

Press release – September 16th, 2020

The political and humanitarian crisis in Cameroon

A peaceful demonstration of support for the Cameroonian people will take place on September 19, 2020, at 3.30 p.m. at the Place du Casino, in Bern. The situation on the ground is deteriorating and fears the worst.

For 38 years, Cameroon has been chaired by Paul Biya (87), whose re-election in October 2018 was marked by numerous irregularities.

Since 2016, a civil war has raged in the two English-speaking regions of Cameroon (North-West and South-West) having already caused several thousand deaths. Images showing scenes of executions are published online and demonstrate the responsibility of the army.

After denying the facts and under pressure from NGOs like Human Rights Watch, the Cameroonian army finally admitted being the author of the Ngarbuh massacre in the North-West region where 14 people including 11 children were killed. lost his life.

Insensitive to this disastrous socio-political reality and to appeals from both civil society, opposition parties, the African Union and the European Parliament in favour of an overhaul of the electoral code and a resolution of the crisis in the English-speaking regions Paul Biya has decided to convene the electorate for regional elections on December 6, 2020. Faced with this decision, Cameroonians from within and from the diaspora have decided to undertake peaceful protest marches to express their fed up and demand a democratic transition.

A demonstration is planned for this purpose in some European and North American capitals on Saturday, September 19, 2020. For Switzerland, it will be held in Bern instead of the Casino, as a prelude to the peaceful gatherings that will take place in Cameroon on September 22, 2020.

Cameroonian authorities have already banned all demonstrations, which is against the constitution and threatens retaliation for any violators. We hope, however, that the Cameroonian government will not oppose this constitutional right of Cameroonians to express their opinion by using violence against peaceful demonstrators, as has already been the case on repeated occasions in the past. The episode of the attack on journalist Adrien Krause of the RTS by the henchmen of President Paul Biya during the demonstration on June 26, 2019, in front of the intercontinental hotel in Geneva is not unknown to you and gives a clear overview of the level of repression of the Cameroonian regime, which did not deprive itself of exposing its violence in foreign lands.

If the protests were to be violently suppressed on September 22, which is unfortunately very likely, we are considering, as support, organizing further rallies in front of the Cameroonian embassy in Bern until the transition. democracy desired by the Cameroonian people is realized.

We thank you for your interest in this message and please believe in expressing our best feelings.

For any additional information on developments in the situation in Cameroon, you can contact Dr Hervais Kamdem (076 337 37 17), referent member of the association fighting for the respect of human rights on this project.