



SUBJECT MATTER: TRADITIONAL CONFLICT TURNS DEADLY: NDZEREM-NYAM CIVILIANS CAUGHT BETWEEN PALACE DISPUTE AND MILITARY CRACKDOWN

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

1. That according to local sources, an incident occurred on April 24, 2026, during a cultural ceremony in Ndzerem-Nyam leading to the brutal killings of atleast 14 persons mostly unarmed civilians, setting about 5 houses and Motorbikes ablaze. The military interrupted the ceremony and began shooting randomly, causing civilian casualties. Our sources have confirmed that majority of the victims were unarmed civilians and few of them were separatists. Though the exact number of civilian casualties remains unknown yet, but another local source confirmed to us that only 1 member of armed Separatist was among those killed.
2. That some of the unarmed civilians, including Aoudou Carimou, were forcefully taken away by the military and their whereabouts remain unknown to this day. Furthermore, it is alleged that five houses were also set ablaze by the Defense forces. It should be noted that this is not the first time defense and Security forces have interrupted public ceremonies and recreational centers shooting randomly, resulting in severe civilian casualties.
3. That in a report signed by the President of NYAMCUDA, Ms. Lukong Cilian Arimoa, dated April 26, 2026, she said the deadly military raid was triggered by a disputed traditional invasion. The report states that the Nwerong secret society from Gwan Palace attempted to forcefully enter Ndzerem-Nyam Palace to merge traditional institutions without consent, despite the Fon of Ndzerem-Nyam and community elites rejecting the move and calling for outstanding issues to be resolved first.
4. That although the Nwerong of Ndzerem-Nyam ordered Cultural Week events closed to prevent unrest, the Gwan group forcefully entered the palace with displays described by locals as "warlike," causing fear and displacement among villagers. NYAMCUDA reports that gunshots heard later that night allegedly resulted in the deaths of approximately 14 individuals, alongside injuries, kidnappings, and the burning of homes and motorbikes by the Defense forces.
5. That NYAMCUDA distanced the community from the events, stating that neither the village, its Fon, nor its elites invited the Gwan group, and warned that those responsible should face "legal, moral, and traditional consequences." While rejecting claims that its cultural events support armed activity, the association expressed condolences, called for calm, and announced an independent investigation into the incident.
6. That Facebook posts from some pro-government activists, including "Dr KontriMan Junior," published military reports claiming that 14 members of an armed separatist group were killed by defense forces in Ndzerem-Nyam village. In his words, he wrote: "Full report from #Ndzerem_Nyam. The mission routed amba terrorists in both #Bui and #Ngoketunjia divisions. At least 14 amba terrorists CONFIRMED Kumkumised without soup, and 7 on the run with #KUMKUM inside them. Pictures of bodies shared in WhatsApp Groups only. #MKPD 26 April 2026." This was accompanied by images of numerous pieces of military equipment.
7. That it should also be noted that most of the Facebook pages of these pro-government activists are notorious for publishing images of unarmed civilians killed by the military and alleging that they were armed separatists since the ongoing armed conflict started.
8. That this attack occurred just less than 10 days after His Holiness Pope Leo XIV left Cameroon, where he had insisted on the necessity of peace and justice through inclusive and sincere dialogue in the Anglophone regions to end systematic human rights violations and abuses. It's timing underscores the urgency of breaking the cycle of violence in the Anglophone regions.
9. That at the time of publishing this report, no local authorities had reacted to the gruesome attack which caused about 14 deaths, left 5 houses and more than 20 motorcycles set ablaze, among other effects.





Réseau Africain

African Network

Pour la Démocratie à la Base Fondée à New-York en 1994 *violations of Of Grassroots Democracy and international human rights law, particularly in disregard of the principles of distinction, proportionality and military necessity during attacks in other to limit civilian casualties.*

11. That in view of the above, CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE condemns in STRONGEST TERMS, the brutal attack that led to atleast 14 deaths, properties destroyed and incommunicado detention of some unarmed civilians, while recommending as follows:

To the Government of Cameroon:

1. Launch an immediate, independent, and impartial investigation into the raid. The probe must cover random shootings at civilians, the deaths of 14 persons, the enforced disappearance of Aoudou Carimou and others, and the burning of homes and motorbikes. Findings must be public and transparent.
2. Ensure accountability by suspending and prosecuting any defense/security personnel found responsible for such extrajudicial killings or destruction of civilian property, per domestic law and Cameroon’s obligations under Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions and the ICCPR.
3. Disclose the fate and whereabouts of all persons detained by the military. Guarantee their physical safety, access to lawyers, family, and medical care. Release them immediately if not lawfully charged before a competent court.
4. Provide urgent reparations to victims and families: compensation for deaths, medical care for the injured, psychosocial support, and reconstruction of destroyed homes. Facilitate safe return of displaced persons.
5. Reinforce rules of engagement for security forces operating in the Anglophone regions. Strictly enforce the principles of distinction, proportionality, and precaution. Prohibit attacks on cultural ceremonies and civilian gatherings.

To Local and Traditional Authorities:

6. De-escalate the Ndzerem-Nyam–Gwan conflict through neutral mediation by the local Administration, and respected traditional rulers. Disputes over palace authority must be resolved through legal and customary processes, not force.
7. Protect cultural practices by ensuring Nwerong societies operate with community consent. Forceful Palace entries described as “warlike” increase risks to civilians and must cease.

To the International Community & UN Mechanisms:

8. Deploy a fact-finding mission through the UN Human Rights Office, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and AU to the North-West and South-West regions to verify casualties, document violations, and assess humanitarian needs.
9. Urge humanitarian access for independent observers, journalists, and aid agencies. The silence of local authorities 3 days after the incident is concerning and requires international scrutiny.
10. Support imminent inclusive dialogue in the Anglophone regions, as emphasized by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV during his April 2026 visit to Cameroon. Peace cannot be achieved without justice and accountability for past and ongoing abuses.

Done in Douala, this April 27,2026

Signed

Amadu TARNTEH

Executive Secretary

