

REF N°137-CA/SG/26

**SUBJECT MATTER: THREE LIVES, ONE TRAGEDY: CALL FOR JUSTICE,
ACCOUNTABILITY AND AN END TO IMPUNITY IN CAMEROON'S NORTH-WEST AND
SOUTH-WEST REGIONS.**

That according to reliable sources and information documented by Conscience Africaine, three unarmed civilians Alhadji Tanko, a popular butcher in Babessi and Jakiri in Ngoketunjia and Bui Divisions respectively, Abdul Karimou, and Hassan alias "Faro Faro" were allegedly brutally killed by members of the Cameroon Defense Forces on Saturday, August 8, 2026, in Bamessing Village, Ndop Central Subdivision, Ngoketunjia Division, North-West Region.

That the three victims were reportedly among persons arrested in Ndzerem-Nyam Village, Jakiri Subdivision, Bui Division, during a military operation that took place on April 24, 2026, amid a traditional festival.

That, according to Conscience Africaine's initial press release No. 129-CA/SG/26, published on April 27, 2026, at least 14 persons were killed, five houses and motorcycles were set ablaze, and several unarmed civilians were forcibly taken away and detained incommunicado by Defense Forces in Ndzerem-Nyam Village. These three unarmed civilians, who were summarily executed in Bamessing Village on August 8, 2026, were among those we earlier announced in our release as having been arrested and taken away by the Defense Forces, who perpetrated the gruesome act in Ndzerem-Nyam Village on April 24, 2026.

That a separate press release dated April 26, 2026, by the President of the Ndzerem-Nyam Development and Cultural Organization (NYAMCUDA), Ms. Lukong Cilian Arimoa, acknowledged the military attack that led to the killing of 14 people, the burning of houses and motorcycles, and the displacement of villagers. She further stated on the release that the attack was immediately triggered by a disputed traditional invasion.

That an amateur video circulating online on August 10, 2026 also shows a woman who identifies herself as the wife of Alhadji Tanko one of the victims alleging that about Five hundred and Eighty thousand (580,000) CFA francs were extorted from her by alleged members of the Defense Forces during her husband's incommunicado detention. She further alleges that neither she nor any other family member was allowed to know the whereabouts of her husband and others arrested.

That in a facebook publication of a pro Cameroon government Activist "Dr. KontriMan Jr, dated August 8, 2026 in French language as roughly translated, he wrote "As part of the pacification operations in the Ngoketunjia Division in preparation for the upcoming school reopening, and based on intelligence provided by CIMIC, the 3rd BIR carried out an ambush along the designated route of an OPFOR group on 8 August 2026. The reported outcome was three terrorists neutralized, whose identities were still being established, with no casualties reported among the government forces. The operation also reportedly recovered two weapons—a Kalashnikov AK-47 and an automatic pistol—one AK-



47 magazine, and ten rounds of 7.62×39 mm ammunition.”This publication was accompanied with pictures of victims with guns placed on their bodies and portrayed as armed separatists. Conscience Africaine considers this practice concerning, particularly given previous cases it has documented in which unarmed civilians were presented after death with weapons and ammunition and publicly portrayed as armed separatists.

That in continuation of the same incident, the Fon of Ndzerem-Nyam was reportedly arrested or summoned to Bamenda for questioning by security forces. He was subsequently detained for several days before being released on May 30, 2026. This information was initially made public by the Facebook page “Ndzeremyamworldwide” on May 29, 2026.

That the spokesperson of the Ministry of Defense, Cyrille Atonfack Nguemo, in a communiqué dated April 30, 2026, acknowledged the military operation in Ndzerem-Nyam Village on April 24-25, 2026 that led to the killing of 14 persons. He stated that the victims were armed separatists and that motorcycles and houses belonging to separatists had equally been burned by Defense forces. However, the communiqué did not address the allegations concerning the arrest and incommunicado detention of several unarmed civilians during the same operation which Conscience Africaine initially denounced.

That Conscience Africaine notes that, since the beginning of the armed conflict in Cameroon’s North-West and South-West Regions, it has documented and denounced several cases in which civilians were allegedly arrested, detained and tortured for weeks or months by members of the Defense Forces, subsequently transferred to other sub divisions, divisions or regions, and allegedly executed. In several of these cases, pro-government activists online reportedly published photographs of the deceased, accusing them of being armed separatists and displaying weapons or ammunition beside their bodies.

That these concerns are also reflected in Conscience Africaine’s 2025 Human Rights Report on the conflict in Cameroon’s North-West and South-West Regions, titled “Between Persistent Violence and the Imperative of Protection,” as well as in other incident reports.

That such acts of arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention and the alleged summary execution of unarmed civilians by members of the Defense Forces constitute serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Under Common Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, persons taking no active part in hostilities, including persons placed hors de combat by detention, must be treated humanely, and violence to life and person, murder, cruel treatment, torture and the carrying out of executions without a prior judgment by a regularly constituted court are prohibited.

That the responsibility to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of such violations rests primarily with the State. Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 158, provides that States must investigate such

serious crimes allegedly committed by their nationals or armed forces, or on their territory, and, where appropriate, prosecute the suspects. The International Committee of the Red Cross equally affirms that States have the primary responsibility to prevent and punish violations of international humanitarian law and to investigate serious violations and prosecute suspects where appropriate.

That where credible allegations of serious violations arise, the State must promptly, independently and effectively investigate, prosecute those responsible and impose appropriate punishment where guilt is established. Failure to do so perpetuates impunity and may breach its international obligations. Suspected separatist status cannot justify extrajudicial execution; persons detained or hors de combat must be treated humanely and afforded due process.

That in view of the above, Conscience Africaine condemn in strongest terms, the summary executions of 03 unarmed civilians by Defense forces in Bamessing Village, Ngoketunjia Division, While recommending as follows:

1. Renews its call for an independent, impartial and credible investigation into the deaths of Alhadji Tanko, Abdul Karimou and Hassan, alias Faro Faro, as well as the events surrounding their arrest, detention and alleged execution, in order to establish what actually happened.
2. Calls for all perpetrators, regardless of their position or affiliation, to be identified and brought to justice where evidence establishes individual responsibility.
3. Calls for an end to impunity and greater accountability for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by all parties to the conflict.
4. Renews its call for an inclusive, sincere and meaningful dialogue involving relevant stakeholders and addressing the root causes of the armed conflict in the North-West and South-West Regions, as the sustainable solution to the continuing cycle of violence and suffering.

Done at Douala, this August 12, 2026

Signed

Amadu TARNTEH

Executive Secretary