



**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION**  
**MINISTERE DE LA COMMUNICATION**

## **GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION**

**RESPONSE OF THE CAMEROONIAN GOVERNMENT TO  
THE UNGROUNDED AND OUTRAGEOUS ASSERTIONS  
CONTAINED IN THE REPORT OF THE NGO “HUMAN  
RIGHTS WATCH”,  
PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

### **MINCOM PRESS BRIEFING**

### **STATEMENT**

**OF**

**H.E. RENE EMMANUEL SADI**  
***MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION***

**Yaounde, February 27, 2020**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**The Non-Governmental Organization called “Human Rights Watch” published on February 25, 2020, an overtly biased and essentially incriminating report against the National Defense and Security Forces, entitled: “Cameroon: Civilians Massacred in Separatist Area”.**

**The said report, unjustifiably, once again, points to "the murder of twenty-one civilians, including a woman and thirteen children, in an armed attack carried out on 14 February 2020 in the locality of Ngarbuh, Donga-Mantung Division, North-West Region".**

**In addition, the National Defence and Security Forces are accused of having “burning five homes, pillaging scores of other properties, and beating residents, accompanied by several members of the Mbororo Fulani ethnic group”.**

**The Government of the Republic totally rejects the allegations contained in this “Human Rights Watch” report and reminds the national and international community that, following the incident in Ngarbuh, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, HIS EXCELLENCY PAUL BIYA, has ordered an investigation with a view to thoroughly clarifying all aspects of the incident.**

**While the investigation is ongoing, Human Rights Watch, like several other groups claiming to be political activists or human rights defenders, has been quick to publish a false balance sheet of this regrettable incident, while describing in great detail and in a**

**fanciful way the alleged events and the alleged perpetrators, without having carried out a visit to the area or an investigation.**

**The Government of Cameroon strongly denounces this approach, which undeniably illustrates the bad faith of these organizations which are tirelessly determined to undermine the image of Cameroon and the stability of our Institutions.**

**It should first of all be noted that it is the methodology of the research that is supposed to back this “Human Rights Watch” report that is questionable, and therefore reflects the lightness of the deceitful approach of this NGO.**

**It should be indicated that “Human Rights Watch” has no material evidence to support its assertions, in view of the vacuity of the data presented to the opinion based on elements that are not grounded on any serious investigation.**

**Everyone can notice that the report of this NGO, which is, by the way, accustomed to ungrounded accusations against Cameroon, builds on alleged testimonies from generally unidentified sources whose reliability no one can assert.**

**We can also note that even on the assumption that the testimonies are real, these are always against the Cameroonian Government because they are obtained through coercion from populations who are either unwillingly subservient to the terrorists or threatened of retaliation they might suffer, should they give any testimony challenging the secessionist armed bands.**

**This fear of testifying objectively or showing a public stance that might offend the terrorists also does not spare certain high-ranking figures in international organizations and even moral authorities, including religious and traditional leaders or even certain political leaders, forced to silence in fear of retaliation.**

**In addition, “Human Rights Watch” declares having relied on satellite images showing burning houses in the locality of Ngarbuh, thus incriminating the Cameroonian Defence and Security Forces.**

**Therefore, the question that we may ask is whether the existence of such images is sufficient evidence that the Cameroonian Army is the author of said fires. Certainly no.**

**In its various communications on this incident, the Government itself has indicated that it was during the clashes that took place between six elite elements of the Cameroonian Armed Forces and the heavily armed secessionists that a fire broke out in the fortified refuge containing explosives and flammable products stored by the said rebels.**

**This was followed by explosions and tongues of fire that spread to nearby homes.**

**In any case, what finally convinces us of the absolute bias of “Human Rights Watch” in the drafting of its report is the proven links between the author of the said report and terrorist groups.**

