Tears, Joy and Carnage

Ambazonia Lives!

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Denying the Crime, Yet Owning It

Emboldened by the silence of the world in the face of what is a crime against humanity, the regime of President Paul Biya has denied the crime of which it is accused of, but often by unskillfully owning up to it. This was the case again last October 1\textsuperscript{st}.

In a desperate attempt to demonstrate to the international community that Yaounde provides space for free political expression, the ruling CPDM party of President Biya, staged demonstrations to celebrate the anniversary of the same independence they claimed Southern Cameroons never had. The demonstrations brought together hundreds of French-speaking citizens even as Ambazonians were banned from doing same. In Yaounde, citizens took to the street, freely \textit{[as pictured above]} to fete the so-called “reunification” of forever “one, and indivisible” Cameroon. Ambazonians left blood and tears in the street \textit{[as pictured below]} just to reaffirm that they are a people.

However hard Yaounde denies governing Southern Cameroons as a colony, the facts to the contrary speak for themselves. There are two citizens; two peoples; two Cameroons. ‘Want more proof?

Well - earlier this year, colonial security forces brutalized Ambazonian lawyers and teachers when they went on strike to call for reforms. The same riot police officers escorted French-speaking teachers on strike through the streets of Yaounde. Unlike their Ambazonian colleagues, who are effectively treated as “children of a lesser god”, the French-speaking striking teachers were
escorted, spared violence of any kind by the police and were ushered peacefully into the offices of cabinet ministers to air their grievances. Once in the offices, the French-speaking striking teachers [pictured below] were received, their grievances heard, and the leaders of the strike treated to a lavish reception per video footage later aired by television stations. It gets better...

Whereas the French-speaking strike leaders did not even get molested, talk less of arrested; their English-speaking counterparts were abducted and charged with terrorism. And then they were brought before a military tribunal to be tried exclusively in French following the French Civil Law system - not the Common Law System that should obtain across Ambazonia.

There are, indeed, Two Cameroons: one is the “Cameroon of the Colonized”; the other the “Cameroon of the Colonizer”. There is the Cameroon with Internet and the one without. Citizens the Republic of the Colonizer, who is more equal than others, could celebrate the 1st of October. Citizens of the “Cameroon of the Colonized” found themselves under military rule.

**One Quick Reminder: All Ten Stages of Genocide Present**

At this moment, the Cameroons display every one of “The Ten Stages of Genocide” outlined by Gregory H. Stanton, President of Genocide Watch. Here is how to recognize them:

- Fulfilling stage one (classification), the sovereign people of Southern Cameroons have been classified terrorists. This alone justifies their elimination. That is how come the

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1 The ten stages were first laid out as “The Eight Stages” in a briefing paper presented by Gregory H. Stanton at the U.S. State Department in 1996. Discrimination and Persecution were added to his model.
spokesperson of the colonial regime of Yaounde, Issa Tchiroma, says they have to be treated just like Boko Haram terrorists.

- The common symbol by which Southern Cameroonian can be identified and recognized, and by which they qualify as enemies of the state (symbolization) has been made easy by a distinct colonial heritage that they share with Britain. They speak English; live in one distinct part of the country and are guilty of being born on the wrong side of the Mungo River.

- Denying Ambazonians the same political, economic or cultural rights or access to key positions of power has been some of the most important visible aspect of the discrimination stage in the Cameroons descent into full blown genocide. That includes denial of the right to question leaders, to question the covenant between the states, to question governance, to question the form of the state, etc.

- Crossing the stage of dehumanization of the future victims of genocide, the colonizer has downgraded an entire people to the rank of “dogs”, “rats”, “roaches”, “enemies within”, “Biafrais”, “les Anglofous”, “les Bamenda”, etc.

- The spokesperson for the colonial government pointed out after the massive pro-separation demonstrations of last September 22 that the state was caught unawares. In fulfilment of the stage of organization, Colonial Cameroun was well organized to implement genocide by the time October 1st came around. They had a plan to kill all the “dogs” and “rats” and they are following the plan to the letter.

- The polarization stage is now so deep-rooted, aided by the colonial governments approval of any crime goes, that any moderates from both sides are quickly accused of being “collaborators” of the colonizer or “agents” of the other side.
• The state has all its bases covered under the preparation stage before a genocide can unfold. The colonial state is using euphemisms to hide true objectives, such as “one, and indivisible” really meaning that Ambazonia must give up its heritage and identity and accept to dissolve like two cubes of sugar in the basin of water that are the more populated citizens of the Republic of Cameroon.

• The persecution stage has always been underway, but has intensified ever since last September 22. Those who must be persecuted have been properly identified and are being systematically persecuted (for the lucky ones) or executed (for the less fortunate ones) and this must be done whether they have been found guilty of participation in the supposed crime or not.

• One of the clearest stages to show that genocide is about to unfold comes in the way of calls for extermination. Excerpts of meetings bringing together the elite of the ruling party in colonial French-speaking Cameroon show hate-filled speeches in which orators request to be armed so that they can take care of those who must be exterminated to save the nation. The same calls are on tens of thousands of Facebook pages, with some of them calling for even six-year-old kids of Ambazonian extraction to be killed.

• The final stage of genocide is denial. It is a stage which not only the colonial regime of Yaounde but also the international community have also reached. The UN Office for the Prevention of Genocide has ignored all complaints conveying proof of any and all of the states cited above. As we have highlighted elsewhere in this report, the massacres of
last September 22 across Ambazonia were not even acknowledged by the United Nations. To prevent being found out, the colonial regime of President Paul Biya is picking up and “disappearing” the mortal remains of victims; they are attacking any media outlets that give voice to Restoration of Independence campaigners. Even better, than all else, the spokesperson of the regime told all news outlets that cared to interview him that he was not aware of any killings. That is exactly what the government is obliged to say when those its forces are killing are mere “rats”, “dogs”, “roaches”, “enemies within”, etc. Yaounde will deny this and all other reports by the one line that it never happened.

