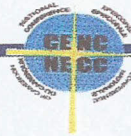


A DECLARATION OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF CAMEROON IN THE FACE OF THE SOCIOPOLITICAL CRISIS IN THE NORTH WEST AND SOUTH WEST REGIONS



**To the Government of Cameroon,
To the Political Parties,
To the Cameroonian Diaspora,
To the “Amba boys” and all armed individuals and groups,
To all Cameroonians.**

We, the leaders of the Protestant Council, the Islamic Superior Council and the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon, having critically observed and lived the crisis in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon, are on this day declaring in one voice and on behalf of all believers and people of good will thus:

We denounce:

- ❖ The arbitrary and indiscriminate killings of Cameroonians by the armed forces and the “Amba Boys”;
- ❖ The physical, emotional, and psychological attacks and abuses on the local populations;
- ❖ The looting and wanton destruction of public and private property;
- ❖ The forced displacement of individuals and families from their homes and sources of livelihood;
- ❖ The rampant attacks on educational institutions and the deprivation of children of their right to education;
- ❖ The intimidating presence of armed forces and their usage of excessive force against unarmed populations in the two regions;
- ❖ The threats, blackmail, kidnapping and extortions orchestrated by the “Amba boys” and armed groups and individuals;
- ❖ The manipulation of youths by various persons and groups within Cameroon and the diaspora;
- ❖ The use and spread of “hate-speech”, emanating from the diaspora, that encourages violence among our people;
- ❖ The sacrifice of the lives of innocent Cameroonians on the altar of political and other agendas;
- ❖ The sluggishness and inadequate methods with which the Government is acting to solve the problem.

Consequently, we are making the following declarations:

1. TO THE GOVERNMENT

- ❖ We call on the Government to redefine and control the mission of the armed forces in the two regions in crisis;
- ❖ We call on the government to punish, in accordance with the law, all persons – military or civilian – who commit violent attacks, burning and destruction of property and extra-judicial killings;
- ❖ We call on the Government to promptly initiate and announce a national plan for resolving this crisis, taking into account its real and profound causes, in view of establishing veritable peace;

2. TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES

- ❖ We call on all political parties to prioritize, within their agendas, the resolution of the current crisis and return to normalcy of life in the North West and South Regions.

3. TO THE CAMEROONIAN DIASPORA

- ❖ We call on the diaspora to stop the “hate-speech” communication that promotes violence, suspicion and fear amongst the people of Cameroon;
- ❖ We call on those who finance the activities of armed groups to stop this dirty work that aims at destroying natural fabric Cameroon;
- ❖ We call on the diaspora to participate in the political process of Cameroon, using democratic and non-violent means;
- ❖ We call on the diaspora to respect the sacredness of human life and children’s right to education. They should put an end to the trivialization of human dignity and the hostage-taking of schools!

4. TO THE “AMBA BOYS”

- ❖ We call on the “Amba boys” and all armed groups and individuals to value and respect human life – be it their personal lives or the lives of others;
- ❖ We call on all of them to turn their backs on any groups, individuals, or agendas that encourage the destruction their health and wellbeing, and the common good of the communities;
- ❖ We call on them to stop all forms of violence and extortions committed against the people;
- ❖ Education, being a universal right, we call on them to allow pupils and students, their brothers and sisters, to return to school.

5. TO THE GENERAL POPULATION OF CAMEROON

- ❖ We call on all Cameroonians to be aware of the fact that this crisis concerns all of us, and to participate actively in the search for a just and lasting solution;

- ❖ We call on the Cameroonian population to make rational, critical, responsible and prudent use of the social media, through which violence is promoted, and to make an objective analysis of ideologies and situations before acting;
- ❖ We call on the population to exercise the right to self-determination by not allowing shady groups and individuals to manipulate and destroy our communities;
- ❖ We call on all Muslims, Protestants, Catholics, and all other believers to refrain from all communication or acts that promote violence and destruction of human life and property.

OUR ENGAGEMENT:

We, the religious leaders, commit ourselves to denounce and fight together all forms of violence, injustice and the desecration of human rights and dignity until justice and peace return to the entire territory of Cameroon.

Let reconciliation and peace be our fundamental values, for the future of our country depends on them!

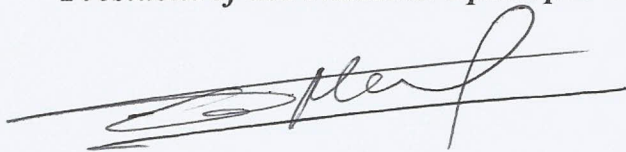
May the God of Love and Mercy Bless Cameroon!

Done in Yaounde, on 19 September, 2018

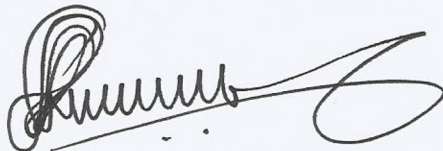
Signed:



Archbishop Samuel KLEDA
President of the National Episcopal Conference



Cheikh OUMAROU MALAM
President of the Islamic Superior Council of Cameroon



Rt. Rev. FONKI Samuel FORBA
President of the Council of Protestant Churches of Cameroon