duration of detention, the terms of release and the absence of documented official reaction.

## **Case B66: Kidnapping of travelers Bamessing**

**Date:** Night of September 4 to 5, 2025

### **1.Statement of the facts**

On the night of September 4, 2025, approximately fifteen (15) unarmed travelers were taken from their vehicles by armed men suspected of belonging to separatist groups in Bamessing, Ngoketunjia division, North-West region.

The victims were reportedly taken to an unknown destination before being released on September 5, 2025. The information available does not make it possible to establish whether a ransom was demanded or paid, nor whether violence was inflicted during detention.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

The kidnapping of travelers on major roads and near strategic locations is part of a movement control dynamic. This type of incident has several effects:

- reduce traffic and economic activity;
- reinforce the feeling of insecurity on the roads;

- facilitate, in some cases, extortion by ransom or forced collection of contributions.

Uncertainty about the existence of a ransom or violence may reflect limitations in documentation, but also the speed of releases, sometimes motivated by a logic of warning or temporary control.

### **3.Documentary observations**

Information comes from local sources and testimonials. The limitations relate to the lack of details on the identity of the victims, the exact duration of detention and the absence of official information.

## **Case B67. Kidnapping, torture and ransoms Bamessing (Ndop)**

### **1.Statement of facts**

On August 30, 2025, two unarmed civilians, including Johnson, owner of a rice mill in Bamessing (Ndop district), were kidnapped by armed men presented as separatists.

According to close sources:

Johnson was reportedly released on September 3, 2025 after payment of a ransom estimated at 7 million FCFA;

the second victim would have been released on September 4, 2025 after payment of approximately 5 million FCFA.

The two victims are said to have suffered acts of torture during captivity. They were reportedly hospitalized at the Ndop District Hospital due to injuries described as serious. No official medical details have been documented.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

This case illustrates a pattern of kidnapping for economic purposes, with high ransoms and acts of torture described as means of pressure. The selection of a victim identified as a local economic actor (owner of a rice mill) suggests a targeting logic based on a supposed capacity to pay or on an economic value in the community.

The “kidnapping–torture–ransom” combination reinforces the collective impact:

- deterrence of economic activities;
- fear and closure of businesses;
- increased internal travel;
- weakening of community survival mechanisms.

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information is based on sources close to the victims and elements reported at the community level. The limits concern the absence of accessible medical elements, the absence of a documented complaint and the absence of a confirmed official reaction.

## Case B68. Kidnapping of four truck drivers Sabga (Tubah)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On September 5, 2025, according to family sources, four drivers of goods transport trucks were kidnapped from the Door Market in Sabga, in the Tubah sub division, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

Among the victims are drivers identified under the first names Umarou, Ibrahim and “La Vie”. The kidnapers reportedly demanded the payment of a ransom for their release. The available information does not specify the total amount required or the exact date of their possible release.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

Kidnappings targeting heavy goods vehicle drivers and transporters are part of a dynamic of control of logistics and commercial routes. The Sabga Door Market is a strategic point connecting several localities in the North-West.

This type of incident can have several structuring impacts:

- disruption of market supplies;
- increased transport costs due to risks;
- increase in informal payments and extortion;
- increased insecurity on interurban routes.

The repetition of kidnappings against economic players in transport reinforces a climate of economic constraints.

### 3. Documentary observations

The information is based on family and community sources. The limits concern the absence of official confirmation and the lack of details on the legal consequences.

## Case B69: Collective kidnapping with payment of ransoms Bamessing

### 1. Statement of the facts

On August 30, 2025, a group of unarmed civilians was kidnapped by armed men presented as separatists in the locality of Bamessing, Ngoketunja division, North-West region.

According to the victims and local sources, the kidnapers demanded at least:

- 100,000 FCFA per woman;
- 200,000 FCFA per man.

The kidnapped people would have been released after payment of the sums demanded.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case reflects a standardized ransom pattern, suggesting a structured organization and gender-differentiated pricing. The main purpose of the kidnapping appears to have been financial extortion rather than individual po-

litical targeting.

The repeated practice of these collective kidnappings contributes to:

- institutionalize ransom as a method of financing;
- weaken household resources;
- reinforce economic insecurity.

The absence of reported acts of serious physical violence does not mitigate the psychological and economic impact on the victims.

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information comes from direct testimonies from victims. No official statement has been documented.

## **Case B70.Abduction of passengers and bus driver Muyuka**

### **1.Statement of the facts**

On September 2, 2025, armed men presented as separatists kidnapped passengers and the driver of a bus in Muyuka, South-West region.

The victims were reportedly taken into the bush and held captive for several days. According to family sources, their release occurred after the payment of ransoms, the amounts of which are not specified.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

The kidnapping of entire buses constitutes a significant escalation in terms of collective deprivation of liberty. This type of operation demonstrates an organizational and logistical capacity allowing the interception and simultaneous management of numerous hostages.

Consequences include:

- temporary paralysis of public transport;
- increased cost of travel;
- reinforcement of fear on interurban routes.

These practices particularly affect populations dependent on road transport for access to healthcare, education and markets.

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information is based on family and local sources. The limitations relate to the absence of exact data concerning the number of victims and the amounts of ransoms.

## Case B71. Attack during a meeting or Njangi, Nkwen (Bamenda III)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On September 1, 2025, an armed attack occurred in the Center Boit neighborhood, Mile 5 Nkwen, Bamenda III, North West region, during a Njangi (community savings association) meeting.

Armed men presented as separatists allegedly opened fire indiscriminately. The attack allegedly caused:

- the death of a child aged 12;
- serious injuries to two other people.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

Njangi meetings constitute essential mechanisms of informal economic solidarity. An attack in this context simultaneously affects:

- the physical safety of participants;
- community trust;
- local economic stability.

The apparently indiscriminate nature of the shooting, combined with the presence of a child among the victims, illustrates the high collateral impact of attacks in civilian spaces.

### 3. Documentary observations

Information is based on local sources. The absence of official demands and documented public reactions constitutes a limitation.

## Case B72: Kidnapping of six civilians including a businessman, Kedjom Ketingoh (Sabga)

### 1- Statement of the facts

On September 1, 2025, six unarmed civilians, including a businessman identified as Sama Ntangsi, were kidnapped in Kedjom Ketingoh (Sabga), Mezam division, North-West region.

The kidnappers, presented as separatists, reportedly demanded a ransom estimated at around 3 million FCFA. One of the survivors, identified as Mr. Vichas, was reportedly severely tortured after being unable to raise the requested sum. He would have required hospitalization.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case illustrates a model of kidnapping targeting economic actors or individuals perceived as solvent. The alleged torture appears to have been used as an instrument of financial pressure.

The repetition of this type of act in the Sabga/Kedjom Ketingoh area underlines:

- the vulnerability of semi-rural areas;
- the normalization of high ransoms;
- the rise of a parallel coercive economy.

### 3. Documentary observations

The information is based on family and community sources. The limits concern the absence of judicial information and verified medical data.

## Case B73. Abduction of approximately ten civilians ; Tabenken (Nkambe)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On August 26, 2025, according to family sources, approximately ten (10) unarmed civilians were kidnapped in Tabenken, in Nkambe, Donga-Mantung division, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

It is alleged that the kidnapers demanded the payment of a ransom of 500,000 FCFA per victim before their release. Available information indicates that the victims were released after payment of the requested sums.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case is part of a series of collective kidnappings in the Donga-Mantung area, characterized by high insecurity on secondary roads.

