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Press release.

CPI Survey Results on the Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon

Washington DC- January 25, 2024 - English-speaking Cameroonians are almost evenly divided on the question of which form of state they want to live in. A just-concluded opinion poll suggests that about half the Anglophone population of the country want a break from the current political circumstances and the creation of an independent state. At the same time, the other half prefer a federal arrangement of two or ten states in Cameroon.

The survey was conducted by the Cameroon Peace Initiative-CPI, a US-based non-profit organization, between October 20 and December 20, 2023, to gauge the views of Anglophone Cameroonians on the structure of national government, which has emerged as the most critical and contentious issue in efforts to resolve the ongoing crisis in the country.

The survey consisted of five options that gave respondents an opportunity to identify the governmental structure they would want to see in Cameroon: a decentralized unitary state; a two-state federation; a ten-state federation; maintenance of the status quo (centralized government and ten administrative units); and a return to the pre-unification status and independence for the former West Cameroon.

The respondents consisted exclusively of Anglophone Cameroonians residing in urban and rural areas in the country, and in the diaspora. Seventy-six percent of them are men and 24 percent are women. Fifty-one percent of the respondents advocate for separation and statehood, while forty-one percent stand for federalism of some form within current borders.

This survey, the first phase of a broader effort to end the violence and find a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict, was conducted online using Google.com.

CPI believes that resolving the crisis will require the collective efforts of a critical mass of Cameroonian citizens who agree that the current form of the state is not sustainable. The organization will work to identify citizens in and out of the country who are willing to join forces through formal and informal groupings to discuss and chart a way forward for genuine peace in Cameroon.

Let us be reminded that violence broke out in November 2017 after the military was deployed to quell demonstrations by English-speaking lawyers and teachers protesting increased marginalization of the country's Anglophone minority by the central government in Yaoundé.

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