

# **NOTICE OF PLANNED HUNGER STRIKE BY 1000 ANGLOPHONE WOMEN IN CAMEROON**

The Governments of the Republic of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America are hereby advised that, beginning 10 May 2021, one thousand Anglophone women residing in the South West, North West and Littoral Regions of Cameroon will embark on a hunger strike of indefinite duration for the purpose of protesting the persecution of Anglophone citizens by the authoritarian government of President Paul Biya, raising global awareness of our plight, and imploring President Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Joseph Biden to intercede in the name of humanity.

The one thousand women participating in the hunger strike assert that we are prisoners within our own country and, like prisoners caged within brick-and-mortar jail cells, have been denied access to all other forms of passive resistance for fear of reprisal from both sides of the conflict. For nearly five years, we have borne the brunt of the suffering that has stemmed from the Anglophone Crisis, including displacement, rape, torture, kidnapping, false imprisonment, and the senseless maiming and murder of our husbands, sons, fathers and brothers. Despite our hardship, governments that have the ability to help have been deaf to our cries. The world has ignored us. If death must come, at least in this way, it will come with honor and with the hope for change.

United in a single voice, we respectfully but with firmness of conviction present the following single request and vow that this hunger strike shall not be lifted until our request is granted. As participants must remain anonymous publicly, we hereby appoint Cece Buckley of Global Justice Journal to present these demands on our behalf, to represent us in negotiations, and to share our identities and locations with trusted groups and individuals at her discretion for verification and other valid purposes.

## **OUR REQUEST**

**To President Emmanuel Macron of Cameroon's former colonial master, the Republic of France; Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Cameroon's former colonial master, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and President Joseph Biden of the United States of America, who, during your vice presidency, provided funding and training to Cameroon's Rapid Intervention Battalion, which has since been used to carry out the targeted killing of Anglophone citizens:**

We plead with you, as leaders of the free world whose nations have each played a role – whether through action or inaction – in the escalation of the Anglophone Crisis, to utilize your influence to pressure President Paul Biya to immediately halt the ongoing abuse of his power and his people as follows.

(1) Recall to its original mission of combatting terrorism and preventing kidnappings the Rapid Intervention Battalion, which is responsible for the unlawful arrest, torture and targeting killing of thousands of innocent Anglophone civilians.

(2) End the suppression of education, intellectual conversations, public debates, peaceful protests, and all acts of free speech on the topics of federalism, bilingualism, and bilingualism by labeling such acts as seditious and subjecting those who engage in such acts to imprisonment.

(3) Repeal all language in all constitutional revisions, amendments and supplements – including but not limited to the revisions, amendments and supplements implemented or endorsed by Presidents Ahidjo and Biya on 2 June 1972, 18 January 1996, and 14 April 2008 – and any legislation or resolutions stemming from such revisions, amendments and supplements that contradicts the stated intent of the original Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, which was adopted on 14 August 1961 and which specifically mandated the creation of two separate but equal states.

(4) Reinstigate the checks and balances that were intended to preserve equality and democracy for all citizens of Cameroon but were stripped from the 1961 Constitution by Presidents Ahidjo and Biya, including but not limited to the formation of two equal states, the Francophone regions being East Cameroon, and the Anglophone regions being West Cameroon; the appointment of a Prime Minister for each of the two states; and the organization of a special election for the citizens of Cameroon to choose an Anglophone Vice President, per Title III, Article 9 of the 1961 Constitution.

The hunger strike will come to an end upon our receipt of the good faith assurances of President Macron, Prime Minister Johnson and President Biden that they or duly authorized officials of the governments of their respective countries will meet with President Biya to begin productive discussions on the four points noted above. If discussions do not proceed or if they break down without measurable progress having been made, the hunger strike will resume immediately.

Respectfully submitted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021 on behalf of 1000 Anglophone women in Cameroon.

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