

A RESOLUTION FOR PEACE BY THE ANGLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE YOUTH OF CAMEROON

We the graduates of the Global Justice Journal's 2020-2021 Cameroon Peace Project, Francophones and Anglophones alike, being eighty-nine in number and ranging in age from 12 to 22, declare in a unified voice:

Whereas our nation was occupied and colonized by Germany from 1884 to 1916;

Whereas the League of Nations mandated our nation a territory of Great Britain and France, thus dividing the people of Cameroon into two political entities, each with its own unique culture and system of laws reflecting the cultures and systems of laws of our occupiers;

Whereas the period of British rule over the Southern and Northern Cameroons was characterized by neglect and disorganization while French Cameroon received assistance in developing the facilities and systems essential to growth as a society;

Whereas French Cameroon achieved independence as the Republic of Cameroon on 1 January 1960, held a constitutional referendum on 21 February 1960, and elected its first president, Ahmadou Ahidjo, on 5 May 1960;

Whereas the United Nations formed a plebiscite on 11 February 1961 to determine whether the British Southern and Northern Cameroons would align with Nigeria or become part of French Cameroon, denying the British territories the option to form an independent State based on the absence of the facilities and systems essential to growth as a society;

Whereas the UN-designated plebiscite determined on 12 February 1961 that the Northern Cameroons would join Nigeria and the Southern Cameroons would join French Cameroon;

Whereas it was determined at the Foumban Conference of 16-21 July 1961 that the new federation would be comprised of East Cameroon and West Cameroon, formerly French Cameroon and the British Southern Cameroons, respectively;

Whereas the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, adopted on 14 August 1961, guaranteed the equality of Anglophones and Francophones and set in place certain fail safes to protect such equality;

Whereas the Francophone government headed by former President Ahmadou Ahidjo almost immediately began chipping away at such fail safes in an effort to expand their power and, in 1972, unilaterally drafted a new constitution abolishing the federal system;

Whereas the Francophone government's purposeful efforts to marginalize Anglophones and to deny Anglophones equal access to education, judicial relief, social services and the basic resources necessary to build and support a stable infrastructure have been perpetuated and amplified by Paul Biya since his assumption of the presidency in 1982 to the present day;

Whereas President Biya's brutal response to strikes and protests by Anglophone citizens in 2016-2017 incited a civil war and a secessionist movement that continues to this day;

Whereas the aforementioned civil war and secessionist movement have resulted in more than one million Anglophone citizens being killed or displaced by government troops and armed secessionists including, most recently, the massacre of eight Anglophone school children by separatists at Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy in Kumba on 24 October 2020;

Whereas the aforementioned civil war and secessionist movement have resulted in the ongoing disruption of utilities, schools, commercial activities, and all other aspects of a stable society within Anglophone regions;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, on behalf of the Anglophone and Francophone youth of Cameroon, we hereby claim our basic human right to equality, freedom from oppression, and peaceful coexistence in our schools, our communities and our country, and we call for an immediate cessation of all acts of hostility and persecution perpetrated by the government of Cameroon and the various factions of armed separatists operating within Cameroon and abroad.

To this end, we call upon:

President Paul Biya of the Republic of Cameroon –

- to recall to its original mission of combatting terrorism and preventing kidnappings the Rapid Intervention Battalion, which, since 2008, has been deployed repeatedly for the purpose of silencing peaceful protesters, suppressing voters, and laying siege to villages and urban areas in the Anglophone regions, and which has been responsible for the unjustified arrest, torture and murder of hundreds of innocent civilians;
- to end the suppression of education, intellectual conversations and public debates about the topic of federalism by labeling such acts as seditious and subjecting those who engage in such acts to imprisonment;
- to repeal all language in all constitutional revisions, amendments and supplements – including but not limited to the revisions, amendments and supplements implemented or endorsed by your predecessor or yourself 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;
- to utilize the remainder of your current term as President to reinstitute 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 your predecessor and yourself, 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;

- to further utilize the remainder of your current term as President to appoint a committee comprised of an equal number of Anglophones and Francophones who will be responsible for drafting a new Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, which will honor and expand upon the provisions of the original 1961 Constitution;
- to, upon the end of your current term as President, step down from office with honor, facilitating the first free and fair election of the President of the Federal Republic of Cameroon by the citizens of Cameroon and ensuring a peaceful transition of power.