Setting a uniform amount per victim suggests an organized extortion mechanism. The collective kidnappings of ordinary civilians – without an apparent political profile – demonstrate a strategy aimed at capturing financial resources rather than specific ideological targeting.

These practices contribute to:

- the impoverishment of rural households;
- the normalization of the payment of ransoms;
- the weakening of the local economic fabric.

### 3. Documentary observations

The information comes mainly from family sources. The absence of official communication constitutes a documentary limitation.

## Case B74: Kidnapping of a truck driver and road blockade, Koutoupit (Noun)

### 1. Statement of the facts

In Koutoupit, in the Noun division, (Western region), a truck driver was kidnapped by armed men presented as separatists. The kidnapers reportedly demanded the payment of a ransom for his release.

In response, the local population reportedly blocked the Fouban–Koutoupit axis for around 48 hours in order to denounce the repeated kidnappings of civilians for ransom in the area.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case presents two distinct dimensions:

Kidnapping for extortion purposes, affecting a commercial transport player;

Community mobilization, translated by a road blockade.

The blockage of the Fouban–Koutoupit axis reflects a high level of community exasperation in the face of persistent insecurity. It marks an evolution of the conflict towards an open local protest against kidnapping practices.

The geographical extension towards the Western region also shows a risk of spreading insecurity dynamics beyond the traditional strongholds of the North-West and South-West.

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information is based on community sources. The available data does not specify the exact date of the driver's release or the amounts paid.

## **Case B75: Homicide of Nforbalang in Bamenda**

### **1.Statement of the facts**

On August 22, 2025, Nforbalang, an unarmed civilian, was shot dead in Bamenda, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists. According to a witness, the attackers tried to kidnap him by ordering him to get on their motorcycle. Faced with his refusal and resistance, they allegedly shot him at point blank range, resulting in his death.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

This case illustrates a pattern where attempted kidnapping turns into homicide in the event of resistance.

The observed dynamics suggest:

- rapid recourse to lethal violence;
- a lack of tolerance to resistance;
- a climate of perceived impunity.

The situation highlights the extreme risk faced by civilians facing kidnapping

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information comes from eyewitness testimony. No group has officially claimed responsibility for the act.

## **Case B76: Fire at St. Peter Clever's Catholic Primary School ,Muyuka**

### **1.Statement of the facts**

On August 20, 2025, the building housing St. Peter Clever's Catholic Primary School, located in the Strangers quarter, opposite the Telcar intersection in Muyuka (South-West region), was set on fire by armed men presented as separatists.

According to local sources and videos posted online, the attackers accused Catholic authorities of collaborating with the state and obstructing their political agenda. It's alleged the school was preparing to resume classes for the new academic year.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

Attacks on educational establishments are part of a strategy aimed at disrupting

schooling in certain areas.

The fire of a religious establishment highlights:

- the politicization of education;
- pressure on religious institutions;
- the structural impact on access to primary education.

This type of attack reinforces educational insecurity and compromises children's educational continuity.

### **3.Documentary observations**

Visual elements circulating online confirm the fire. The absence of a formal claim limits the exact traceability of the authors

## **Case B77: Homicide of Stella during a wake keeping ceremony, Bamenda**

### **1.Statement of the facts**

On August 7, 2025, a woman identified as Stella was killed during a wake keeping ceremony in the old Cenajes neighborhood in Bamenda, North West region.

According to witnesses, she left the ceremony briefly to answer a phone call. Armed men reportedly intercepted, suffocated and killed her after seizing her cell phone.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

This case presents several worrying elements:

The attack occurred in a sensitive community context (funeral wake).

The victim was allegedly isolated and targeted individually.

The cell phone was seized, suggesting a possible motive linked to communications or suspicion of collaboration.

The absence of demands and explicit motive leaves gray areas remaining as to the exact motivations.

### **3.Documentary observations**

The information comes from local witnesses. No official statement has been documented at this point.

## Case B78: Assassination of Amberley Martin , Ntarikon (Bamenda)

### 1.Statement of the facts

On August 6, 2025, Amberley Martin, an unarmed civilian presented as residing in the United States, was shot dead in Ntarikon, Bamenda, North-West region, by armed men who arrived on motorcycles, according to witnesses. The attackers allegedly ordered the victim to get on the motorcycle at gunpoint. The victim allegedly resisted, after which he was shot several times. He was reportedly transported to a health facility, but died on August 7, 2025 at the Bamenda Regional Hospital, according to available information.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

This case is part of a recurring pattern observed in Bamenda: attempted kidnappings in urban areas, with rapid escalation towards lethal violence in the event of resistance. The presence of a supposed diaspora victim may also reflect a specific risk related to perceptions of solvency (ransoms), although no ransom demands have been reported here. The deterrent effect on the population is significant: the threat of being shot if they refuse to follow the attackers reinforces daily insecurity and self-censorship of travel.

### 3.Documentary observations

Information is based on eyewitness accounts and community sources. The limits concern the absence of claims and the lack of details on the formal identity of the authors.

## Case B79: Attack on CDC employees: death of an employee and a soldier, Sonne/Likomba (Tiko)

### 1.Statement of the facts

On August 23, 2025, according to a press release signed by the Director General of the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) and dated August 24, 2025, unidentified armed men attacked employees of the company around 7 a.m. at the Rubber Estate of Sonne/Likomba, in Tiko, South West region. The statement said that during the attack:

- a civilian employee, Senior Field Assistant, identified as Madam Jacqueline Nsai, was killed;
- a soldier was also killed;
- two other civilian employees were reportedly seriously injured.

The motive for the attack has not been established. An investigation would have been opened according to the press release.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

CDC agro-industrial sites are located in areas where conflict-related insecurity regularly affects economic activity. Attacks on workers constitute direct pressure on economic recovery and on the ability of businesses to maintain or resume operations.

The presence of a soldier among the victims may indicate an attack targeting a security device or a convoy, but the main impact remains civilian (workers injured/killed). The overall effect is a worsening of worker precariousness and a risk of suspension of activities, with consequences for local employment.

### **3.Documentary observations**

Main source: official CDC press release (August 24, 2025). The limitations relate to the absence of additional independent information (identity of the attackers, precise progress, continuation of the investigation).

## **Case B80: Armed attack against the Sub Divisional officer of Bamenda II: subsequent death , Limbé**

### **1. Statement of the facts**

On July 17, 2025, Nicholas Nkongho Manchang, (Sub Divisional Officer) of Bamenda II, was shot and injured in Limbé, South-West region, during an attack carried out by armed men, according to reliable sources. He was reportedly evacuated to receive medical treatment, but died from his injuries on July 29, 2025. The exact circumstances (precise location, mode of operation, possible targeted assassination attempt) have not been fully documented.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

The targeting of a local administrative authority suggests an act with strong symbolic significance, potentially targeting the administrative apparatus of the State. Attacks against administrative representatives can be interpreted as a strategy to weaken local governance and deter institutional presence.

The attack that occurred in a region different from his duty station (Limbé, South-West) may also indicate a vulnerability of the authorities on the move, in an environment where the front lines are diffuse.

