REF N'144-CA/SG/26

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY SITUATION IN THE NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS OF CAMEROON: OCTOBER – MID-NOVEMBER 2026 INCIDENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Conscience Africaine continues to monitor and document human rights violations and security-related incidents in Cameroon's North-West and South-West Regions, which remain affected by the ongoing armed conflict.

Between 1st October and 15th November 2026, the organisation received reports of several incidents involving alleged unlawful killings, abductions, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, attacks against civilians, destruction of property and threats against traditional authorities.

The incidents reportedly involved suspected armed separatist fighters, members of the Defence and Security Forces, and unidentified armed individuals.

Civilians, including teachers, journalists, traditional authorities, traders, students, women, children and other community members, continued to face serious security threats.

The incidents documented below raise concerns regarding the protection of the right to life, personal liberty, human dignity, physical integrity, education, security and other fundamental human rights.

This report is based on information received from local sources, victims, eyewitnesses, families of victims, media sources and other contacts within affected communities.

2. DOCUMENTED HUMAN RIGHTS INCIDENTS

INCIDENT 1: ABDUCTION OF THE FON OF NYOS AND HIS SUBJECT

Date: 2 October 2026

Location: Nyos, Menchum Division, North-West Region.

HRM Fon Kimbi Richard Chuh, the traditional ruler of Nyos, was reportedly abducted alongside one of his subjects by unidentified armed men at his residence.

According to information received from sources closer to the Palace, the incident occurred on 2nd October 2026. The abductors reportedly demanded FCFA 10 million as ransom our sources added.

The traditional ruler and his subject were subsequently released on 12 October 2026. Reports allege that ransom was paid to secure their freedom, although this information has not been independently verified.

The incident raises serious concerns about the security of traditional authorities and the increasing use of kidnapping for ransom in conflict-affected communities.

INCIDENT 2: KILLING OF A TEACHER FOLLOWING AN ARMED CONFRONTATION

Date: 3rd October 2026

Location: Mile 6, Bamenda, North-West Region.

Tubuo Julius Nyakeh, a woodwork teacher at Government Technical College Bafukum, Bamenda, was reportedly killed during a military operation following his abduction by armed separatist fighters.

According to information received from local sources, Julius was abducted by armed separatists around Mile 6, Bamenda. Shortly afterwards, Defence Forces reportedly engaged the armed group, resulting in his death.

A colleague described him as a civilian whose primary occupation was teaching and carpentry, stating:"Julius never carried a gun or involved in hostilities, but his only weapon was the chalk, and what he fought for was education."

The circumstances surrounding his death require independent investigation, particularly to establish the truth about the incident surrounding his killing.



INCIDENT 3: DISCOVERY OF THREE CIVILIAN BODIES IN MUEA

Date of discovery: 6 October 2026

Location: Muea, Buea Subdivision, South-West Region.

Three young men were reportedly found dead near the Catholic School football field in Muea.

According to local sources, some youths who had gone to play football discovered the bodies.

One of the victims was identified as Tem Elvis, who was allegedly arrested by Defence Forces before his body was discovered.

Another victim was identified by his family as Agbor Bisong Akunachare, who had reportedly been arrested in Mamfe before his body was found in Muea.

Some credible sources who saw the copses, alleged that the victims showed visible signs of torture and that their hands bore marks suggesting they had been restrained before being killed.The alleged arrests, possible torture and subsequent deaths raise serious concerns about possible extrajudicial executions and violations of the right to life and prohibition of torture.An independent investigation is necessary to establish the circumstances of their deaths and identify those responsible. One of the Muea victims.



INCIDENT 4: ATTACK ON THE FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR OF BAMENDA CITY COUNCIL

Date: 9 October 2026

Location: Mulang, Bamenda, North-West Region.

The service vehicle assigned to Mr. Chi David, First Deputy City Mayor of Bamenda, was reportedly attacked by gunmen while he was moving along the road leading to the City Council offices.The vehicle, a black Toyota Land Cruiser Prado, reportedly sustained at least four bullet impacts affecting the bonnet, side mirror and rear passenger windows.Mr. Chi David was reportedly seriously injured and rushed to hospital in critical condition, according to TEBECK TV BAMENDA a local online platform on it Facebook page.