**The Cameroonian Government has in fact been in possession for the past few days of irrefutable evidence establishing links between, on the one hand, Mrs Ilaria ALLEGROZZI, presented as a senior researcher at the NGO “Human Rights Watch”, author of the biased report incriminating the Cameroonian Armed Forces, and on the other hand, numerous secessionist terrorists who have regularly made available to her and at her request, since the beginning of the crisis in the North-West and South-West Regions, photographs, videos, as well as information on their various abominations, so that they may be used as arguments against our Defence and Security Forces.**

**With regard to the links between the criminal gangs that sow terror and desolation among the populations of the two Regions involved, the arrest on 24 February 2020 of a dangerous secessionist terrorist named NFOR YACUBU, and the appraisal of his mobile phone, made it possible to establish that this person maintains close relations of active complicity with Mrs Ilaria ALLEGROZZI.**

**Thus, in several of their exchanges by telephone messages, the latter asked the terrorist, who was then presented as a specialist in faking images for secessionist propaganda purposes, beyond all the crimes, violence and illicit trafficking in which he is engaged on a daily basis, to provide her with trumped-up visual documents, photographs and videos showing the Cameroonian Defence and Security Forces committing violence against civilians.**

**In order to achieve this, we know today that most of these terrorists disguise themselves as police officers, gendarmes and soldiers, wearing the uniforms of the National Defence and Security Forces, to deceive the populations and commit the most unspeakable violence under the label of the Cameroonian army.**

**In addition, the images provided to Mrs ALLEGROZI of “Human Rights Watch” are cheerfully presented to support the violence attributed to the Cameroonian Defence and Security Forces.**

**In another of their multiple conversations, Mrs ALLEGROZI asks her sidekick, the secessionist terrorist NFOR YACUBU, “to always take the precaution of deleting all the contents of their conversations on his phone, for security reasons.”**

**This means that, in view of the many other elements emanating from the exploitation of the said terrorist, the Government is today in a position to affirm that the alleged investigations of Human Rights Watch in the North-West and South-West Regions have been limited to the untruths invented by her acolyte, the terrorist NFOR YACUBU, using advanced matting techniques.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**This is how the terrible lie engine set up by Mrs Ilaria ALLEGROZI works, and which “Human Rights Watch” uses in a despicable manner, with the aim of systematically stigmatizing the Cameroonian Armed Forces, and thus destabilizing our institutions.**

**It is undoubtedly important to point out that Mrs Ilaria ALLEGROZI, who a few years ago was employed by Amnesty International, before joining Human Rights Watch, is not unknown to Cameroon. The Cameroonian authorities decided to expel her from the national territory on 12 April 2019 and to consequently stop all collaboration with the NGO that employs her, due to the fact that the information she spreads about our country are permanently inaccurate and fallacious.**

**We can therefore understand the particular harassment with which Mrs ALLEGROZI has, since then, been waging a real vendetta primarily directed against our country, especially against the National Defence and Security Forces and the Cameroonian Government, under the false pretext of human right protection.**

**It should also be noted that the pernicious maneuvers of the NGO “Human Rights Watch” are today denounced by several national and international media actors, as well as by civil society organisations.**

**It is the case, for instance, of a news package published by Agence France Presse on its website dedicated to Fact-Checkings, entitled, “Vrais drames, fausses informations : quand les réseaux sociaux alimentent les tensions au Cameroun” (Real dramas, false information: when social networks fuel tensions in Cameroon).**

**Through the said dossier, Agence France Presse reveals to what extent the situation of tension prevailing in the North-West and South-West Regions is**

**being aggravated by the sponsors of this crisis and by the supporters of the secessionist armed bands, through social networks.**

**In the course of these manipulations, the partisans of secessionism multiply false and misleading publications, taking images out of their contexts, to illustrate the atrocities which they attribute to the Cameroonian Army.**

**This can also be noticed in the publications released on 15 February 2020 on the Ngarbuh incident, where images taken in a West African country following a traffic accident were used to support the thesis of massacres allegedly perpetrated by the Cameroonian Army in its fight against terrorist gangs in the North-West and South-West Regions.**