### **3.Documentary observations**

Information comes from local sources and community networks. The limitations concern the absence of an accessible official report and the lack of details on the perpetrators and the investigation.



## Case B81: Attack on road repair workers: one injured, two kidnapped, Bayelle (Nkwen, Bamenda)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On July 16, 2025, armed men presented as separatists attacked road repair workers on duty in Bayelle, Nkwen, Bamenda, North West region.

According to reliable sources, the attackers arrived on motorbikes, injured one worker and kidnapped two others. The victims were reportedly taken to an unknown destination. The available information does not specify whether a ransom was demanded or whether the victims were released.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

The attacks against infrastructure workers are part of a logic of hindering the normalization of civilian life and the restoration of public services. Road repairs, perceived as facilitating the mobility of security forces or economic recovery, can be targeted by armed groups.

The removal of workers from a construction site also has a dissuasive effect: it can cause work to stop, discourage businesses and reinforce the isolation of certain areas.

### 3. Documentary observations

Information is based on local sources. The limitations concern the absence of details on the identity of the victims, their subsequent status and possible ransom demands.

## Case B82: Kidnapping and Murder of Yongka Collins , Lebialem (Government School Mboeh)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On July 13, 2025, Yongka Collins, an unarmed civilian, was kidnapped and then killed in the grounds of Government School Mboeh, in the Lebialem division, South-West region. According to available information, the victim worked as a guard and shepherd on a cattle ranch in Lebialem. The detailed circumstances of the kidnapping, the length of captivity and the exact manner of the homicide have not been fully established at the time of documentation.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

Lebialem is an area marked by persistent insecurity and violence regularly targeting civilians accused of collaboration or perceived as not respecting imposed standards. The fact that the incident took place in a school reinforces the symbolic and intimidating dimension, in a context where educational infrastructures are often sensitive.

The kidnapping followed by murder highlights an escalation of risk for workers living or working in isolated rural areas, where institutional protection is weak.

### 3. Documentary observations

Information is based on local sources. The limits relate to the absence of public evidence (press releases, medical reports, investigation).

## Case B83: Murder of a teacher: Shafe Stephen Timyu , Kumbo (Bui)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On July 13, 2025, Shafe Stephen Timyu, a teacher and unarmed civilian, was killed in Kumbo, Bui division, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists, according to family sources.

The available information does not specify the exact circumstances of the attack (precise location, method of operation, presence of witnesses). No statement of claim has been documented. Some sources indicate that the victim was targeted because he encouraged parents to send their children to school.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

In several areas of the English-speaking regions, actors in the education sector (teachers, principals, school staff) are among the profiles exposed, particularly in periods of tension around the start of the school year or calls for school closures.

When victims are accused of promoting the school, it is often part of a pattern of intimidation aimed at:

- disrupt schooling;
- weaken civil services;
- impose social discipline through fear.

The assassination of a teacher can lead to increased dropouts, flight of educational staff and lasting erosion of trust in the school environment.

### 3. Documentary observations

Main sources: family and community relays. Limitations: absence of detailed information on the crime scene, absence of documented official reaction and absence of information on an investigation.

## Case B84 .Public execution of a civilian , Muea

### 1. Statement of the facts

On July 8, 2025, an unarmed civilian was publicly executed in Muea, South-West region, by armed men presented as separatists, according to witnesses.

Sources indicate that the victim was taken from his home before being executed in the presence of civilians. It is alleged that she was accused of “collaboration” with state agents. The full identity of the victim has not been confirmed at the time

### 2. Context and factual analysis

Public executions constitute a form of demonstrative violence aimed at:

- impose fear;
- discipline the population;
- deter any real or supposed cooperation with the State.

The use of the accusation of collaboration, often unverifiable, appears to be a recurring mechanism for justifying punitive violence. This type of act can reinforce polarization, push residents to self-censorship and internal displacement.

### 3. Documentary observations

The information comes from eyewitness accounts. Limitations: absence of complete identity of the victim, absence of formal claim or documented official reaction.

## Case B85: Kidnapping for ransom: “Francis” , Bangolan (Babessi)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On July 8, 2025, a man known by the first name Francis was kidnapped in Bangolan, in the Babessi sub division, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

The kidnapers reportedly demanded a ransom of 4 million FCFA. According to available sources, the victim was released on July 12, 2025 after payment of approximately 2.5 million FCFA.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case illustrates a classic pattern of kidnapping for economic purposes, with:

- a high initial ransom demand;
- a negotiation resulting in a lower amount;
- a release conditional on payment.

The repetition of these practices on the routes linking Babessi/Bangolan reinforces the perception of informal armed control over local mobility. It impoverishes households and increases the fear of travel, particularly for men considered more “solvent” or more exposed.

### 3. Documentary observations

The information comes from local sources close to the victim. Limitations: absence of details on the conditions of detention and any violence suffered.

## Case B86. Kidnapping of three civilians, Malende (Muyuka)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On June 23, 2025, three unarmed civilians were kidnapped in Malende, in the Muyuka sub division, South-West region, by armed men presented as separatists, according to a family source.

Available information indicates that two of the victims were released a few days later after payment of ransoms. A third victim would have remained in captivity longer. It is alleged that this third person is a woman suspected of having relations with a soldier after having previously been linked to a separatist, an accusation interpreted by her captors as treason.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case combines two dynamics often observed:

- kidnapping for economic purposes (ransoms);
- kidnapping for punitive or disciplinary purposes, based on accusations of relations with security forces.

Accusations linked to emotional relationships or supposed “collaboration” constitute, in several documented incidents, a factor of increased vulnerability for women. The prolonged detention of one victim compared to others may indicate differential treatment linked to the alleged motive.

### 3. Documentary observations

Sources: relatives and community relays. Limitations: absence of complete identity of the victims, absence of verified data on the exact duration of captivity and the conditions of detention.

## Case B87: Kidnapping for ransom: Nchoh Marcus ,Muyuka

### 1.Statement of the facts

On July 2, 2025, Nchoh Marcus, an unarmed civilian, was kidnapped in Muyuka, South-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

According to family sources, the kidnappers demanded a ransom. The family would have paid around 600,000 FCFA. Despite this payment, the kidnappers continued to keep him in captivity, demanding additional sums. The available information does not specify the release date or the final outcome of the case.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

The practice of demanding successive payments, even after a first payment, appears in several cases of kidnappings. It reflects:

- a logic of prolonged extortion;
- an instability of the “conditions” of release;
- increased vulnerability of families who go into debt or sell assets to pay.

This type of prolonged detention can also increase the risk of torture, ill-treatment or execution, even when families cooperate financially.

### 3.Documentary observations

Sources: family and community. Limitations: lack of information on the length of captivity, the conditions of detention and the state of health of the victim.

## Case B88: Attack on the “Amsterdam” bar: assassination of Jarvis , Muyuka

### 1.Statement of the facts

On July 6, 2025, unidentified gunmen attacked an establishment known as “Amsterdam”, located in Muyuka, South West region.

According to witnesses, the attackers arrived on motorbikes and attempted to kidnap the bar owner, identified as Jarvis. Faced with resistance from the victim, the armed men opened fire and killed him on the spot.