The circumstances surrounding the attack and the identity of the perpetrators remain unclear.Vehicle of Deputy City Mayor attached.



INCIDENT 5: JOURNALIST SHOT AND WOMAN KILLED DURING ATTACK ON A WAKE KEEPING CEREMONY

Date: 14 October 2026

Location: Nkwen, Bamenda, North-West Region.

Armed men reportedly stormed a wake keeping ceremony in Nkwen, opened fire and caused civilian casualties.A woman was reportedly shot dead at the scene, while journalist Ambe McMillian Awa sustained gunshot wounds to his legs.Awa was subsequently taken to a health facility in Bamenda for medical treatment.

He previously served as President of the Cameroon Association of English-Speaking Journalists (CAMASEJ), Bamenda Chapter, from 2018 to 2020 and currently serves as the association's National Auditor.

The attack raises concerns about the protection of civilians and the safety of journalists in conflict-affected communities.

INCIDENT 6: KILLING OF A WOMAN IN NTABESSI, BAMENDA

Date: 16 October 2026

Location: Ntabessi, Bamenda III Subdivision, North-West Region.

A woman identified as Mami Ngwe Margaret was reportedly shot dead by unidentified armed men at her business premises near the Ntabessi Gendarmerie Brigade.According to TEBECK TV BAMENDA on it Facebook page and other local sources, the attackers arrived on a motorcycle at approximately 8 p.m. and opened fire on her at a drinking establishment where she operated her business.The gunmen reportedly fled immediately after the shooting.Attempts to transport the victim to hospital were unsuccessful, as she succumbed to her injuries.The killing occurred shortly after the Prime Minister's visit to Bamenda, during which a community dialogue initiative was launched.



INCIDENT 7: ABDUCTION AND KILLING OF A YOUNG ENGINEER AND TEACHER IN BAMBUI

Date: 15 October 2026

Location: Bambui, Tubah Subdivision, North-West Region.

A young man identified as Cletus, a native of Big Babanki, was reportedly abducted and subsequently killed by unidentified armed men in Bambui.According to information received, Cletus was abducted on his first day of teaching in Bambui. He was an engineer, a part-time teacher and the operator of a provision store in Big Babanki.His abductors reportedly demanded FCFA 1 million from his family. The family allegedly managed to raise and pay FCFA 750,000 in an attempt to secure his release sources say.Despite the payment, Cletus was reportedly killed, and his body was later discovered around Mile 11.The attackers allegedly took his motorcycle, telephone and identification card. His business premises in Big Babanki had also reportedly been raided and emptied.The incident illustrates the continued vulnerability of civilians to kidnapping, extortion and unlawful killings.



INCIDENT 8: ABDUCTION OF TWO TEENAGERS IN BAMUNKA, NDOP

Date: 18 October 2026

Location: Bamunka, Ndop, Ngoketunjia Division.

Two teenagers, a 14-year-old secondary schoolgirl and a 19-year-old boy, were reportedly abducted by armed separatist fighters.According to local sources, the armed men arrived from Bamessing searching for the teenagers mother, who was reportedly away from town.Unable to find her, the fighters allegedly abducted the two young people instead.They were reportedly taken to Bamessing, where their captors demanded FCFA 3 million for their release.The incident raises serious concerns about the protection of children and young people against abduction, intimidation and exploitation.

INCIDENT 9: ABDUCTION OF A CAMEROONIAN RESIDENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Date: 16 October 2026

Location: Bamenda, North-West Region.

Rachel Ngum Fru, a Cameroonian resident in the United Kingdom, was reportedly abducted in Bamenda two days after arriving in Cameroon.

According to information received from a family source, she travelled to Cameroon on 13 October 2026 and was abducted on 16 October.The perpetrators were reportedly suspected armed separatists or criminal groups exploiting the prevailing insecurity.Her whereabouts and the circumstances surrounding her abduction require further clarification.

INCIDENT 10: DEATHS FOLLOWING ARRESTS BY DEFENCE FORCES IN KUMBO

Dates: 21–22 October 2026

Location: Kumbo, Bui Division, North-West Region.

