

FRULAW CHAMBERS

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To: The Rt. Hon. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey
Secretary General of the Commonwealth
Common Wealth Secretariat
Marlborough House
Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
United Kingdom.

Re: **APPLICATION REQUESTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUSPEND SENDING
ELECTION MONITORS TO CAMEROUN FOR THE October 12, 2025, PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS.**

Dear Secretary-General Botchwey,

We are Lead Counsel for the Ambazonian Prisoners of Conscience – APOC. These are approximately five thousand (5,000) prisoners who are incarcerated all over the Southern Cameroons (Ambazonia) and La Republique du Cameroun (LRC) because of the armed conflict between the military of LRC and Ambazonian Separatist Self Defense fighters.

In effect, we are writing, on behalf of the APOC and other concerned stakeholders, to register our deep concern about the upcoming presidential elections in Cameroun, scheduled for October 12, 2025. In the context of the prevailing circumstances, we respectfully request that the Commonwealth, through your esteemed Office, withdraw its election monitors from this ill-fated election.

Madam Secretary General, Cameroun joined the Commonwealth on November 1, 1995. This move was significant because La Republique du Cameroun, was a former French colony. The only ties to the United Kingdom and its Anglo Saxon background was its botched and unconsummated union with Southern Cameroons.

Having acquired prestigious membership within the Commonwealth because of its claimed ties to Southern Cameroons, it is unthinkable and unconscionable that LRC has since continued its michiavelic attempt to assimilate and eliminate the linguistic, common law, educational and cultural heritage of Southern Cameroons – including their cherished tradition of free and fair elections.

It is a glaring fact that LRC's President declared war on Southern Cameroons on November 30, 2017, and has since then prosecuted the said war with impunity on the Southern Cameroons with untold nefarious humanitarian effects. These effects have been recorded by international humanitarian organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the Norwegian Refugee Council.

These disastrous human rights violations range from abductions, kidnappings, refoulement, internally displaced persons, refugees to other Commonwealth Countries especially Nigeria and Ghana, razing of villages, extra judicial killings, murders, all forms of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, rape as a weapon of war, unfair trials of civilians in military tribunals and travesty of justice, through the failure to respect the rights of due process.

Objective International monitoring sources put the figures at: 6,000 deaths; 1,000,000 internally displaced persons; 80,000 refugees in Nigeria and 50,000 in Ghana; 700 villages razed; hundreds of thousands of children deprived of education; economic devastation; incalculable human rights abuses including extrajudicial killings, torture, rape, refoulement, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances.

Three Federal Courts in Abuja have declared actions by LRC unconstitutional, illegal and unconscionable in the following Judgments:

1. *Abuja High Court Judgment of 1st March 2019, in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/85/2018 Between Sisiku Ayuk Tabe & 12 ors VS The National Security Adviser and the AGF of Nigeria;*
2. *Abuja High Court Judgment of 1st March 2019, in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/147/2018 Between Wilfred Tassang & 50 ors VS The National Security Adviser and the AGF of Nigeria.;*
3. *Abuja High Court Judgment of 28th November 2019, in Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/271/2019 Between Dr Egbe Ogork VS The National Security Adviser and the AGF of Nigeria.*

The United Nations Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions - UN HRC WGAD has issued several opinions ruling the detentions of Southern Cameroons (Ambazonian Citizens) arbitrary and illegal. For example, Opinion **059/2022**, adjudging the abduction, refoulement and detention of the Nera Ten arbitrary and asking that the ten men involved be immediately release and compensated. To this date, LRC has neither release these professionals nor done anything to stop further abductions or deescalate the war that is at the root of all the mayhem.

La Republique du Cameroun joined the Commonwealth with a firm commitment to adhere to the Commonwealth's values and principles, prominent among which were the upholding and promotion of the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Cameroun has failed woefully to uphold these values and principles.