The precise circumstances (number of attackers, duration of the attack, presence of other victims) are not clearly established at this stage.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

Drinking establishments and places of social gathering are frequently targeted in areas affected by the conflict, either to impose closure measures (ghost town) or to carry out kidnappings for economic purposes.

In this case, the attempted kidnapping followed by homicide due to resistance reinforces the climate of intimidation against local traders. The attack on a public place also has a collective psychological impact, making social spaces particularly vulnerable.

### 3.Documentary observations

Sources: eyewitness accounts and community relays. Limitations: absence of formal claim and information on a possible investigation.

## Case B89. Abduction and execution of Abdul Mumini Sale, Ntumbaw (Ndu)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On July 6, 2025, Abdul Mumini Sale, a driver of Fulani origin residing in Binka, was kidnapped in Ntumbaw, Ndu sub division of Donga-Mantung division, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

According to reliable sources, he was kidnapped with three other people and a ransom of 10 million FCFA was demanded. Despite paying part of the requested sum, the victim was allegedly shot to death. His body was reportedly abandoned in a bush area. Images of his funeral in Binka are said to have circulated.

### 2 Context and factual analysis

This case combines kidnapping for ransom and subsequent execution, even after partial payment. It illustrates an instability of the “rules” imposed by the kidnappers and an increased vulnerability of traders and transporters.

The profile of the victim (Fulani driver) occurs in a regional context where intercommunity tensions can overlap with the dynamics of the armed conflict. Executions despite payment contribute to a climate of extreme uncertainty and the collapse of confidence in any negotiation.

### 3. Documentary observations

Sources: local sources and funeral images. Limitations: lack of independent confirmation of the exact amount paid and the precise circumstances of the execution.

## Case B90. Armed attack on Khan Patrick Awa: subsequent death , 16 (Buea)

**Date:** June 30 to July 6, 2025

### 1. Statement of the facts

On June 30, 2025, Khan Patrick Awa, an unarmed civilian, was attacked by armed men presented as separatists in Mile 16, Buea, South West region.

According to reliable sources, the attackers opened fire on his vehicle and set it on fire. The victim was reported to have suffered a serious gunshot wound to the waist. His wife, who was on board, was also injured. He was initially admitted to a health facility in Buea, then transferred to the Douala General Hospital, where he died on July 6, 2025 from his injuries.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

The attack on a civilian vehicle in circulation reflects a recurring modus operandi targeting motorists accused of not respecting imposed instructions or perceived as potential targets for kidnapping. The burning of the vehicle reinforces the demonstrative dimension of the act and accentuates the economic losses for the family. The delayed death of the victim, after several days of hospitalization, highlights the prolonged impact of armed violence on health structures and families.

### 3. Documentary observations

Sources: testimonies and community relays. Limitations: absence of information on an official claim and possible legal consequences.

## Case B91: Kidnapping and murder of a journalist and teacher: Kindzeka ,Kumbo

### 1.Statement of the facts

In early July 2025, a journalist working for a community radio in Kumbo and also a teacher, identified as Kindzeka, was kidnapped by armed men presented as separatists. He was reportedly held in captivity for several days. His lifeless body was reportedly discovered on July 4, 2025 in Tobin, in the town of Kumbo, Bui division, North-West region.

The precise circumstances of his detention and death have not been fully established at the time of documentation.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

Media professionals are among the groups particularly exposed in conflict zones, particularly when they cover political or security issues. The combination of statuses (journalist and teacher) can increase a person's public visibility and, potentially, their exposure to risk. Kidnapping followed by homicide constitutes a dissuasive signal for local media and educational actors.

### 3.Documentary observations

Sources: local information and community relays. Limitations: lack of public details of a claim and an official investigation.

## Case B92. Kidnapping of 15 civilians,Awing (Santa)

### 1.Statement of the facts

On December 18, 2025, fifteen (15) unarmed civilians were kidnapped in Awing, in the Santa sub division, North-West region, by armed men who arrived on motorcycles around 6 a.m., according to local sources.

The kidnapers reportedly demanded a total ransom of 15 million FCFA, or around 1 million per person, before their release. The precise circumstances of their detention

### 2.Context and factual analysis

Mass kidnappings at high ransoms constitute an important economic lever for armed groups operating in certain rural areas. Setting a uniform amount per person suggests a structured logic of extortion.

This type of mass kidnapping increases community insecurity, disrupts agricultural and commercial activities, and can lead to temporary or permanent displacement of exposed families.

### 3.Documentary observations

Sources: local sources. Limitations: absence of information on the final outcome (release, actual payment, continuation of negotiations).

## Case B93. Execution of El Hadji Machinja, Njimom (Noun, West)

### 1. Statement of facts

On December 30, 2025, according to reports, El Hadji Machinja, an unarmed civilian, was forcibly taken from his home in Njimom, Noun Division, Western region, by armed men presented as separatists.

Sources indicate that he was executed in front of members of his family. The available elements do not specify the exact method of operation (weapon used, precise location of the execution), nor the reasons given by the perpetrators.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case presents a pattern of home extraction followed by killing, frequently observed in conflict zones to impose intimidation and demonstrate local control.

The fact that the incident occurs in the Western region may reflect: either an extension of the dynamic of insecurity towards other regions; either mobility of victims or perpetrators (interregional travel).

Execution in front of the family accentuates the psychological impact, because it targets both the immediate circle and the community, producing lasting fear and a feeling of collective helplessness.

### 3. Documentary observations

Source: local reports. Limitations: absence of detailed details and absence of documented official reaction.

## Case B94. Murder of three young men , Eyomojock (Manyu)

### 1. Statement of the facts

On December 23, 2025, around 5 p.m., three young unarmed civilian men, unidentified at the time of documentation, were shot dead in Eyomojock, Manyu division, South-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

According to available sources, the attackers were initially looking for a cocoa trader who had gone to Nigeria on business. Not having found him, they opened fire on a vehicle carrying the three victims, who were killed instantly.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case suggests opportunistic or substitutional violence: the failure to reach an initial target (cocoa dealer) would have led to hitting other civilians present or associated with the same environment.

This type of incident has structuring effects:

- fear of travel and road transport;
- increased risk for people “close” or “associated” with wanted targets;
- heightened tension around economic activities (cross-border trade, cocoa).

The lack of identification of the three victims also highlights a frequent documentary difficulty in

### 3. Documentary observations

Sources: local information. Limitations: absence of confirmed identities, absence of formal claim and official report.

## Case B95: Attacks in Wowo (Ndu): deaths and community reprisals

### 1. Statement of the facts

On December 12, 2025, according to family and community sources, two incidents were reported in Wowo Village, Ndu sub division, Donga-Mantung Division, North West Region. Sources indicate that three Fulani (Fulani) civilians, who were going to play football, were killed by armed men presented as separatists.

In retaliation, armed men identified as Fulani reportedly attacked Wowo Village on the night of December 12, 2025, causing:

- the death of five unarmed civilians;
- injuries to nine other people;
- the destruction of several homes.

A press release attributed to elected officials from Donga-Mantung, signed in particular by a senator and dated December 15, 2025, condemned the attack on Wowo and mentioned open investigations, but this press release was criticized by certain observers as not reflecting all the victims (notably the Fulani killed initially).