Conscience Africaine received reports of two separate incidents involving unarmed individuals allegedly arrested by Defence Forces and subsequently found dead.

a. Death of a young man identified as Pecu.A young man known as Pecu was reportedly arrested by military personnel around SQARES Roundabout in Kumbo.According to information received, he remained in detention for several days before his family recovered his body on 21 October 2026. He was subsequently buried in Kitiwum.The circumstances surrounding his death remain unclear. These informations were later confirmed by Cameroon News Agency (CNA) a local online platform through it Facebook page and "Nzui Manto" via Facebook.



b. Discovery of a motorbike rider's body

On 22 October 2026, the body of a motorbike rider was reportedly discovered along New Deal Street in Kumbo, bearing apparent gunshot wounds.Sources indicated that the victim had been arrested alongside five other individuals in Squares, Kumbo, during the preceding week.His family reportedly made repeated efforts to secure his release without success.Residents stated that gunshots were heard at approximately 3 a.m., before the body was discovered later that morning.These incidents raise concerns about arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention, the right to life and the obligation of state authorities to protect individuals in custody.

INCIDENT 11: ABDUCTION, TORTURE AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH OF AN ELDERLY HERDER

Date of abduction: 19 October 2026

Location: Sabga, Tubah Subdivision, North-West Region.

According to reports from "Jawleru Mbororo-En-Cameroon" an online media platfond and other local media publications, an elderly Fulani herder identified as Pa Hassan Adamu was reportedly abducted from his residence in Sabga by suspected armed separatist fighters.According to family sources, his abductors initially demanded FCFA 5 million for his release. Subsequent reports indicated that the ransom demand changed, with amounts of FCFA 3 million and FCFA 7 million also being mentioned.His family reportedly managed to raise approximately FCFA 1 million.Hassan was eventually released but was reportedly in critical condition following severe physical abuse and torture during captivity.He was admitted to Bamenda Regional Hospital for medical treatment but died on 31 October 2026.His death raises grave concerns about torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, unlawful deprivation of liberty and the right to life.



INCIDENTS 12: KILLING OF FOUR CIVILIANS IN KOSHIN VILLAGE

Date: 27 October 2026

Location: Koshin, Menchum Division, North-West Region.

Four unarmed civilians were reportedly killed when armed men stormed Koshin village at approximately 2 a.m.The victims were identified as: Diang An Mbuang;Yoah Felix Diang;Doh An Liang; and Ju David Tah.

According to "Menchum Spotlight" an online media platform via it Facebook page, the attackers opened fire indiscriminately, killing the four individuals.

The identity of the perpetrators and the circumstances surrounding the attack remain unclear.However, it's alleged atleast four of the perpetrators were killed when Defence Forces were alerted and they intervened immediately.

The incident constitutes a serious concern regarding the protection of civilian lives and the obligation of parties to the conflict to distinguish civilians from persons directly participating in hostilities. At the time of publication of this report, they have not been any official reaction from local authorities.



INCIDENT 13: DESTRUCTION OF A COMMERCIAL VEHICLE IN BAMENDA

Date: 27 October 2026

Location: New Road, Nkwen, Bamenda, North-West Region.

A commercial bus was reportedly set ablaze by unidentified armed men at New Road, opposite Camion Garage, Bamenda.

According to local sources and TEBECK TV BAMENDA, the attackers allegedly went searching for the driver but could not find him. They subsequently set the vehicle on fire.No casualties were reported.The circumstances surrounding the incident and the identity of the perpetrators remain unclear.The destruction of civilian property raises concerns about the protection of private property and the security of commercial activities in the region.



INCIDENT 14: ABDUCTION OF UPPER NOUN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UNVDA) WORKERS AND MOURNERS IN NGOKETUNJIA DIVISION.

Date: 27 October 2026

Location: Baba 1 and Bamessing, Ngoketunjia Division, North-West Region.

Five unarmed civilians were reportedly abducted in two separate incidents involving suspected armed separatist according to " Mimi Mefo Infos"(MMI) an online media platform through it Facebook page.In the first incident, two employees of the Upper Noun Valley Development Authority (UNVDA) were abducted around Baba 1 Village, while supervising rice fields.In a separate incident, three mourners returning to Bamenda after attending a funeral in Ndop were reportedly abducted at Bamessing Village.Sources indicated that ransom demands were made for the release of the victims.The incidents demonstrate the continued targeting of civilians engaged in agricultural, professional and social activities.