President Emmanuel Macron of the French Republic –

- to condemn President Biya for illegally revising, amending, supplementing and wholly breaching the spirit and the letter of the original Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, which was adopted on 14 August 1961 and which specifically mandated the creation two separate but equal states, the appointment of a Prime Minister to represent each state, and the democratic election of a President and a Vice President who shall not hail from the same state;
- to condemn President Biya's repeated deployment of the Rapid Intervention Battalion to oppress, persecute, torture and murder innocent civilians;
- to halt military aid to the government of Cameroon until such time as a federal republic has been implemented and all human rights violations by the government have ended;
- to require that the government of Cameroon distribute to the South West and North West regions one-half of all loan debt forgiven by France, to date and in the future, as partial reparation for atrocities committed against Anglophone citizens over the past 40 years;
- to leverage the position of France as a world power, a key investor in (Francophone) Cameroon, a trade partner who imports approximately €600 million in goods from Cameroon each year, and the former colonial master of French Cameroon whose influence continues to this day, to encourage President Biya to immediately halt the ongoing abuse of his power and his people and to guide the government of Cameroon in its transition to a federal republic consisting of two equal states, as envisioned in the original 1961 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain –

- to acknowledge that British rule over the Southern and Northern Cameroons from 1922 to 1961 represented the enslavement of your fellow human beings and was marked by such grave neglect that, by 1961, the former British territories lacked even the most basic

facilities and systems needed to sustain society, thus denying those territories the option of sovereignty and relegating them to absorption by French Cameroon and Nigeria;

- to acknowledge that Great Britain continued its 39-year cycle of neglect during negotiations for the independence of the Southern and Northern Cameroons – at the UN plebiscite of February 1961, the Foumban Conference of July 1961, and thereafter – by failing to advocate for its former territories, thereby relegating Anglophone citizens of the former Southern Cameroons to continued colonization at the hands of French Cameroon;
- to acknowledge that – apart from Project GB-GOV-3-HRRBIS-CM of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, for which less than £50,000 has been budgeted since its inception – Great Britain has done nothing of substance to address human rights violations in the former Southern Cameroons nor to repair the systemic, generational injustice caused by its former rule and neglect of the former Southern Cameroons;
- to, as a gesture of compassion, conciliation and contrition for past misdeeds, engage in dialogue with humanitarian NGOs in the former Southern Cameroons to determine where economic, health-related, educational and other needs are most dire and to calculate just and equitable reparations in the form of financial payments, medical supplies, training programs and other applicable resources;
- to leverage the position of Great Britain as a world power and a key investor in (Francophone) Cameroon to encourage President Biya to immediately halt the ongoing abuse of his power and his people and to guide the government of Cameroon in its transition to a federal republic consisting of two equal states, as envisioned in the original 1961 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

President Joseph Biden of the United States of America –

- to identify and seize the bank accounts of secessionist sympathizers in the United States who regularly transfer funds to Cameroon and other African nations for the purpose of funding acts of terrorism by Anglophone separatists in Cameroon, including the illegal purchase and trade of arms; the trafficking of Anglophone men, women and children for sex and labor; the slaughter of innocent children in schools; and the pillaging of villages in the South West and North West regions, resulting in the death and displacement of more than one million human beings;
- to acknowledge that the military aid package granted to the government of Cameroon in 2015, while you served as Vice President, was in breach of the Leahy Laws of 1997, which prohibit the provision of armed assistance to foreign military units that have committed gross violations of human rights, and that this aid unintentionally facilitated the perpetration of further human rights violations by the government of Cameroon and, specifically, the Rapid Intervention Battalion;
- to halt military aid to the government of Cameroon until such time as a federal republic has been implemented and all human rights violations by the government have ended;

- to require US military personnel who assist in the ongoing fight against Boko Haram in Cameroon to report any human rights abuses they witness at the hands of the government of Cameroon and, specifically, the Rapid Intervention Battalion;
- to show compassion to the suffering Anglophone citizens of Cameroon by directing additional humanitarian aid to the South West and North West regions, where more than 4 million innocent men, women and children witness each day the slow, purposeful erosion of their social structures and the silent genocide of an entire nation for no reason other than the language they inherited from their colonial masters;
- to partner with the United Nations and/or other humanitarian NGOs to ensure that all humanitarian aid provided to Cameroon is directed to its intended recipients and to implement a system of protections for the children of the South West and North West regions to protect them from human rights violations perpetrated by the government of Cameroon as well as Anglophone separatists;
- to leverage the position of the United States as a world power and a trade partner who imports more than \$300 million in goods from Cameroon each year, to encourage President Biya to immediately halt the ongoing abuse of his power and his people; to guide the government of Cameroon in its transition to a federal republic consisting of two equal states, as envisioned in the original 1961 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon; and to mentor the people of Cameroon as we prepare for our first free and fair presidential election in 2025.

