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# Cameroon in Crises

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*Yaounde, January 26th, 2019, use of tear gas and water spills on peaceful protesters*

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# Presentation

37 years of dictatorship plunged Cameroon into crises. Human rights violations are the norm. Maurice Kamto, leader of the opposition in Cameroon, victim of these violations, stands as the hope of peaceful change and resolution of these crises.



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# Table of Contents

Presentation	2
Table of Contents	3
Post-election crisis	4
Brief description	4
National Resistance Plan	5
Anglophone Crisis	9
Brief description	9
Estimated results of the Anglophone crisis	11
Proposals for a solution from Maurice Kamto	12
International reactions	13
Boko Haram	14
Brief description	14
CRM initiative for soldiers and civilian victims	15



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# Post-election crisis

## Brief description

A presidential election was organized in Cameroon on October 7th, 2018. The day after the election, Maurice Kamto announced having "marked the historic penalty" at a press conference in Yaoundé, proclaiming himself the winner.

Despite this proclamation, he introduced an appeal to the Constitutional Council (the organization in charge of the management and proclamation of the results) to void the results in areas of Cameroon where his representatives were attacked and expelled from the polling stations, favoring fraud in favor of the outgoing President.

Three days of electoral litigation followed, based on the frauds generally observed during the ballot, the violence against the representatives of the opposition parties, the non respect of the rules during the electoral campaign (posting, duration of the campaign), the non-payment of campaign costs by the State and the decision taken by the MINTAD (Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization) in place of the NA (National Assembly) on the amounts and terms governing campaign expenses.



*Maurice Kamto, October 8th, 2018, announcing: "the historic penalty was scored"*

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## National Resistance Plan

At the end of the public debate at the Constitutional Court, broadcasted live on all Cameroonian media, all claims made by candidates to the presidential elections were rejected by the Constitutional Council. Maurice Kamto subsequently announced, while standing before the Constitutional Council, his movement's entry into resistance.

On October 22nd, 2018, the Constitutional Council proclaimed the outgoing candidate, Paul Biya, 86 years old, president for 36 years as winner with 71.28% followed by Maurice Kamto with 14.21%.

On the very same day, Maurice Kamto, launched the National Resistance Plan, which includes peaceful demonstrations in Cameroon and the Diaspora.



*Barrister Michelle Ndoki, victim of police violence on October 27th, 2018, during a peaceful demonstration of the National Resistance Plan*

These peaceful demonstrations were violently repressed by the Cameroonian Police who fired live bullets and ammunition, used tear gas and arbitrarily arrested, tortured, violated and detained several demonstrators.

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Despite the violence suffered during peaceful demonstrations, the National Resistance Plan continued with the following demands:

1. Recount of the ballot polling station by polling station and on the basis of the registration slips held by ELECTIONS CAMEROON (ELECAM), organization in charge of the elections.
2. Liberation of all the political prisoners linked to the post-election crisis and the conflict in the North West and South West of Cameroon.



*January 26th, 2019 in Douala, Celestin Djamen is targeted and receives a bullet in the thigh while he is demonstrating peacefully as part of the National Resistance Plan*

On January 26th, 2019, the first demonstrations took place from 9am, the police fired with real bullets on peaceful protesters, walking or motionless and with bare hands visibly placed on the head.

The demonstrations took place in the main cities of Cameroon (Douala, Yaounde, Bafoussam, Bafang, Dschang, Banganté, etc.) despite the increasingly violent repression of law enforcement agencies.

As soon as Maurice Kamto was informed of the the use of firearms on peaceful demonstrators in Douala, he decided to leave Yaoundé to pay visit to the wounded in Douala. He and his allies joined the peaceful protesters in Douala the same day.



*From left to right: Christian Penda Ekoka, Maurice Kamto, Albert Dzongang, January 26th, 2019 demonstrating peacefully in Douala as part of the National Resistance Plan*

While Maurice Kamto and his allies were in a private home, they were arrested on the night of January 28th, 2019 in Douala on the sole basis of a search warrant without the authority having been given by Court judge. Between 26th and 28th January 2019, more than 200 peaceful protesters were arrested, tortured and brought to the Yaounde Military Court.

