

German Embassy in Jaounde  
H.E. Dr. Corinna Fricke  
Nouvelle Route Bastos  
Jaunde

Bonn, 18 November 2021

### **Military Invasion of the St. Elisabeth Hospital, Shisong**

Your Excellency, Dear Ambassador,

We were informed by our project partners; Tertiary Sisters of St Francis, Shisong, Kumbo in the North West Region of Cameroon, that the St. Elisabeth Hospital in Shisong, which we support, was violently attacked by the Government Military forces on 14 November 2021.

According to the report, armed soldiers entered the hospital, searched the various wards including the pediatric and the maternity units, threatened the nurses and Rev. Sisters and violently attacked the hospital's security staff.

We, *Missionszentrale der Franziskaner e.V.*, have been supporting social projects in Cameroon for many years and would like to contribute to the well-being of the country's population. We have been supporting the St. Elisabeth Hospital, which is run by the Tertiary Sisters of St. Francis (TSSF), since 2006.

Recently, there have been increasing reports from project partners in Cameroon of violent attacks by Government Military Forces as well as the "Separatist Fighters" especially in the health and educational facilities.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021, we received a report from the director of the St. Elisabeth Hospital in Shisong Dr. Sr. Anshoma Helen Mbuoh. She desperately informed us about an unannounced and violent attack of her hospital on 14 November 2021. According to the report, armed soldiers drove up in three vehicles to the hospital at around 1:30 pm local time. They demanded to search insight to the hospital's documents and carried out the search room ward to ward, looking for separatists which they alleged were in hiding in the hospital.

Finding nothing suspicious after searching all the units, they insulted and threatened the Director, Rev. Sisters and Nurses. The soldiers questioned the hospital guards at gunpoint, beat them up, kicked and locked them in one of the hospital wards. The two security guards suffered serious physical injuries as a result. As the soldiers were leaving the hospital (at around 15:45), they threatened they were coming

back the next day to burn the hospital and to shoot the Sisters on the legs if they failed to produce the separatist fighters.

We are very concerned about these massive violent acts against the medical staff, the Rev.Sisters and the employed guards.

As representatives of the German government in Cameroon, we would like to inform you about the incidents and ask you to use your influence, if possible, to clarify the incidents and to prosecute the perpetrators accordingly.

We are very willing to continue to support the important work of the sisters in Shisong. To this effect, it is essential that security in our projects be guaranteed in the long term.

Pax et Bonum

P. Matthias Maier OFM

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