

Manifesto

for the Restoration of
Sovereignty to the People
of

British

Southern

Cameroons

+ A Historical and Legal
Case

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Executive Summary

This document presents a consolidated historical, legal, and political case for the restoration of sovereignty to the British Southern Cameroons. It argues that the 1961 union with La République du Cameroun was an act of illegal annexation, resulting from a flawed United Nations decolonization process. Following six decades of systemic oppression and a declared war in 2017, the people of the Southern Cameroons assert an incontestable right to remedial independence. This manifesto outlines a strategic, multi-phase pathway to achieve sovereign statehood through legal legitimation, diplomatic isolation of the occupying power, and a UN-supervised act of self-determination.

1. Manifesto

The Unfinished Task of History

1.1 Preamble

We, the people of the British Southern Cameroons, heirs to a territory placed under United Nations Trusteeship in 1946, hereby declare our irrevocable resolve to complete our journey to sovereign independence. Our manifesto demands the rectification of a profound historical injustice and the consummation of a decolonization process illegally truncated in 1961.

For six decades, we have endured the consequences of a flawed plebiscite, an illegitimate annexation, and a brutal occupation. Our distinct Anglo-Saxon heritage, Common Law jurisprudence, and educational system have been systematically assaulted. Our resources have been plundered, our leaders marginalised, and our people subjected to gross human rights violations.

The war declared upon us in 2017 is definitive proof that our aspiration for dignity and self-rule can no longer be negotiated within the colonial borders imposed by Yaoundé. Grounded in immutable principles of international law, we present this document as our strategic blueprint for liberation.

1.2 Part I: Our Foundational Truths

- 1.** The Illegitimacy of the 1961 Union: The United Nations-sponsored plebiscite of February 11, 1961, violated our fundamental right to self-determination by denying the option of sovereign independence. The subsequent process lacked a valid international treaty of union, constituting an act of annexation.
- 2.** The Illegality of the Occupation: The dissolution of the Federal Republic in 1972 and the renaming of the country in 1984 were unilateral acts confirming annexation. La République du Cameroun is, in international law, a belligerent occupying power in our homeland.
- 3.** The Right to Remedial Independence: Having suffered decades of systematic oppression, cultural erosion, and a war of extermination, our right to remedial secession is incontestable under international law

1.3 Part II: Our Vision & Principles

We envision the Restored Republic of Southern Cameroon as:

- 1.** A Sovereign Democratic Republic founded on popular sovereignty and the rule of law.
- 2.** A Beacon of Justice with a constitutional order rooted in the Common Law tradition.
- 3.** A Model of Inclusive Governance via a federal system with significant devolution.
- 4.** An Economic Powerhouse built on social-market principles and transparent stewardship.
- 5.** A Responsible International Citizen committed to peace and cooperation.

Guiding Principles: Restorative Justice, Transparency, Anti-

Corruption, Unity in Diversity, Gender Equality.

1.4 Part III: The Strategic Pathway to Sovereignty

Our struggle will be waged on four simultaneous fronts: Legal, Diplomatic, Political, and Moral.

- Phase 1: Legal Legitimation & Global Mobilization
- Secure a UN General Assembly resolution requesting an ICJ Advisory Opinion on the legality of the 1961 union.
- Campaign for the UN Decolonization Committee to re-list the territory.
- Secure a ruling from the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights on the violation of self-determination.
- Phase 2: Diplomatic Isolation & Coalition Building
- Form a "Group of Friends of Southern Cameroon" with key nations.
- Lobby for targeted sanctions against architects of the conflict.
- Hold Cameroon accountable within the Commonwealth and La Francophonie.
- Phase 3: International Administration & Referendum
- Secure a UN Security Council resolution establishing a UN Transitional Administration (UNTASC).
- Conduct a UN-supervised referendum with a clear independence question.
- Deploy a UN peacekeeping force to guarantee security.
- Phase 4: Transition to Independence & Statehood
- Convene a Constitutional Convention.
- Build core state institutions with international support.
- Declare sovereignty and seek recognition, overseen by an equitable settlement arbitration.

1.5 Part IV: Covenant with Our People & The World

- To Our People: We pledge unity, transparent interim governance in liberated zones, and preparation for statehood.
- To La République du Cameroun: We offer a structured, UN-charted path to peace in return for cessation of war and engagement.
- To the International Community: Support this legal pathway to rectify historical failure and prevent perpetual war.

2. Historical Analysis: From Internal Self-Government to Disputed Union (1954-1962)

This section details the political awakening of the Southern Cameroons, from gaining internal self-government in 1954 to the contested union in 1961.

2.1 1954-1959

The Lyttelton Constitution granted internal self-government. The political landscape divided between Dr. E.M.L. Endeley's CPNC (favouring Nigeria) and John Ngu Foncha's KNDP (advocating secession from Nigeria and reunification with French Cameroun).

2.2 1959-1961

UN Resolution 1350 (XIII) restricted the plebiscite options to joining Nigeria or Cameroon, excluding sovereign independence—a fundamental flaw. The 1961 vote (70.5% for Cameroon) was a mandate for Foncha's promised

federation, not a unitary state.

2.3 The Foumban Conference (1961)

Was not a constitutional conference of equals. Ahidjo presented a pre-drafted, centralized constitution. Critical guarantees for Anglophone autonomy were weak.