The United Nations –

- to acknowledge that the UN plebiscite of 11-12 February 1961 was a violation of an entire nation's basic human right to self-determination and dignity;
- to acknowledge that, although the UN has dedicated innumerable resources to address humanitarian needs in the Anglophone regions, for which we are eternally grateful, you have not yet addressed the most deeply rooted need for Anglophone equality;
- to now utilize the vast wisdom and global influence of the UN to garner worldwide support of our plea for a peaceful transition of the government of Cameroon from an authoritarian regime to a federal republic, as mandated by the original 1961 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, and to establish a commission to provide oversight of that transition;
- to further utilize the impressive resources of the UN to establish additional commissions to assess losses suffered by Anglophones at the hands of the government of Cameroon and to calculate reparations for these losses; to conduct an inspection of weapons of mass destruction, and specifically chemical weapons, used by the government of Cameroon against its own citizens; and to provide advocacy and protection to the children of Cameroon and, specifically, the young people who have shared our voices through this Resolution and who fear reprisal by the government of Cameroon;

- to graciously consider meeting with the eight democratically elected Class Representatives of the Global Justice Journal's 2020-2021 Cameroon Peace Project so that we, the future leaders of Cameroon, can make the fears and hopes of our country's youth known to the world and allow our voices to break the silence of the secret genocide taking place in our cities and villages.

Foreign Investors and Major Trade Partners of Cameroon –

- to permanently divest from ventures that propagate inequality between Francophone and Anglophone regions of Cameroon;
- to leverage your economic advantage to encourage President Biya to immediately halt the ongoing abuse of his power and his people and to transition his current authoritarian regime to a federal republic consisting of two equal states, as envisioned in the original 1961 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Cameroon;
- to, as needed, impose economic sanctions on the government of Cameroon until such time as a federal republic has been implemented and all human rights violations by the government have ended.

Citizens of the World –

- to keep the children of Cameroon in your daily thoughts and prayers, that your love and support may sustain us through our hardships and sorrows;
- to circulate petitions and contact your political representatives so that your government might use its influence to advocate for the equality of Anglophones and Francophones in Cameroon and to encourage President Biya to end the unjust persecution, oppression, arrest, torture and murder of innocent civilians;
- to, as needed, initiate boycotts against companies that invest in ventures which propagate inequality between Anglophones and Francophones in Cameroon;
- to cease the intentional and unintentional funding of violence in Cameroon through donations to entities that pose as humanitarian organizations but are, in reality, secessionist sympathizers who use funds to purchase illegal weapons and commit acts of domestic terrorism, and to entrust all donations instead to legitimate, recognized charities.

Citizens of Cameroon –

- to, amidst your hardships and sorrows, sustain hope for a better future for the sake of your children, who look to you as the source of their own hope and strength;
- to, despite the burden of injustice and inequality you have been forced to bear, choose peace over violence, that you may earn the respect and support of the world;

- to, with due caution, engage in peaceful acts of civil disobedience, including the exercise of free speech, honest and factual reporting of news, participation in the political process and, most importantly, the continuous pursuit of truth, knowledge and justice.

Separatist Factions of Cameroon –

- to lay down your arms and join us in the peaceful pursuit of justice through the implementation of a federal form of government which will be comprised of two separate but equal states – one Anglophone and one Francophone – and which, with the world’s support, will come to Cameroon in good time;
- to utilize the passion and strategic skills you have so forcefully demonstrated through violence to become soldiers of peace whose words are your weapons of choice;
- to cease committing acts of violence against your own people, who love you and long to welcome you back to your cities and villages as productive members of society who build communities rather than destroy them;
- to embrace the Anglophone children of Cameroon as your own and to advocate for greater educational opportunities in the South West and North West regions rather than denying us an education through threats of violence;
- to recognize that we are stronger united in peace than divided by violence.

In closing, we hereby commit individually and as a group, for the duration of our young lives, to respect and uplift our fellow Cameroonians regardless of ethnic, religious or linguistic differences; to fervently pursue truth and justice; to serve as a voice for those who have been silenced by fear and persecution; and to always choose peace over violence.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of January 2021 by the eighty-nine graduates of the Global Justice Journal’s 2020-2021 Cameroon Peace Project whose names will not be disclosed in this document for fear of retribution but who shall henceforth be known as:

“The 89”