

PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

Project Title: The Southern Cameroons Justice Initiative: A Petition to the UN for the Completion of Decolonization

Submitting Organization: Rural World Resources International (RWRI),
Southern Cameroons

Date: 25 Jan 2026

Contact: [Secure Email/Communication Channel]

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are preparing a landmark petition to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) seeking the re-inscription of the former British Southern Cameroons as a Non-Self-Governing Territory. This legal-historical petition aims to rectify the 1961 violation of our people's right to self-determination—the root cause of today's devastating armed conflict. We seek strategic partnerships and support to ensure this petition is forensically documented, legally impeccable, and effectively presented to trigger UN action toward a peaceful, legal resolution.

The Ask: We invite your organization to partner with us by providing [select one: legal expertise / evidence verification / advocacy partnership / funding] for this urgent initiative.

II. THE PROBLEM: AN UNRESOLVED HISTORICAL INJUSTICE FUELING ATROCITIES

The British Southern Cameroons was a UN Trust Territory (1946-1961). Its decolonization was fatally flawed:

1. **Violation of Self-Determination (1961):** The UN-supervised plebiscite denied the option of sovereign independence.
2. The subsequent **union with La République du Cameroun lacked a valid international treaty**
3. La République du Cameroun invaded and established a *de facto* annexation of Southern Cameroon in October 1961
4. **Consolidation of Occupation (1972-1984):** The unilateral abolition of the federation (with no union treaty) and renaming of the country erased Southern Cameroon's political identity.
5. **Current Genocidal Conflict (2017-Present):** La République du Cameroun's violent response to peaceful protests in 2016 ignited a war. UN reports document **war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts bearing the hallmarks of genocide:** over 6,000 killed, 800,000 displaced, 400+ villages burned, systematic torture, and a humanitarian blockade.

Core Issue: This is not simply a civil war. It is the violent consequence of an unfinished decolonization process. Addressing the symptom (violence) without the cause (illegal annexation) guarantees perpetual conflict.

III. THE SOLUTION: A LEGAL PETITION TO THE UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

Our project will submit a formal petition to the UN C-24, requesting it to:

1. **Re-inscribe** the Southern Cameroons on the List of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

2. **Recommend** that the UN General Assembly establish a process to complete the territory's self-determination under UN supervision.

Why the C-24?

- **Mandate:** It oversees UNGA Resolution 1514 (Declaration on Decolonization).
- **Precedent:** It maintains the list of territories awaiting full self-government.
- **Procedure:** It accepts petitions from peoples of non-self-governing territories.
- **Outcome:** A positive finding creates an irresistible momentum for broader UN action (Security Council, ICJ).

The Petition will demonstrate:

- **Historical Illegality:** The 1961 process violated the UN Charter.
- **Contemporary Suffering:** The annexation's consequence is a human rights catastrophe.
- **Legal Right to Remedy:** The continuing right to self-determination is *erga omnes*.

IV. PROJECT COMPONENTS & REQUESTED SUPPORT

We seek partners for the following key components:

Component	Activities	Requested Partner Support
1. Legal Research & Drafting	Historical/legal analysis; drafting petition and annexes.	Pro bono legal expertise from international law clinics or jurists. Review of legal arguments.
2. Evidence Documentation	Systematically verifying atrocity crimes (2017-2024); collecting survivor testimonies.	Methodological guidance from human rights NGOs. Secure technology for data collection/storage.
3. Coalition Building	Unifying Southern Cameroons civil society and diaspora behind the petition.	Facilitation support or best practices in coalition management.
4. UN Advocacy & Submission	Physically presenting the petition in New York;	Advocacy access to UN missions. Logistical/funding

Component	Activities	Requested Partner Support
	briefing C-24 member states.	support for a delegation.
5. Strategic Communications	Producing a media kit, documentary short, and managing narrative.	Communications partnership to amplify the petition's launch globally.

V. WHY PARTNER WITH US?

- **Ground Truth:** We are a local NGO operating within the territory, with direct access to evidence, victims, and communities.
- **Strategic Clarity:** We focus on the **root cause** (illegal annexation) using the **most appropriate UN mechanism** (C-24).
- **High Impact, Low Cost:** The petition is a targeted intervention that can unlock major UN processes for conflict resolution.
- **Alignment with Partner Missions:** This project directly advances goals of **human rights protection, atrocity prevention, conflict resolution, and upholding international law**.

Similar Successful Precedents: The petitions of East Timor (pre-1999) and Western Sahara to the C-24 were critical in maintaining international scrutiny and advancing their causes.

VI. PROJECT TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS

- **Months 1-3:** Core research, evidence collection, coalition finalization.
- **Months 4-5:** Drafting, legal review, translation.
- **Month 6:** Production and finalization.
- **Month 7-8:** Submission and advocacy at the UN C-24 session (likely mid-2025).

Immediate Next Step: We would be grateful for an initial conversation to explore where your organization's expertise and our initiative align. We can provide a more detailed project outline and evidence dossiers.

VII. ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION

Rural World Resources International (RWRI) is a non-governmental organization based in **Southern Cameroon** that focuses on human rights, sustainable development and clean energy solutions in rural areas. For the past 10 years, we have been at the forefront of documenting human rights violations, providing humanitarian reporting, and advocating for a just and legal solution to the conflict. Our team comprises [mention key expertise, e.g., lawyers, researchers, community liaisons].

"The completion of the decolonization of the Southern Cameroons is not a political luxury; it is a legal necessity and the only foundation for lasting peace."

We look forward to the possibility of working together.

[Your Name/Title]

[Your NGO Name]