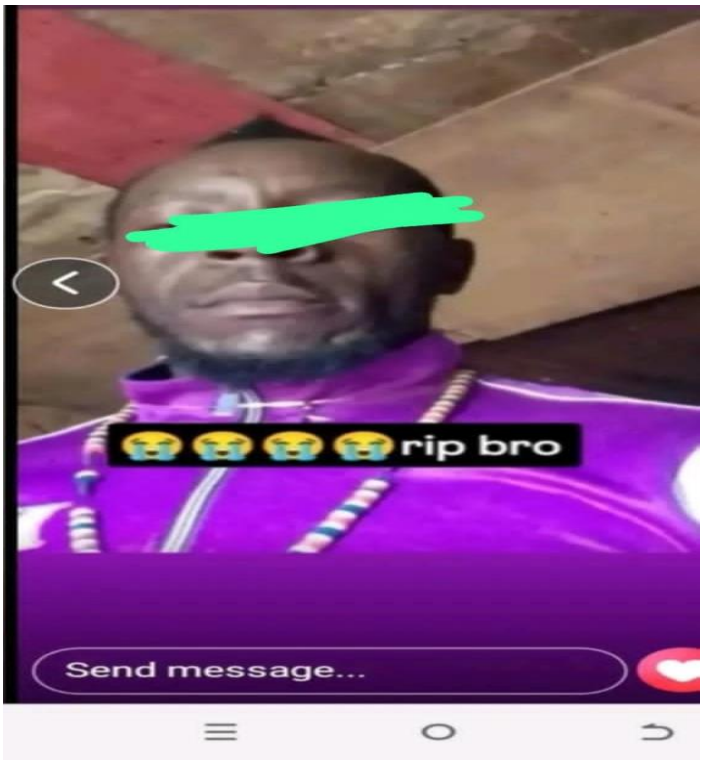
INCIDENT 15: KILLING OF AN UNARMED CIVILIAN IN NTUMBAW

Date: 29 October 2026

Location: Ntumbaw, Ndu Subdivision, North-West Region.

An unarmed civilian identified only by his surname, Nfor, was reportedly killed by suspected armed separatist fighters.

According to eyewitness accounts, the incident occurred at night. The circumstances surrounding the killing and the motive remain unknown.No group has publicly claimed responsibility.



INCIDENT 16: KILLING OF A RETIRED SOIL ENGINEER IN KUMBO

Date: October 2026

Location: Kumbo, Bui Division, North-West Region.

Papa Lawrence Kigham, a retired soil engineer, was reportedly abducted and killed by suspected armed separatist fighters while travelling from Kumbo to Bamenda.

According to Mimi Mefo Infos (MMI), he was stopped at a checkpoint and accused of being a retired military officer.The victim reportedly clarified that he was a retired soil engineer, not a former military officer.His captors allegedly demanded FCFA 5 million before subsequently beating him to death.The incident raises serious concerns about arbitrary targeting, kidnapping, extortion and the unlawful killing of civilians based on unverified accusations



INCIDENT 17: SHOOTING OF A CIVILIAN IN MILE 6, BAMENDA

Date: October 2026

Location: Mile 6, Mankon, Bamenda, North-West Region.

A young man was reportedly shot dead in front of his residence after returning from work.

According to eyewitness accounts, the victim had been dropped off at Mile 6 Junction and was walking towards his residence when two unidentified armed young men confronted him.

The victim reportedly resisted the attack. One of the assailants allegedly fired a warning shot before shooting him directly.The victim died at the scene.The incident has heightened concerns among residents about the growing insecurity and the risks faced by civilians returning home from work.



INCIDENT 18: ARREST AND DETENTION OF SHEY WOO NGANG

Date of arrest: November 2026

Location: Kumbo, Bui Division, North-West Region.