The respect of minority rights is the litmus test of any democratic society. There is a raging war in Southern Cameroons because of the resolve by LRC to assimilate and eliminate the cultural and linguistic heritage of Southern Cameroons – a culture steeped in the Anglo Saxon roots of the *magna carta* and the common law. This is the root cause of the war.

It is this root cause that your Predecessor, Patricia Scotland, identified in 2017 when she visited Cameroun. On that visit she emphasized the need for inclusive and genuine dialogue to resolve the conflict and promote justice as a precursor to democracy and good governance. Since then it has been eight years and counting. Cameroun has neither heeded to her requests nor taken any steps to end the war.

This war makes the security situation in LRC precarious, volatile and dangerous, especially in Ambazonia where the war is raging. This creates a very hostile and dangerous work environment for any election Monitors that your office might send to Cameroun.

The Ambazonian Separatist Self Defense Fighters have declared a lockdown in Ambazonia that will last until October 14, 2025, after the elections. The Lockdown is highly effective. This means that there was no registration, sensitization, campaigning and definitely there will be no voting in Ambazonia. How can all these people be disenfranchised by the system and be anticipating a free, fair and effective elections? Southern Cameroons has been cut off from the electoral process – from registration, campaigning, voting itself, counting of votes and the monitoring thereof. The Commonwealth cannot be seen to be part of this malfeasance and government fraud or dysfunction.

Most importantly, we firmly state that the electoral process in LRC has been marred by controversy, with concerns about electoral fraud, voter suppression, and human rights abuses. All the Opposition Parties have raised grave concerns about the lack of transparency and fairness in the electoral process, which undermines the credibility of this election.

On behalf of the APOC, and other concerned stakeholders, we draw the attention of your office to the fact that all institutions directly involved with the said elections are controlled directly and tightly by appointees of the government, who have not demonstrated any willingness for objectivity and neutrality – the Constitutional Council, Elecam especially and all the Divisional Officers and Governors overseeing the elections. The case of the concerted effort to eliminate the candidature of a main opposition leader – Maurice Kamto is a glaring case in point.

Against the background of all these facts, we humbly submit that in the light of these grave concerns, it is our strong fear that the Commonwealth's presence in the election, through election monitors, would lend credibility and legitimacy to a process that from all indications is very flawed, already rigged and skewed to the advantage of an incumbent 92 year old President Biya, whose opponents justifiably think is constitutionally barred by his senility – Mr. Biya is claimed to be completely physically and psychologically incapable of running a campaign let alone fulfil the exigencies of another 7-year term at the helm of a country plagued by war and strife.

In the alternative, should your office deem it necessary to unavoidably send in Monitors, we request that you strengthen the resources and their capabilities to find conventional ways to

overcome these herculean challenges and report accurately within all conventional international applicable laws and standards for international election monitors.

We further posit that you cause the Commonwealth Monitors to report accurately on all the phases of the elections – pre-election preparations, registration, election registers, Elecama neutrality, the role of the Constitutional Council, the partisanship or neutrality of Officers of Territorial Administration, the objective use of the military and law enforcement mechanisms during registration, voting, counting of ballots, polling stations and ballot boxes, returning officers, the counting process and the announcement of election results. These are the red flags and zones in which the rigging, manipulation and fraud is most expected to have taken place already and will be perpetuated on election day.

We finally ask humbly that your office should put at our disposal a copy of your monitoring report for our appreciation and records.

Meantime, should you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact us at **237 671 050 818 or 237 695 293 or frulawchamber@gmail.com**.

Madam Secretary General, while congratulating you on your historic, commendable and worthy election, we pray you, on behalf of the APOC and other concerned stakeholders in Ambazonia, to accept our very fraternal regards for justice, genuine democratic practices, rule of law and the general welfare and security of all peoples, especially those of the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

Barrister Joseph Awah Fru
Dr. David Nyekorach-Matsanga
On behalf of the APOC and other concerned Ambazonians

Done in Bamenda, this first day of October, 2025.