2.4 UN Abdication

Resolution 1608 (XV) terminated the trusteeship without ensuring the promised federal structure, a procedural failure.

2.5 October 1, 1961

Marked a transfer of administrative authority, not a declaration of independence for the Southern Cameroons. The territory was subsumed into the pre-existing Republic.

Conclusion: The period reveals a distinct political identity, a UN process that violated full self-determination, and a union that failed to confer sovereignty, creating the foundational grievance of the contemporary crisis.

3. The Declaration of War: Context and Escalation (2016-2017)

The 2017 declaration was the culmination of 56 years of grievance.

- **Prologue (1961-2016):** Grievances included constitutional erasure (1972, 1984), systemic marginalization, and legal/educational assimilation.
- **The Catalyst (2016):** Peaceful protests by lawyers

and teachers against Francophone impositions were met with brutal state violence, internet shutdowns, and derision by President Biya, radicalizing the populace.

- **Radicalization (Early 2017):** "Ghost Town" protests and the emergence of an "Interim Government" shifted demands to full independence.
- **The Declaration (October 2017):** President Biya's public threat to "give you war" and "exterminate" separatists, followed by the military's violent suppression of symbolic independence rallies on October 1, marked the operational start of a full-scale counter-insurgency war framed as anti-terrorism.

4. Legal Analysis: Status as an Annexed and Occupied Territory

A three-pillar argument establishes the territory's status as annexed and occupied.

1. **Flawed Decolonization:** The 1961 plebiscite violated UNGA Resolution 1514 by excluding independence. The UN abdicated its "sacred trust" by terminating oversight without ensuring a fair political outcome.
2. **Absence of a Valid Treaty:** No signed, ratified, and UN-deposited treaty of union exists between the UK, Cameroon, and Southern Cameroons representatives. The Fomuban accords were domestic constitutional proposals, not an instrument of international law.
3. **Fact of Annexation and Occupation:** The events of 1961, 1972 (abolition of federation), and 1984 (renaming) constitute a process of annexation. The use of sustained military force since 2017 to suppress the right to self-determination meets the criteria for a state of belligerent occupation under international humanitarian law.

Legal Conclusion: The Southern Cameroons is a case of unfinished decolonization and belligerent occupation. The appropriate remedy is international adjudication (ICJ Advisory Opinion) and a UN-supervised act of self-determination to rectify the 1961 flaw

5. Chronicle of the Anglophone War: Atrocities and Resistance (2017-Present)

The conflict has evolved through brutal phases:

- **Phase 1 (2017-2018):** Military "cordon-and-search" operations, village burnings, and extrajudicial killings sparked the formation of armed separatist (ADF) groups.
- **Phase 2 (2019-2021):** Entrenchment and fragmentation. Government use of elite BIR units and militias; separatist enforcement of boycotts and infighting. Humanitarian catastrophe peaks (>700,000 IDPs).
- **Phase 3 (2022-Present):** Escalation to "total war." Government use of airstrikes and systematic village burning; separatist use of IEDs and internal assassinations.

Documented Abuses and Crimes:

- 1. By State Forces:** Willful killing of civilians (Ngarbuh Massacre), torture, rape as a weapon, deliberate destruction of property, enforced disappearances. Acts bear hallmarks of genocide (killing, causing serious harm, inflicting destructive conditions, forcible transfer of children).
- 2. By Armed Groups:** Murder/mutilation of "collaborators," kidnapping for ransom, attacks on schools and hospitals, use of child soldiers.

The conflict is a protracted, brutal struggle characterized by the systematic terrorization of civilians and a climate of

total impunity.

6. Blueprint for Legal and Effective Attainment of Independence

A phased, UN-centric roadmap based on the "unfinished decolonization" thesis.

- **Phase 1:** Foundation Building (0-24 months): Secure a UNGA request for an ICJ Advisory Opinion on the 1961 process. Campaign for re-inscription on the UN Decolonization list.
- **Phase 2:** Framework for a Referendum (12-36 months): Lobby for a UNSC resolution establishing a UN Transitional Administration (UNTASC). Engage UN-mediated dialogue solely on referendum terms.
- **Phase 3:** Self-Determination & Transition (24-48 months): Execute a UN-supervised referendum. Upon a vote for independence, a 24-month transition under UNTASC to draft a constitution, build institutions, and equitably settle assets/liabilities.
- **Critical Factors:** Managing Cameroon's response via incentives/disincentives, ensuring internal Southern Cameroons cohesion, and concurrent humanitarian action.

7. Funding Strategy for the Consummation of Independence

A targeted strategy for funding the political-legal pathway to sovereignty.

Phase 1 (Legal/Political Case)

Fund legal opinions, diplomatic missions, and advocacy. Target donors: UNPO, Peretti Foundation, EU Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Phase 2 (Orchestrating the Referendum)

Fund focused mediation, UN engagement, and referendum administration. Target donors: Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, private peace process philanthropies.

Phase 3 (Transition to Statehood)

Fund constitution-making, institution-building, and stabilization. Target donors: UN Peacebuilding Fund, World Bank, Commonwealth.

Core Principles:

No funding for offensive military action; absolute transparency; inclusive process.

8. Conclusion: The Inalienable Destiny

The cause of the British Southern Cameroons is grounded in justice, law, and a resolve forged through suffering. This document outlines a credible, legal, and structured pathway to rectify the historical injustice of 1961 and achieve the sovereignty that is our inalienable right. The time for restoration is now.