### 2. Context and factual analysis

This case illustrates a dynamic of chain violence and community reprisals, where initial attacks attributed to an armed actor provoke a response targeting other civilians, with no direct link demonstrated with the initial act.

The overlapping of intercommunity tensions (Fulani / local populations) and armed conflict increases the risk of collective violence, and complicates the attribution of responsibilities. The nightly reprisals and destruction of homes

### 3. Documentary observations

Sources: victims, families, press release from elected officials. Limitations: discrepancies on the exact number of victims in some sources and lack of a detailed official public report.

## Case B96: Discovery of the body of Mudoh Othniel ,Nkwen (Bamenda)

### 1.Statement of the facts

On December 5, 2025, the lifeless body of Mudoh Othniel, a businessman and internally displaced person, was found in Mbelewa, Nkwen, Bamenda, North West region, with gunshot wounds, according to reliable sources.

Sources indicate that he was kidnapped on December 4, 2025 by armed men, before being killed. The exact circumstances of the kidnapping (precise location, kidnapers, ransom demands) are not documented.

### 2.Context and factual analysis

The profile of the victim (businessman and internally displaced person) reflects a double vulnerability:

- economic exposure (perception of solvency);
- social and security fragility linked to displacement.

The rapid discovery of the body after the kidnapping suggests either a rapid execution or the failure of negotiations/extortion intentions, although this cannot be confirmed. This type of incident reinforces fear among internally displaced people, often already exposed to precarious urban environments.

### 3.Documentary observations

Sources: reliable sources and community relays. Limitations: absence of details on the authors and absence of official claim.

## Case B97: Wave of kidnappings: around 50 cases in 15 days, North-West

**Date:**December 2025

### 1.Statement of the facts

According to close sources, approximately fifty (50) cases of kidnappings of unarmed civilians were recorded over a period of approximately fifteen days in different areas of the North-West region, including:

- Bamessing (Ngoketunjia);
- certain sectors of Bui;
- Door Market (Babanki Ketingoh) in Mezam;
- the Bamenda–Fundong axis;

and other localities.

The kidnappings were allegedly attributed to armed men presented as separatists. Ransom demands were reportedly made. Some victims were reportedly released after payment, while others remained in cap-

tivity at the time of documentation.

## **2.Context and factual analysis**

This case constitutes an aggregated data (trend) rather than an individual incident. It highlights a temporary increase in kidnappings, suggesting:

- either an accelerated financing strategy;
- either a multiplication of groups operating in parallel;
- or an increase in armed controls on the roads.

Even if details per victim are not available, the temporal concentration (“50 in 15 days”) is a strong indicator of systemic insecurity, having a direct impact on mobility, the local economy, and the feeling of security.

## **3.Documentary observations**

Sources: close sources and community stories. Limitations: absence of a nominative list, absence of case-by-case verification, risk of overlap/double counting without a consolidated nominative base.

## **Case B98.Collective kidnapping,Babanki-Ketingoh (Tubah)**

**Date:** December 2025

### **1.Statement of the facts**

According to eyewitnesses, a group of unarmed civilians were kidnapped in Babanki-Ketingoh, Tubah District, North West Region, by armed men. Sources indicate that large sums (“millions” of FCFA) were paid as ransom before the victims were released. The information available does not specify the exact number of people kidnapped, nor the precise date of the incident, nor the terms of release.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

Babanki-Ketingoh and its surroundings appear to be an area exposed to kidnappings for economic purposes. The use of high ransoms suggests either targeting victims perceived as solvent, or a practice of collective extortion.

The absence of details on the date and number of victims may indicate that the incident was documented as a major event but without access to a complete list of names, which is common when families favor discreet negotiation rather than public complaint.

### **3.Documentary observations**

Sources: eyewitnesses. Limitations: incomplete data (date, number, identity), lack of official confirmation.

## Case B99. Kidnapping of journalist Nji Blasius, Nkwen (Bamenda)

**Date;** December 2 to 5, 2025

### 1. Statement of the facts

On December 2, 2025, journalist Nji Blasius, publisher of The Pilot newspaper, was kidnapped in Nkwen, Bamenda, North West region, by armed men, according to reliable sources.

The same day, the Association of Anglophone Journalists of Cameroon (CAMASEJ), Bamenda section, published a statement expressing its deep concern and calling for his immediate and unconditional release. The organization called the kidnapping a worrying trend targeting journalists in the context of the crisis.

According to available information, Nji Blasius was released on December 5, 2025, after more than 72 hours of captivity.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

The targeting of a journalist takes place in a context where media actors may be exposed to risks linked to the coverage of sensitive events, perceptions of bias, or intimidation strategies aimed at reducing the circulation of information. The fact that a professional organization responded publicly indicates a high level of alert and suggests that the incident was seen as emblematic of broader threats against the press. Release after 72 hours may reflect social pressure, negotiation, or a goal of intimidation rather than prolonged detention, although this cannot be confirmed.

### 3. Documentary observations

Sources: reliable sources and CAMASEJ declaration. Limitations: absence of information on the conditions of detention, the perpetrators and the possible ransom.

## Case B100. Abduction of Ms. Ngong Ngum Zenobia, Wum/Menchum

**Date;** November 2 to December 4, 2025

### 1. Statement of the facts

On November 2, 2025, Ms. Ngong Ngum Zenobia, Divisional Delegate of Arts and Culture for Menchum and 2nd deputy mayor of Wum, was kidnapped by armed men, according to sources close to the victim.

The kidnappers were “dressed in military uniform” according to testimonies. It is alleged that a ransom of 10 million FCFA was initially demanded. The victim was reportedly released on December 4, 2025, under unclear cir-

cumstances.

## **2.Context and factual analysis**

This case presents several important markers:

- the victim occupies public and elected positions,
- therefore potentially more visible;
- prolonged detention (more than a month) indicates
- sufficient logistical capacity and territorial control to maintain a hostage;
- the allegation of perpetrators in “military uniform” complicates attribution and can fuel confusion or fear among the population.

Abductions of local authorities have a dissuasive effect on territorial governance: they can reduce the travel of officials, limit the presence of the State and increase **3.Documentary observations**

Sources: close sources. Limitations: absence of details on the place of detention, absence of independent confirmation on ransom and perpetrators, absence of documented official reaction.

## **Case B101. Armed attack near NFC Bank: one dead, several injured, Bamenda**

### **1.Statement of the facts**

On December 16, 2025, according to eyewitnesses, gunmen opened fire on a vehicle near the NFC Bank area in Bamenda, North West region.

The driver was killed instantly and several passengers were injured. The injured victims were reportedly transported for treatment, with no details available on their medium-term condition.

The motive for the attack has not been established and no group has officially claimed responsibility at the time of documentation.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

Attacks on vehicles in urban areas reflect persistent insecurity which also affects commercial and banking areas. Location near an urban landmark (NFC Bank) can indicate an incident with high visibility, reinforcing the fear effect.

The absence of a clear motive leaves several factual hypotheses open (opportunistic attack, attempted kidnapping, intimidation, suspicion of collaboration), but none can be accepted without additional elements.

### **3.Documentary observations**

Sources: witnesses. Limitations: absence of identification of the perpetrators, absence of details on the injured victims, absence of an official press release.

