

**SUBJECT MATTER: CRIES FOR JUSTICE IN MUYUKA, CAMEROON: THREE (03)
UNARMED CIVILIANS ALLEGEDLY TORTURED AND LATER SUMMARILY EXECUTED BY
DEFENCE FORCES**

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

- 1. That according to reliable sources, three unarmed civilians were summarily executed by members of the Cameroon Defence Forces on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in Muyuka, South West Region.**
- 2. That our sources state that the three unarmed civilians were initially arrested by members of the Defence Forces in Ikata Village, Muyuka Subdivision, South West region allegedly on May 11, 2026. Following their arrest, their mobile phones were seized, and some old photographs reportedly showed them, while they were still very young, in the company of certain individuals who are now armed separatists.**
- 3. That the three unarmed civilians, whose names were identified only as Melvin, Mugel, and Perise, were allegedly accused by members of the Cameroon Defence Forces of being separatists. According to our sources, they were detained in deplorable conditions where they were subjected to severe acts of torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, before reportedly transferred to Muyuka town, where they were summarily executed.**
- 4. That our sources further indicated that immediately after the executions, the local population identified the victims as unarmed civilians. Some inhabitants of Muyuka allegedly contacted the Mayor of the Municipality and informed him of the gruesome incident allegedly perpetrated by members of the Defence Forces. The Mayor reportedly later arrived at the scene accompanied by members of the Defence and Security Forces and ordered that the corpses be taken to the mortuary pending further investigations.**
- 5. That such acts of torture, ill-treatment, and extrajudicial executions by Defence Forces have been systematic in the conflict-affected North-West and South-West Regions since the beginning of the ongoing armed conflict.**
- 6. That even fighters or members of belligerent forces who have surrendered or are captured should be detained, treated humanely, and prosecuted in strict compliance with national laws and international treaties ratified by Cameroon. Torture, ill-treatment, and extrajudicial executions of belligerents who have either surrendered or been captured are prohibited under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions.**



7. That at the time of drafting this report, no official statement or reaction had been issued by the competent authorities regarding the alleged barbaric acts committed by members of the Defence Forces.

8. That Torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, as well as summary or extrajudicial executions, are strictly prohibited under several international and regional human rights instruments duly ratified by the Republic of Camroon and these include:

- The United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT), under Article 2, which obliges State Parties to take effective measures to prevent torture in all circumstances, while Article 4 requires that all acts of torture be criminalized and punished under national law.

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), under Article 7, provides that:

“No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Furthermore, Article 6(1) of the ICCPR guarantees the right to life and states that:“Every human being has the inherent right to life, No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.This provision prohibits arbitrary killings and extrajudicial executions.

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), under Article 5, equally states that:“No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.In addition, Article 3 of the UDHR guarantees the right to life, liberty, and security of person, thereby prohibiting arbitrary deprivation of life and extrajudicial killings.

- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, under Article 5, prohibits torture and all forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment and treatment.Furthermore, Article 4 of the African Charter provides that:“Human beings are inviolable. Every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life and the integrity of his person. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right. This provision expressly prohibits arbitrary killings and summary executions.

- These international and regional human rights instruments are applicable in Cameroon by virtue of the Preamble and Section 45 of the 1996 Constitution of Cameroon, as amended, which provides that duly ratified treaties and international agreements shall override national laws.

- Meanwhile, Section 277-3 of the Cameroon Penal Code criminalizes torture and provides sanctions against persons responsible for acts of torture and related ill-treatment. Extrajudicial killings equally constitute serious criminal offences under Cameroonian law and international human rights obligations binding on the State of Cameroon.

That Conscience Africaine condemns in the strongest possible terms these gruesome, barbaric, and inhuman acts allegedly committed against unarmed civilians and recommends as follows:



1. To the Government of Cameroon

- **Conduct an immediate, independent, impartial, and transparent investigation into the alleged arrest, torture, and summary execution of the three civilians in Muyuka, South West of Cameroon.**
- **Ensure that all members of the Defence and Security Forces allegedly involved in these acts are suspended with immediate effect from active duty pending investigations and prosecuted before competent court and end impunity.**
- **Guarantee full respect for the rights to life, dignity, liberty, and physical integrity as protected under the Constitution of Cameroon and international human rights treaties ratified by Cameroon.**
- **Put an immediate end to acts of torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in all detention facilities, whether official or unofficial which have been recurrent in the conflict North West and South West regions.**
- **Ensure that all detainees are promptly informed of the reasons for their arrest, granted access to lawyers, medical care, and family members, and brought before competent judicial authorities within the time prescribed by law.**
- **Strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms within the Defence and Security Forces to prevent future cases of torture, arbitrary detention, and extrajudicial executions.**
- **Ensure that all allegations of human rights violations committed by State agents are investigated promptly and transparently, and that victims and their families obtain justice and reparations.**
- **Open an inclusive and sincere dialogue with all stakeholders, while addressing the root causes of the conflict in order to achieve durable solutions to the nearly 10 year old conflict.**

2. To the Cameroon Human Rights Commission

- **Open an independent fact finding investigation into the alleged incident in Muyuka and publicly release its findings and recommendations.**
- **Visit detention facilities in the North West and South West Regions to assess detention conditions and investigate allegations of torture and ill-treatment reported regularly in these regions.**
- **Monitor and document cases of arbitrary arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings in conflict-affected areas and advocate for accountability.**

3. To the International Community and Human Rights Organizations



- Closely monitor the human rights situation in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon and call on the Government of Cameroon to comply with its international human rights obligations.
- Encourage accountability, justice, and reparations for victims of serious human rights violations.
- The international community and Cameroon's diplomatic partners should assist, facilitate, and support all initiatives aimed at seeking solutions to end the armed conflict.

4. To Defence and Security Forces

- Respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law in all operations and refrain from arbitrary arrests, torture, cruel treatment, and summary executions under any circumstances
- Ensure all suspects are treated humanely and presumed innocent until proven guilty by a competent court of law.

Done in Douala, this May 20, 2026

Signed



Amadu TARNTEH
Executive Secretary