Shey Woo Ngang, a notable and head of the Ngwerong Sanctum in Nso, was reportedly arrested by Defence Forces in Kumbo and subsequently transferred to Bamenda Central Prison on 10 November 2026.The Nso Cultural and Development Association (NSODA), in a press release dated 4 November 2026, expressed concern about his detention and called for calm, respect for traditional institutions and adherence to due process.

According to information received, the allegations against him reportedly include failure to visit the Fon of Nso during the Fon's recent return to the palace and alleged collaboration with armed separatist fighters in conducting his commercial activities.Shey Woo Ngang has reportedly denied the allegations, maintaining that he operates a legitimate business.His arrest has generated concerns about the circumstances surrounding his detention, particularly given the traditional and community tensions surrounding the recent palace activities.He is expected to answer the allegations before a competent court.Conscience Africaine emphasises that the presumption of innocence, the right to liberty and security, and the right to a fair hearing must be respected.



INCIDENT 19: ABDUCTION OF TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES IN NSO

Date: October 2026

Location: Nso Fondom, Bui Division, North-West Region.

Three traditional authorities were reportedly abducted by suspected armed separatist fighters following their participation in private discussions with the Fon of Nso during his recent return to the palace as part of community dialogue initiatives recently launched in the North-West and South-West Regions by the Cameroon Prime Minister.

The Notables kidnapped were identified as:

1. Woo Vidzem, a member of the Nso Tavngwerong;

2. Shufaay Kuihlah, from Kikaikom; and

3. Taa Nyang Woo Vebaahrong, from Kinyan.

According to information received from local sources, the abductions occurred after the traditional authorities participated in meetings with the Fon.

Some family members expressed fears for the safety of their relatives, with one reportedly stating that his father, a traditional authority, had gone into hiding.

The incidents have generated concerns about intimidation and threats against traditional authorities involved in peacebuilding and community dialogue initiatives.

Conscience Africaine considers the targeting of traditional authorities for participating in peaceful dialogue particularly concerning, given their potential role in promoting reconciliation and social cohesion.

INCIDENT 20: KILLING OF ILA DOMBOLO IN SABGA

Date: 9 November 2026

Location: Sabga, Tubah Subdivision, North-West Region.

A man popularly known as Ila Dombolo was reportedly killed inside his residence by unidentified armed men following an alleged attempted kidnapping.

According to information from "Jawleru Mbororo-En-Cameroon" through it Facebook publication, the victim had repeatedly been targeted by kidnappers.

During an earlier abduction, reportedly in October, he allegedly paid FCFA 1 million to secure his release.Further reports suggest that the kidnappers had previously threatened or abducted members of his family when they could not find him at home.On the night of 9 November, he reportedly resisted another attempted abduction, which resulted in his death.The incident highlights the persistent threat of kidnapping, ransom extortion and targeted killings affecting civilians in the region.



INCIDENT 21: KILLING OF A FORMER LAND REGISTRAR AND SCHOOL PROPRIETOR IN BAMENDA

Date: 10 November 2026

Location: K-Town, Nkwen, Bamenda, North-West Region.

Sanda Michael Ngufu, former Land Registrar for Mezam Division and proprietor of Innovation Primary School, Up Station, Bamenda, was reportedly shot dead by suspected armed separatist fighters.According to local accounts, TEBECK TV BAMENDA and "LashaKingInfos" an online media platform, the incident occurred at approximately 8:30 p.m. in the K-Town neighbourhood of Nkwen.

The attackers reportedly removed him from his vehicle before shooting him several times. He died at the scene.His killing has caused considerable grief within the education community, particularly among teachers, pupils and parents associated with Innovation Primary School.He was reportedly known by members of his community as a calm and peaceful individual.The circumstances and motive surrounding his killing remain unclear.





INCIDENT 22: ABDUCTION OF A MOBILE MONEY OPERATOR IN BAMENDA

Date: 12 November 2026

Location: Sonac Street, Bamenda, North-West Region.

A female mobile money operator was reportedly abducted by unidentified armed men at Sonac Street, Bamenda.

According to eyewitnessesaccounts, two gunshots were fired during the incident as the victim reportedly resisted the abduction.Her whereabouts and the circumstances surrounding the incident remain unclear.The incident raises concerns about the security of traders and other individuals engaged in commercial activities.