**And that's not all.**

**As recently as this Thursday, 27 February 2020, it has been established that persons whose names are published by certain Non-Governmental Organisations as being among the alleged victims of Ngarbuh, are indeed alive and residing as internally displaced persons in the cities of Yaounde, Douala, Bafoussam and Bamenda.**

**In addition, while Human Rights Watch endeavours to present members of the Mbororo ethnic group as militias co-authors of the Ngarbuh massacres and allies of the Government in this cause, another civil society organization reports on the violence and other abuses, as well as looting and cattle rustling, suffered by the said minority populations, as a result of the**



**secessionist armed gangs, which during a recent attack reportedly killed some 40 people, including children under 5 years of age.**

**This situation is clearly a serious one but does not seem to move Human Rights Watch any more than the murder in unbearable conditions of Mrs Florence AYAFOR, as well as that of hundreds of members of the Defense and Security Forces, beheaded, emasculated, tortured or buried alive by secessionist armed gangs, children killed, kidnapped and raped, for going to school, teachers murdered or raped, for daring to defy the orders to shut down schools, etc.**

**Images of some of these atrocities will be presented to you at the end of this statement.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**This collusion of certain NGOs with terrorist circles extends to the health sector, where it has been noted that Médecins Sans Frontières has practically transformed certain medical reception centres into refuges for separatist secessionists, refusing to inform the authorities, as required, of the presence of any gunshot-wounded person in their health facilities.**

**With regard to our Defence and Security Forces, which clearly constitute the main target of the slayers of our Nation, we must ask ourselves what are the underlying reasons for the persecution to which they are subjected, even though they are engaged in a mission that is both civic and republican, to preserve territorial integrity and to secure the populations and their property.**

**We avail ourselves of this opportunity to, once again, express to the Cameroonian Armed Forces, the appreciation and support of the entire Cameroonian people, as well as the very high confidence of the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, for their sacrifice, dedication and professionalism in the exercise of their lofting mission.**

**It should also be recalled that, in the face of the hordes of outlaw secessionists, determined to do everything possible to annihilate the multiple efforts undertaken by the Government to restore normal life in the North-West and South-West Regions, that it is thanks to our Defence and Security Forces that we have recorded significant progress on the ground, in particular the resumption of education in schools, high schools, colleges and universities, as well as the resumption of the socio-economic activities of the people, who are going about their occupations with increasing serenity.**

**The Army that is being mobbed today by some is the same Army whose prowess in fighting Boko Haram terrorist sect was celebrated yesterday. We all know that this terrorist group has been reduced to its simplest expression in the Far North Region.**

**The said National Defence and Security Forces are the ones who today carry Cameroon's flag high in international peace missions throughout the world, with equal bravery, professionalism and sense of discipline.**

**Moreover, we should praisefully point out that the National Defence and Security Forces go well beyond**

**their strictly military missions to carry out numerous assistance and social support actions for the populations.**

**Our Armed Forces are working alongside the population to provide them with multifaceted support in terms of medical care, educational support and rehabilitation of basic infrastructure damaged by terrorist acts.**

**How then can we understand that such an army be accused of turning over the weapons put at its disposal to defend the Republic against the populations it protects on a daily basis?**

**To understand this, one must admit that in the conspiracy against our institutions, the Cameroonian Armed Forces constitute a real bulwark against which the enemies of the Republic have decided to attack in order to bring down the national edifice, relying on poorly concealed interests, and which, as days go by, are dropping their masks.**

**Fortunately, the Cameroonian people, in its vast majority sees right through it. It is fully aware of the issues of the day, and intends to remain vigilant and mobilized to thwart destabilizing maneuvers wherever they may come from, in solidarity with its Army and confident in the enlightened leadership of the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, HIS EXCELLENCE PAUL BIYA.**

**It is highly likely that organizations like “Human Rights Watch” will continue to persist in misinforming and manipulating the opinion.**

**However, in the face of this obstinacy, the Cameroonian Government, for its part, intends to make every effort, together with its partners of good will, to bring about a definitive resolution of the situation in the North-West and South-West Regions.**

**Thank you for your kind attention.**