They were accused of "gathering together, group rebellion, hostility to the fatherland, insurrection, disturbance of the public order, criminal association, incitement to insurrection, complicity", charges for which they risk the death penalty.

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New peaceful demonstrations were organized on June 1st and 8th, 2019 by Maurice Kamto and his allies from the main prison of Yaoundé where they are detained. They were again violently repressed, with more than 300 demonstrators arrested; the vast majority tortured and secretly detained for 3 to 10 days.



*People arrested on June 8th, 2019, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, during the peaceful demonstration organized by Maurice Kamto.*



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# Anglophone Crisis

## Brief description



*Lawyer protesting peacefully in Buea, October 2016th, beaten by the police.*

Claims of Anglophone Cameroonians teachers and lawyers were violently repressed in 2016. Prohibition of civil society associations, rallies and demonstrations, arrest and imprisonment of leaders by the Cameroon Government.



New demonstrations to say no to the use of excessive force by law enforcement took place. The Cameroonian government responded with even more violence and the declaration of war, on November 30th, 2017, to the separatists who organized themselves to address the violence of the Cameroonian government.



The separatist groups, finally, took arms to respond to the violent repression of the Cameroonian security and security forces.

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## Estimated results of the Anglophone crisis

176 partially or fully burned villages, more than 1850 deaths and 530,000 displaced, including about 30,000 refugees in Nigeria according to the International Crisis Group report of 2nd May 2019.



*The population of the Anglophone Cameroon regions fleeing gunshot between the Cameroonian armed and security forces and the separatists.*

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## Proposals for a solution from Maurice Kamto

- ✓ Immediate and unconditional release of all people arrested in connection with this conflict
- ✓ The declaration of cease-fire and the withdrawal of the armed forces, the return of the soldiers to the barracks (BIR, Gendarmerie, Armies); only the police must maintain law and order
- ✓ Creation of a commission in charge of the Anglophone Cameroonian's question
- ✓ Opening of an unconditionally inclusive national dialogue



*Women lead the march at the 22th September 2017 event for the return of peace in the Anglophone Cameroon regions.*

# International reactions



*Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights on a working visit to Cameroon reiterates the request, already made by her predecessor in 2017, to send United Nations Special Investigators to the North West and South West regions. It was rejected by the Cameroonian government as in 2017.*

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# Boko Haram

## Brief description

Boko Haram is an insurgent and terrorist movement that began jihadist incursions into Cameroon in 2014 to perpetrate war crimes and crimes against humanity.



*May 17, 2014, Paul Biya and 4 other African Heads of State declared war to Boko Haram from Paris*

Between June 2015 and June 2016, the death linked to Boko Haram's incursions totaled more than 486 according to Amnesty International.

The Cameroonian army repels the attacks at the cost of many lives and many wounded.

## CRM initiative for soldiers and civilian victims

It is in this context that on April 15th, 16th and 17th, 2015, the political party of Maurice Kamto, Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM), launches a national campaign of blood donation for the soldiers and the civil populations victims of the Book Haram attacks.

The CRM has been accompanied in this humanitarian project by both the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Defense for technical issues.

**Don de sang – Blood donation**  
**Pour la patrie – For the fatherland**

**Initiative**  
Mouvement pour la Renaissance du Cameroun  
Cameroon Renaissance Movement

**Appui technique/Technical support**  
Ministère de la Santé publique  
Ministère de la Défense

**Dates : 15, 16, 17**  
**Avril (April) 2015**

**Maroua : Hôpital régional**  
**Douala : Hôpital Laquintinie**  
**Yaoundé : Hôpital militaire et**  
**Hôpital central**

All concerned citizens and foreigners  
Come in large numbers!!!

*Tous nos soldats, militaires et civils!!!*  
*Все наши воины!!!*

**Pour la vie de nos soldats et populations civiles victimes des conflits armés**  
Contacts - Yaoundé : 222 71 82 35 – 667 89 31 04 – 699 87 49 41 / Douala : 677 57 33 50 – Maroua : 699 31 58 23



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