INCIDENT 23: SHOOTING OF A FEMALE FOOD VENDOR IN MBELEM

Date: 12 November 2026

Location: Mbelem, Bamenda, North-West Region.

A female food vendor was reportedly shot by suspected armed separatist fighters while operating her evening food business in front of a bar in Mbelem.

According to information received an eyewitness and TEBECKTVBAMENDA, a young man, reportedly a military personnel who had gone to the bar, was also shot during the incident.Both victims were evacuated to Bamenda Regional Hospital.The woman subsequently died from her injuries, while the young man was reportedly receiving medical treatment.The incident raises concerns about indiscriminate attacks and the failure to protect civilians in public spaces.



INCIDENT 24: ABDUCTION AND ALLEGED SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN BAMUNKA

Date: 13 November 2026

Location: Bamunka, Ndop, Ngoketunjia Division, North-West Region.

Suspected armed separatist fighters reportedly stormed a residence in Bamunka and abducted a man.Before leaving with the victim on a motorcycle, the armed men allegedly subjected his wife to rape, leaving her in critical

condition.According to reliable local sources, the abductors were demanding ransom for the release of the husband according to local sources and information from a close family member.

The incident raises grave concerns about kidnapping, sexual violence and the protection of women against gender-based violence in conflict-affected communities.

INCIDENT 25: KILLING OF A CIVILIAN AND ABDUCTION OF TWO WORKERS IN NTABESSI

Date: 13 November 2026

Location: Ntabessi Junction, Nkwen, Bamenda, North-West Region.

Unidentified armed men reportedly stormed the premises of COGENI near Ntambessi Junction, allegedly intending to abduct the manager.

According to "Nzui Manto " an online blogger and eyewitnesses accounts, the manager escaped after noticing the attackers, who subsequently seized two workers.As the assailants were leaving, they reportedly opened fire, hitting a civilian man in his 40s.The victim, later identified as Tizeh Donald, a native of Chomba and professional carpenter, was rushed to PMI Hospital but died shortly after arrival.A woman was also reportedly wounded during the incident and received medical attention.The whereabouts of the two abducted COGENI workers remain unknown.

The incident raises concerns about the targeting of workers, kidnapping, indiscriminate shooting and the protection of civilians.



INCIDENT 26: ABDUCTION OF STUDENTS AND A TEACHER IN KUMBO

Date: 14 November 2026

Location: Kumbo, Bui Division, North-West Region.

According to "Cameroon News Agency "(CNA), 5 students and one teacher from Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Kumbo were reportedly abducted by armed separatist fighters while returning from school.

"Cameroon News Agency" reported that the six individuals were taken into captivity on 14 November 2026.

Their whereabouts and the circumstances surrounding their abduction remain unclear at the time of writing this report.

The incident raises serious concerns about the safety of educational personnel and students, as well as the right to education in conflict-affected communities.

INCIDENT 27: ABDUCTION, TORTURE AND KILLING OF PELAGIE VERNUY IN KUMBO

Date of discovery: 14 November 2026

Location: Bamkikaiy, Kumbo, Bui Division, North-West Region.

The body of a woman identified as Mama Pelagie Vernuy, a native of Kikaikom, was reportedly discovered along the road at Bamkikaiy in Kumbo.

According to family sources and other witnesses, she had previously been abducted by suspected armed separatist fighters who accused her of collaborating with the military.She was allegedly labelled a "black leg" and accused of spying for government forces.

Reports indicate that she was taken to a separatist camp, where she was allegedly tortured and subsequently killed.Her body was later abandoned along the road.The incident raises grave concerns about the unlawful killing of civilians based on accusations of collaboration, torture and the continued targeting of individuals suspected of supporting opposing parties to the conflict.



INCIDENT 28: WOMAN AND HER TWO CHILDREN KILLED, OTHERS INJURED IN ATTACK IN AGHEM, WUM

Date of incident: 14–15 November 2026

Location: Aghem (Upkwa Settlement Camp), Wum Central Subdivision, Menchum Division, North-West Region, Cameroon.

A woman and her two children, boys aged 8 and 11, were reportedly killed during an attack on their family residence in Aghem, around midnight on 14–15 November 2026 by unknown armed men.