## Case B102: Kidnapping of 7 priests/pastoral agents: Baba 1 (Babessi)

**Date:** November 18 to December 3, 2025

### 1. Statement of the facts

On November 18, 2025, according to reliable sources and communications from the Catholic Church, seven (07) priests/pastoral agents were kidnapped from Baba 1, in the Babessi sub division, North-West region, by armed men presented as separatists.

The kidnapers reportedly demanded a ransom for their release. Six (06) people were released after negotiations, while a priest, identified as Reverend Father John, remained in captivity for several days.

The Archbishop of Bamenda, Most Rev. Andrew Nkea, issued statements indicating that the Catholic Church does not pay ransom and was considering protest measures, including the suspension of activities in the locality and calls for peaceful mobilization. In a follow-up statement dated December 3, 2025, the Archbishop announced the release of the priest, after 14 days of captivity.

### 2. Context and factual analysis

The kidnapping of religious figures has a strong symbolic and community impact. Religious institutions play a central role in social services (education, health, assistance), and their targeting can be seen as pressure aimed at:

to obtain ransoms;

to assert authority over a community;

to reduce neutral spaces.

The fact that the Church communicated publicly and mobilized a network of solidarity (prayer, appeals) may have contributed to increasing social pressure around the liberation. Public positions on the ransom also show the dilemmas encountered in the release negotiations.

### 3. Documentary observations

Sources: communications from the Catholic Church (press releases) and reliable sources. Limitations: absence of verified information on the exact conditions of captivity and the identity of the captors.

## Case B103: Discovery of the body of Ngwang Raphael, Babessi/Ndop

### 1-Statement of the facts

On December 20, 2025, the lifeless body of Ngwang Raphael, former regional delegate of MINEPAT (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Development) for the North-West region, was found around Babessi, in the Ndop zone.

According to reliable sources, the victim had gunshot wounds. It is alleged

that he was shot dead by unidentified gunmen. The exact circumstances of the possible kidnapping, the location of the attack and the precise time of death are not fully established.

### **2- Context and factual analysis**

The victim previously held a high-level administrative position, which may suggest an exposed profile, even in the absence of information confirming a direct link between his position and the attack.

The Bamenda, Ndop, Kumbo axis is frequently described as an area of high insecurity, with recurring incidents involving kidnappings, road attacks and targeted assassinations. The discovery of a body with gunshot wounds reinforces the perception of persistent lethal violence in peri-urban and rural areas.

### **3- Documentary observations**

Sources: local reliable sources. Limitations: absence of formal claim, absence of public details on an investigation.

## **Case B104: Assassination of Emmanuel Nganya , Ntarinkon (Bamenda II)**

### **1- Statement of the facts**

On December 21, 2025, Emmanuel Nganya, an unarmed civilian, was shot dead by unidentified armed men near Joan of Arc School, Ntarinkon, Bamenda II, North West region.

According to family sources, he was going to the Mulang neighborhood in the company of two relatives when he was attacked. The latter would have lost consciousness from the shock, but would not have been physically injured. Neighbors reported hearing several gunshots.

The motive for the attack remains unknown and no group has officially claimed responsibility for the attack.

### **2- Context and factual analysis**

Homicides committed in residential areas reinforce the feeling of urban insecurity. The lack of a clear motive (no public accusation of collaboration, no reported ransom demand) leaves open the possibility of individual targeting, attempted intimidation or score-settling.

The proximity of a school and the attack in the presence of family members amplify the psychological and community impact.

### **3- Documentary observations**

Sources: family sources and neighborhood testimonies. Limitations: absence of public information on the authors and an investigation procedure.

## Case B105: Double homicide, Nchum (Bafut)

### 1- Statement of the facts

On November 28, 2025, two unarmed civilians were shot dead in Nchum, in the Bafut sub division, Mezam division, North-West region, according to family sources.

The exact circumstances of the shooting are not clearly established. No group claimed responsibility for the facts at the time of documentation. The motives remain unknown.

### 2- Context and factual analysis

The lack of claim and public justification makes it difficult to attribute the incident to a specific actor. However, this type of homicide takes place in an environment characterized by:

- circulation of small arms;
- armed groups operating locally;
- limited capacity to permanently secure rural areas.

Homicides with unclear motives contribute to a climate of generalized fear, because they do not allow the population to identify a specific risk factor to avoid.

### 3- Documentary observations

Sources: family sources. Limitations: absence of identification of the authors, absence of detailed details, absence of information on an investigation.

## Case B106: Fatal injuries to Nkwenti Jordan, Bambili

### 1- Statement of the facts

**Date:** November 23 to 25, 2025

On November 23, 2025, Nkwenti Jordan, a student at the Higher Institute of Transport and Logistics at the University of Bamenda, was seriously injured by gunshot in Bambili, in Tubah, North-West region.

According to family sources, he was attacked by armed men. He was reportedly taken to hospital but died on November 25, 2025 from his injuries.

The precise circumstances of the attack (exact location, alleged motive) are not detailed in the available information.

### 2 Context and factual analysis

Students and university areas are among the sensitive spaces in the context

of the Anglophone crisis, particularly due to threats of kidnapping, tensions linked to academic resumption and the concentration of young people in urban areas.

The delayed death after hospitalization highlights the seriousness of the injuries inflicted and underlines the impact of armed violence on young students.

### **3 Documentary observations**

Sources: family sources. Limitations: absence of information on the identity of the attackers and possible investigations.

## **Case B107: Rescue operation of 9 people kidnapped Kumbo (Bui)**

### **1- Statement of the facts**

On October 3, 2025, in Kumbo, Bui division, North-West region, the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) of the Cameroonian defense forces reportedly carried out an operation which allowed the release of at least nine (09) people kidnapped by armed men presented as separatists.

According to available information, the victims were kidnapped and taken to the bush at gunpoint, with demands for ransom. During the operation, some kidnapers were reportedly killed and the victims released.

### **2.Context and factual analysis**

This case constitutes a distinct incident from the others in section B, in that it concerns a liberation operation and not a violation attributed to armed groups.

It highlights:

- the existence of secure hostage recovery operations;
- the persistence of kidnappings for economic purposes;
- the armed confrontation between defense forces and separatist groups.

However, the information does not specify whether civilians were affected during the operation, nor the exact conditions of detention of the victims before their release.

### **3.Documentary observations**

Sources: security reports and local sources. Limitations: absence of an independent detailed report, absence of a nominative list of victims.



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# **PART VIII :** **TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND PROSPECTS FOR EXIT FROM THE CRISIS**

## 1. Need for a transitional justice framework

The analysis of the 136 incidents documented in 2025 highlights not only the persistence of serious violations, but also a structural deficit in accountability. The apparent absence of independent investigations made public, the rarity of legal proceedings and the repetition of the same patterns of violence contribute to the entrenchment of a cycle of impunity.

Transitional justice does not constitute an isolated punitive mechanism. It represents a set of tools intended to respond to massive violations of human rights in a context of conflict or post-conflict. It aims to restore institutional trust, recognize the suffering of victims and prevent the recurrence of violence.

In the context of the North-West and South-West regions, the following elements justify the exploration of such a framework: the prolonged duration of the conflict (more than eight years); the multiplicity of documented violations; the human impact estimated between 278 and 451 direct victims for the year 2025 alone; increased vulnerability of women and children; the persistence of structural restrictions on freedom of movement; the absence of credible public redress mechanisms. Transitional justice thus appears to be a structuring lever to break the cycle of chronic violence.

