

Armed gendarmes and policemen storm SCNC meeting

Armed gendarmes and policemen stormed the SCNC meeting on 27 July 2013. The SCNC members who were arrested were ultimately dropped at three different locations for incarceration, and 30 men and 20 women have been cramped into one tiny cell with no ventilation and water. One man is sick and has received no medical attention, and one woman is pregnant and in distress because of the tight room and poor sanitary facilities. Each time such wanton arrests are made, members of the SCNC are usually subjected to many weeks or months of detention without charge or trial.

On Saturday, 27 July 2013, at about 2:30 pm, a combined contingent of armed gendarmes and policemen invaded the premises of Mama Monica in Kumbo, where over 120 delegates from the National Territory were attending a Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) meeting, chaired by Mr. Nfor Ngala Nfor, Acting National Chairman. The meeting had barely begun when the security men swept on them and ransacked the home of Mama Monica. Nfor Ngala Nfor is barely recovering from an invasive surgery, and requires emergency medication and nutritional support in the recovery process.

The SCNC Members who were taken were finally dropped at three different locations for incarceration at the Gendarmerie Brigade (40 members), Police Station (30), and the Gendarmerie Company (50). Here 30 men and 20 women have been cramped into one tiny cell with no ventilation and water.

Among the arrested people is Pa Solomon Ngong (82), sick with no medical attention since Sunday, and Mrs. Evelyn Angum, who is heavily pregnant and under distress because of the tight room and poor sanitary facilities. We fear she may lose her baby if urgent medical attention is not provided.

So far the Security and Administrative Authorities have not made any statement. It is a common phenomenon that each time such wanton arrests are made, members of the SCNC are usually subjected to many weeks or months of detention without charge or trial.

In the past 50 years, the Government of *La République du Cameroun* (LRC), in disregard of any civilized norms, has constructed and perfected a system of impunity designed purposely to deter the people of Southern Cameroons from challenging its varied policies of annexation and occupation. It has committed extrajudicial killings, systematic torture, deprivation of liberty, and constant arrest and detention of citizens of Southern Cameroons. These methods were condemned in the ruling of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) in Communication 266/2003 pitting Southern Cameroons and *La République du Cameroun*. Despite the demand of the Commission for LRC to investigate such acts of impunity, compensate victims, and punish perpetrators, the Government of LRC has continued unabated in its course of violence against peaceful protesters.

We urge the Community of Nations to condemn these acts of violence against our people, and encourage our friends and other communities to bring to the attention of their respective governments, regional bodies, and other advocate groups, the plight of the detained members of the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC).

We the people of Southern Cameroons will not be deterred by these acts of intimidation and targeted violence against unarmed civilians.

For and on behalf of the people of Southern Cameroons,

Dr. Ngwang Gumne
Chairman SCAPO

Aba Cho Lucas
Secretary General SCYL