According to "Kum Leonard Official" a Journalist through his Facebook publication, the unidentified masked assailants attacked the residence of a man popularly known as L'homme, reportedly using machetes. The victims' bodies were discovered by villagers early Sunday morning.

Two other children, a 16-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy, reportedly sustained serious injuries and were rushed to a health facility. The twin brother of the deceased 8-year-old boy reportedly escaped and alerted residents of the nearby Lake Nyos Survivors' Camp, prompting rescue efforts.

Some residents suspect that the attack may be connected to an earlier dispute between the deceased woman and a Fulani herder, although this allegation remains unverified. Reports also indicate that approximately seven individuals suspected of having links to the incident were arrested for investigation, while some injured neighbours received medical attention.

According to information published by Mimi Mefo Infos (MMI) through its official Facebook page on 16 November 2026, the woman and her two children killed during the weekend attack in Upkwa Village, Wum Subdivision, Menchum Division, North-West Region of Cameroon, have been identified as Ekom Madeline Mbih, 37, Attra Joseph, 8, and Kang Killy Zekenzu, 4.

According to a source cited by MMI, the attack was reportedly linked to an earlier disagreement between Madeline and Fulani cattle herders over the destruction of her crops by cattle. The disagreement allegedly resulted in an exchange of words before the attack.

In addition to the three fatalities, four other occupants sustained serious injuries. They have been identified as Ebua Cynthia Sih, 19, Amih Courage, 16, Atioh Blaise Amih, 7, and Anang Michael, 5.

As of the time of publication, the circumstances and motive of the attack remained unclear, and no official reaction had been issued by the local authorities.



3. KEY HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS AND OBSERVATIONS

The incidents documented during the reporting period reveal several recurring human rights concerns.

3.1. Right to Life and Physical Integrity

The reported killings of civilians, including teachers, traders, traditional authorities, women and children, demonstrate the continuing threats to the right to life and physical integrity.

The alleged killings following arrests and detention by Defence Forces also require particular attention and independent investigation.

3.2. Kidnapping, Ransom Extortion and Unlawful Deprivation of Liberty

Numerous civilians were reportedly abducted by armed individuals and held in captivity for ransom.

Traditional authorities, students, teachers, business operators, workers and ordinary community members were among those reportedly targeted.

The repeated use of kidnapping for financial gain constitutes a serious threat to personal liberty, security and human dignity.

3.3. Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

Reports concerning the alleged torture of detainees, including the elderly herder Hassan Adamu and Pelagie Vernuy, raise serious concerns about violations of the absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

3.4. Arbitrary Arrest and Possible Extrajudicial Executions

The reported arrests and subsequent deaths of individuals in Kumbo, as well as the discovery of bodies allegedly linked to previous arrests, require independent investigation.

All persons deprived of their liberty must be treated humanely, protected against torture and afforded the guarantees of due process.

3.5. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

The alleged rape of a woman during the abduction of her husband in Bamunka highlights the vulnerability of women to sexual violence in conflict-affected communities.

Such acts require prompt investigation, survivor-centred medical and psychosocial support, and accountability for perpetrators.

3.6. Attacks Against Education and Educational Personnel

The reported killing of a teacher and the abduction of students and a teacher in Kumbo demonstrate the continuing threats faced by educational communities.

Schools, teachers and students must be protected from violence and intimidation.

3.7. Targeting of Traditional Authorities and Peacebuilding Actors

The reported abductions of traditional rulers and notables involved in community dialogue initiatives in Nso raise concerns about the shrinking space for traditional mediation, dialogue and reconciliation.

Traditional authorities must be allowed to perform their legitimate community and peacebuilding functions without intimidation, unlawful detention or violence.

3.8. Insecurity and Destruction of Civilian Property

The reported attacks on commercial vehicles, businesses and workers further demonstrate the impact of insecurity on livelihoods, economic activities and community stability.

4. APPLICABLE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW FRAMEWORK

The reported incidents raise concerns under national, regional and international legal frameworks, including:

1. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948): Particularly Articles 3, 5, 9 and 10, concerning the rights to life, liberty, security of person, freedom from torture, protection against arbitrary detention and the right to a fair hearing.