## 2. The four pillars applicable to the NOSO context

The comparative experience of international conflict resolution processes highlights four complementary pillars:

### **2.1 Right to the truth**

Victims and affected communities have the right to official recognition of the facts. In the current context, this involves: the establishment of an independent mechanism for clarifying violations committed since 2017; official documentation of homicides, kidnappings, arbitrary detentions, sexual violence and violations of freedom of movement; public recognition of the suffering suffered. The truth is a prerequisite for lasting reconciliation.

### **2.2 Accountability and fight against impunity**

Transitional justice cannot exclude the question of responsibility. Documented serious violations targeted killings, summary executions, alleged torture, hostage-taking, sexual violence may, depending on the circumstances, qualify as serious criminal offenses. An appropriate transitional justice framework could include: strengthened national judicial mechanisms; specialized rooms; procedures guaranteeing the rights of the defense; alternative mechanisms for less serious offenses. The objective is not revenge, but breaking the cycle of impunity.

### **2.3 Reparations for victims**

Documented victims in 2025 include: bereaved families; abducted and traumatized people; women victims of sexual violence; children exposed to violence; infants detained in prison; economically ruined traders and farmers.

Reparations can be: financial; symbolic; community; psychosocial; institutional. Recognition of victim status constitutes an act of justice in itself.

### **2.4 Guarantees of non-repetition**

The documentation reveals that the repetition of incidents in certain areas creates “corridors of vulnerability”. Guarantees of non-repetition imply:

- the reform of security practices incompatible with international standards;
- the end of collective punishments linked to “ghost towns”;
- strict respect for the principle of distinction and proportionality;
- strengthening civil and judicial control of security operations;
- effective protection of freedom of movement.

Without structural reforms, violence risks recurring.

## **3. Emblematic case of detained infants: symbol of an imperative for reform**

The prolonged detention of two infants aged 3 and 4 months in Bamenda central prison constitutes a particularly worrying symbol.

Beyond the individual question, this case reveals a problematic extension of detention, an increased vulnerability of women and children and a persistent tension between security imperatives and protection of fundamental rights. In any transitional justice approach, the protection of children and the primacy of the best interests of the child must be unambiguously guaranteed.

## **4. Inclusive dialogue as a prerequisite**

Transitional justice cannot prosper in a context of permanent confrontation.

Since 2017, Conscience Africaine and its partners have advocated for direct and inclusive dialogue between: the central State; representatives of separatist movements; community leaders; civil society organizations; the victims.

A structured dialogue constitutes a prerequisite for the lasting cessation of hostilities, the establishment of truth mechanisms and the adoption of institutional reforms.

The strictly security response did not put an end to the violence. The year 2025 confirms the need for a complementary political approach.

## 5. Transitional justice and legal qualification

If the situation meets the criteria for a non-international armed conflict, serious violations of international humanitarian law must be addressed within a framework consistent with international obligations. Transitional justice offers a framework for linking international humanitarian law and human rights, guaranteeing the rights of victims and preventing the fragmentation of responsibilities.

Recognition of the applicable legal framework strengthens the coherence of future accountability mechanisms.

## 6. Strategic perspective

Documenting violations in 2025 is not just about making a statement. It prepares the foundations for a future process of truth, responsibility and reparation.

Sustainable stabilization of the North-West and South-West regions requires:

- immediate protection of civilians;
- the effective restoration of freedom of movement;
- the end of punitive violence;
- recognition of victims;
- engagement in credible political dialogue;
- the gradual establishment of a transitional justice framework adapted to the national context.

Transitional justice is not a secondary option.

It represents an essential instrument for breaking the normalization of violence and rebuilding the social contract.

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# RECOMMENDATIONS

## A. TO THE CAMEROONIAN AUTHORITIES

### I. Urgent and Immediate Measures

#### 1. Immediate Release of Infants Detained at different detention centers.

The immediate release of infants currently held in detention within correctional facilities is required. Children are not parties to the criminal proceedings against their mothers and should not be subjected to custodial environments, which seriously violate their dignity, development, and the principle of best interests of the child, as guaranteed under Cameroon's international obligations.

It is recommended to:

- Order their immediate release from detention;
- Prioritize alternatives to detention for their mothers where possible;
- Provide urgent medical, nutritional, and psychosocial support;
- Publish a comprehensive assessment of the affected children's situation.

#### 2. Priority Review of Cases Involving Pregnant Women in Pre-Trial Detention

Judicial authorities are urged to conduct, without delay, an individualized review of cases involving pregnant women currently deprived of liberty.

The detention of a pregnant woman must remain strictly exceptional and justified by rigorous criteria of necessity and proportionality. Procedural alternatives must be systematically considered where public safety can be adequately ensured.

### II. Priority Structural Reforms

#### 1. Reform of the Criminal Procedure Code

It is recommended to introduce into the Criminal Procedure Code:

- a specific legal framework governing the situation of pregnant women and mothers of young children, particularly single mothers responsible for minor children, applicable from the police custody stage and during investigation;
- the explicit incorporation of the principle of the best interests of the child as a mandatory criterion in any decision concerning placement or continuation of detention;
- appropriate alternatives to pre-trial detention;
- strict regulation of the presence of infants in custodial environments.

Such reform would align domestic legislation with applicable international standards and prevent the recurrence of situations contrary to children's fundamental rights.

#### 2. Strengthening Safeguards Against Arbitrary Detention

It is recommended to:

- restrict the use of pre-trial detention to strictly necessary cases;

- ensure compliance with statutory limits on police custody;
- guarantee prompt and effective access to a lawyer or any legally authorized representative;
- strengthen judicial oversight of deprivation-of-liberty decisions.

### III. Inclusive Political Dialogue

It is recommended to initiate a structured, credible, and inclusive dialogue involving the State, representatives of affected communities, and armed movements, with a view to achieving a sustainable political solution.

A purely security-based response cannot, on its own, address the root causes of the crisis.

### IV. Combating Impunity and Transitional Justice

It is recommended to open independent, impartial, and transparent investigations into the serious violations documented, to ensure protection of victims and witnesses, and to initiate a national reflection process on the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, including truth, accountability, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition.

Sustainable stabilization requires acknowledgment of the suffering endured, restoration of institutional trust, and reform of practices.

### V. Specific Rights Concerns

#### 1. Protection of the Right to Life

- Open without delay independent, impartial, and transparent investigations into the killings documented in 2025.
- Make investigation findings public and, where appropriate, initiate judicial proceedings in accordance with international standards.
- Strengthen operational rules of engagement to ensure strict compliance with the principles of distinction and proportionality.
- Ensure the immediate release of detained infants and other children.

#### 2. Prevention of Torture and Ill-Treatment

- Guarantee immediate access to a lawyer and a medical professional upon arrest.
- Ensure systematic recording of police custody.
- Allow regular access by human rights organizations and other independent monitoring mechanisms to places of detention.
- Promptly investigate all allegations of torture and sanction those responsible.
- Establish a national preventive mechanism against torture fully compliant

with international standards, complementing existing institutional frameworks.

### **3. Detention of Civilians and Protection of Children**

- Review the practice of trying civilians before military courts.
- Strictly apply the principle of the best interests of the child in any decision affecting minors.
- Develop alternatives to detention for mothers accompanied by young children.
- Expedite review of bail applications in cases of prolonged detention.

### **4. Strengthening Accountability**

- Publish annual statistical data on investigations opened and prosecutions initiated concerning human rights violations.
- Strengthen the functional independence of internal investigative bodies.
- Fully cooperate with regional and international human rights protection mechanisms.

### **5. Effective Protection of Freedom of Movement**

- Strengthen security along major roadways;
- Prevent and sanction violations of freedom of movement;
- Protect civilian populations against violence linked to the coercive enforcement of “ghost town” orders.

Freedom of movement is an essential condition for access to healthcare, education, and economic activity.

## **B. TO NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS**

Although not state entities, organized armed groups party to a non-international armed conflict are bound by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and customary international humanitarian law.

They are urged to:

- Immediately cease targeted killings of civilians;
- End kidnappings and the practice of ransom-taking;
- Respect the prohibition of hostage-taking;
- Cease attacks against places of worship, schools, and civilian infrastructure;
- Guarantee civilians' freedom of movement and access to essential services.

## **C. TO INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

It is recommended to:

- Support credible dialogue initiatives;
- Strengthen independent documentation and civilian protection mechanisms;
- Encourage necessary institutional reforms;
- Reinforce humanitarian and psychosocial assistance to victims;
- Provide substantial support to non-governmental organizations working alongside victims of human rights violations;
- Integrate the situation of the affected regions into diplomatic dialogue with Cameroonian authorities;
- Provide financial support to local human rights protection initiatives.

## **D. TO THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

- Maintain active monitoring of the situation in the North-West and South-West Regions;
- Encourage the State to submit updated periodic reports;
- Consider fact-finding missions;
- Support mediation initiatives aimed at de-escalation.

## **E. TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

- Encourage relevant Special Procedures (extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary detention, sexual violence) to request official information;
- Strengthen civilian protection and humanitarian assistance programs;
- Support independent documentation mechanisms.

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION RELATING TO PREGNANT WOMEN AND MOTHERS ACCOMPANIED BY YOUNG CHILDREN

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

As the law currently stands, the Criminal Procedure Code does not provide for a specific regime guaranteeing:

- systematic assessment of the family situation before placement in detention;
- priority consideration given to the best interests of the child;
- alternative measures adapted for pregnant women or mothers of young children at the pre-sentence stage (police custody or investigation).

However, existing alternative sentencing mechanisms only apply to people already convicted, leaving a significant legal gap for people in pre-trial detention. This situation exposes infants and young children to unsuitable detention conditions, even though they are in no way parties to the criminal proceedings.

It is recommended:

- To introduce a reform of the Criminal Procedure Code providing a specific regime for pregnant women and mothers of young children, applicable from the police custody phase and during the investigation.
- To explicitly include the best interests of the child as a mandatory criterion in any decision to place or maintain detention concerning the mother of a minor child.
- To provide alternative measures to pre-trial detention, in particular:
  - reinforced judicial control,
  - house arrest,
  - placement- under appropriate administrative supervision,
  - supervised social support.
- To prohibit in principle the detention of infants in prison, except in duly justified exceptional circumstances and under strict judicial control.
- To ensure specific health and social guarantees for pregnant women deprived of their liberty, in accordance with applicable international standards.

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# GENERAL CONCLUSION

The year 2025 confirms that the crisis in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon is neither a residual phenomenon nor a dynamic on the verge of extinction. The 136 documented incidents, as well as the hundreds of direct victims they represent, reflect the persistence of a rooted, structured and territorially concentrated conflict.

Analysis of trends reveals a trivialization of lethal violence, the consolidation of a coercive economy based on ransom, the structural restriction of freedom of movement and a progressive weakening of fundamental mechanisms for the protection of civilians.

Beyond the figures, this report highlights a profound human reality: bereaved families, weakened communities, women exposed to differentiated violence, children affected in their development, workers deprived of their means of subsistence.

The emblematic case of the prolonged detention of infants in an adult penitentiary establishment illustrates, in a particularly worrying manner, the persistent tensions between security imperatives and respect for fundamental guarantees. The protection of children is a central indicator of the strength of a human rights protection system. When the most vulnerable are affected, the overall balance of the rule of law is called into question.

Considering internationally recognized legal criteria, the factual elements observed appear to correspond to the thresholds of a non-international armed conflict. This qualification is not intended to produce a political reading of the conflict, but to clarify the normative obligations applicable to all parties and to strengthen the protection of civilians.

The persistence of violence in 2025 confirms that a strictly security response cannot constitute a lasting solution. The apparent absence of public accountability mechanisms fuels the cycle of violence and weakens institutional trust.

Conscience Africaine reaffirms that only the opening of a direct, inclusive and structured dialogue between the central State and separatist movements, with the participation of victims and civil society and international African mediators, can create the conditions for lasting de-escalation.

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The stabilization of the North-West and South-West requires the immediate and effective protection of civilians, the restoration of freedom to come and go, an end to coercive practices targeting populations, strict compliance with applicable international standards and the progressive establishment of a credible process of transitional justice based on truth, responsibility, reparation and guarantees of non-repetition.

Without recognition of the suffering suffered, without accountability mechanisms and without courageous political commitment, the crisis risks transforming into chronic instability in the long term.

The year 2025 should not be seen as another year of normalized violence, but as a wake-up call calling for a strategic, legal and political reorientation in favor of a just, inclusive and sustainable peace.

*The content of this report is the sole responsibility of Conscience Africaine. The views, analyses, and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official policies, positions, or views of the Government of Canada or of any other institution that has provided support for its preparation.*



## CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE C.A

In 2025, the crisis in Cameroon's North-West and South-West Regions remains deeply persistent. Through rigorous documentation grounded in international standards, this report sheds light on the structural dynamics of human rights violations, the persistent challenges related to civilian protection, and the urgent need for a response that integrates

accountability, justice, and dialogue.

This report is not merely an exercise in counting incidents. It seeks to understand a pattern of violence that has become entrenched, continues to affect communities profoundly, and calls for decisive action grounded in law and human dignity.

*With the support of the Government of Canada*

**Canada**

*And the technical support of ARTDP*



## **ABOUT CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE**

Conscience Africaine is a Pan-African civil society organization founded in August 1994 in New York by young leaders from 21 African countries, driven by the conviction that Africa's future depends on citizen participation, democratic governance, and respect for human dignity. The organization has been officially recognized in Cameroon since September 11, 1996.

For more than two decades, Conscience Africaine has worked to promote democracy, the rule of law, credible elections, and the protection of human rights across Africa. It contributed to the creation of the first African Elections Observatory (1996), trained hundreds of election observers, and participated in election observation missions in more than fifteen African countries.

Faithful to its mandate to defend fundamental rights, the organization regularly produces documented reports on human rights violations, supports victims, strengthens civil society organizations, and carries out actions in favor of refugees, internally displaced persons, and vulnerable communities.

Since 2018, Conscience Africaine has established an annual tradition of documenting human rights violations in Cameroon's North-West and South-West Regions, thereby contributing to preserving factual memory, informing public debate, and promoting an approach grounded in accountability, justice, and dialogue.

Acting at grassroots level to transform Africa.