2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966): Particularly Articles 6, 7, 9, 10 and 14, protecting the right to life, prohibition of torture, liberty and security of person, humane treatment of persons deprived of liberty and fair trial guarantees.

3. The Convention Against Torture (1984): Particularly Articles 2, 12, 13 and 16, concerning the prevention of torture, investigation of allegations and protection against cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

4. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981): Particularly Articles 4, 5, 6 and 7, protecting the right to life, dignity, liberty and fair trial.

5. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989): Particularly Articles 6, 19, 28 and 38, concerning children's rights to life, protection against violence, education and protection in situations of armed conflict.

6. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and applicable rules of International Humanitarian Law: Particularly Common Article 3, which prohibits murder, cruel treatment, torture, outrages upon personal dignity and other forms of violence against persons taking no active part in hostilities.

7. The Constitution of Cameroon: Particularly the constitutional protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, human dignity and the rule of law.

Where the applicable legal threshold for the existence of an armed conflict is met, relevant provisions of International Humanitarian Law must also be respected by all parties to the conflict.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the incidents documented, Conscience Africaine makes the following recommendations:

To the Government of Cameroon

1. Ensure prompt, independent, impartial and effective investigations into all reported unlawful killings, torture, abductions and other serious human rights violations.

2. Investigate allegations of extrajudicial executions and deaths following arrests or detention by Defence and Security Forces.

3. Ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty are treated humanely, have access to legal representation and are brought before competent judicial authorities in accordance with the law.

4. Strengthen civilian protection measures, particularly in communities experiencing repeated attacks, kidnappings and ransom extortion.

5. Ensure accountability for security personnel found responsible for human rights violations.

6. Strengthen protection and support mechanisms for victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

7. Initiate an inclusive and sincere dialogue with stakeholders to seek an inclusive and durable solution to the 10 years conflict that keep claiming lives and properties.

To Armed Separatist Groups

1. Immediately cease attacks against civilians, including teachers, students, traditional authorities, traders, journalists and other non-combatants.

2. End kidnapping, ransom extortion, torture, sexual violence, arbitrary executions and all forms of violence against civilians.

3. Release all civilians unlawfully held in captivity.

4. Respect the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in the conduct of hostilities, as applicable under International Humanitarian Law.

5. Refrain from threatening or targeting traditional authorities and community members participating in peacebuilding and dialogue initiatives.

To Traditional Authorities and Community Leaders

1. Promote peaceful coexistence, dialogue and reconciliation within affected communities.

2. Reject intimidation, collective punishment and violence against individuals based on allegations of collaboration with either party to the conflict.

3. Strengthen community-based early warning and civilian protection mechanisms.

To National and International Human Rights Institutions

1. Intensify independent monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in the North-West and South-West Regions.

2. Support victims and families in accessing justice, medical care, psychosocial assistance and appropriate remedies.

3. Encourage accountability for perpetrators, irrespective of their affiliation or position.

4. Strengthen protection mechanisms for human rights defenders, journalists, teachers, women and children in conflict-affected communities.

6. CONCLUSION

The incidents documented between 2 October and 15 November 2026 demonstrate the continuing deterioration of civilian security and the persistent exposure of communities in the North-West and South-West Regions to serious human rights violations.

The reported killings, abductions, torture, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests and attacks against civilians reflect a pattern of insecurity that continues to undermine human dignity, fundamental freedoms, education, livelihoods and social cohesion.

Of particular concern is the apparent vulnerability of individuals who have no direct involvement in hostilities, including teachers, students, traditional authorities, traders, women, children and other ordinary civilians.

Conscience Africaine reiterates that no political, military or security objective can justify the deliberate targeting of civilians, torture, sexual violence, kidnapping or unlawful killing.

All parties to the conflict must respect their obligations under applicable international human rights and humanitarian law.

The organisation further calls for credible investigations, accountability for perpetrators, effective civilian protection and renewed commitment to dialogue, justice, reconciliation and sustainable peace.

PEACE, JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY MUST REMAIN CENTRAL TO THE SEARCH FOR A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT.

Done in Douala, on 17 November 2026.

FOR CONSCIENCE AFRICAINE

Amadu TARNTEH

Executive Secretary