Conclusion

As of the moment of finalizing this report, the occupation forces of the Republic of Cameroon continue to perpetrate widespread human rights abuses and gross violations of international humanitarian law – even violations of the Law of War. Only over the last three weeks, the colonial army from Yaounde has massacred and injured hundreds of peace-loving Ambazonians. They have also abducted, raped, maimed and mutilated tens of thousands more. Hundreds of people are believed to have been “disappeared” while no less than 5,000 young people have fled their homes to seek refuge in farms, bushes, hill tops, caves and as refugees in neighboring Nigeria.

The most outrageous of the crimes reported so far include summary executions, mutilations, maiming, collective punishment on entire villages, and public flogging at the time of arrest and torture during detention. They include rape, destruction of property and the looting of property, including the torching of business premises and of motorbike taxis whose riders the colonial army blames for activism in support of the restoration agenda.

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2 This report was finalized on Friday, 13 October 2017.
it remains impossible, though, to ascertain the exact number of those killed, injured, arrested, detained or abducted. MoRISC will continue to monitor the situation and will update this report made possible by the contributions of so many reporters, background researchers, a host of eagle-eyed editors, journalists, bloggers, human rights activists, lawyers, hospital staff, humanitarian workers, bereaved family members, the injured and citizen journalists on Facebook and WhatsApp platforms.

This report, hopefully, captures the vibrant, newfound spirit of the people of Ambazonia who, over the last 12 months, have turned the colonial clock back 56 years; freeing themselves of the colonial mentality and fear that left them muddling along with an annexationist system. They have been treated like slaves and second class citizens. In trying so hard to bury their liberating spirit, the colonialists in Yaounde have instead forced the birth of a new Ambazonian. Our people will not rest until they achieve the kind of revolutionary change that is required to establish a government in which they have the final word on their destiny.

If there was ever any doubt, the massacres of the last few days, the sheer lack of respect for life shown by those supposedly brothers from East of the Mungo, cheered on by the criminal silence of citizens of the Republic of Cameroon and the international community... these massacres prove that Ambazonian lives do not matter. The need to go all the way to Buea is no longer in doubt. In fact, many of the Ambazonians who were still sitting on the fence or who even opposed peaceful separation are now won over. They have seen for themselves that the target was every Ambazonian. The only other objective to cater to besides achieving restoration of independence is preventing genocide. The massacres have, sadly, further radicalized Ambazonians, with WhatsApp chatrooms now dominated by discussions about self-defense.

The concluding paragraph of the message from the Bishops of Ambazonia says it all: “We call for honest and meaningful dialogue with the right people to determine the nature and form of the state to be undertaken as soon as possible.” Their advice to all: “We must refrain from divisive and poisonous behavior and language. Utterances that are demeaning, insulting, or derogatory should be discouraged”.

Ambazonians must resist the temptation to play in the same league as the colonizer. Peaceful revolution will get the job done. Anyone who doubts has not reconsidered how much progress has been made over the past one year through worldwide mobilization. The time has now come to close the deal. However painful the loss of lives, the numbers pale by comparison to
the millions that could be killed if the violent options were adopted. The massacres of the last few days confirm the fact that the parties to whatever union was envisaged are incompatible, comforting anyone who still doubts that the Road to Buea is irreversible.

Recommendations

As part of the conclusion, MoRISC offers for consideration by the various institutions and organizations the following non-exhaustive list of recommendations:

To the UN Office for Genocide Prevention

- Take immediate and robust action to launch effective genocide prevention, notably aimed at arresting any further radicalization or “weaponizing” of what needs to remain a political, not security problem.

- Consider the genocide prevention value of returning, during any brief period of transition to full sovereignty for Ambazonia, to the federal governance structure of “two states, equal in status” envisaged and agreed in 1961, but scrapped unilaterally by the colonial regime of Yaounde.

To the International Court of Justice

- Provide an advisory/legal opinion on whether the people of Ambazonia gained full independence under UNGA1608 (XV) or not. If YES, suggest how best for Ambazonians to enjoy it. If NO, provide a legal opinion on how Ambazonians can get overdue independence.

- Provide an advisory/legal opinion on whether the people of Ambazonia still need a self-determination vote given the referendum of 11 February 1961.

- Provide an advisory/legal opinion on what the United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee on Decolonization should do to bring about restoration of independence for Ambazonia.

To the Commonwealth

- Suspend the membership of the Republic of Cameroon from the Commonwealth, recognizing that the admission of Yaounde was obtained under false pretext given how clearly determined to eradicate everything Anglo-Saxon the colonial regime is.
• Grant Observer Status to the Ambazonia Governing Authority or Government.

To the World Bank & International Monetary Fund

• Direct all new grants, credits and loans meant for Ambazonia to the Ambazonia Governing Authority or Government; not to Yaounde under the same formula as with the Government of Zanzibar; not Tanzania, when it concerns Zanzibar.

• Ambazonia shall not be held liable for any loans, grants or credits given to the Republic of Cameroon effective the 1st of October 2017 in the name of Ambazonia.

• Immediately audit World Bank/IMF books to establish the share of the loans, credits and grants that are the liability of the future government of Ambazonia.

To the United Nations General Assembly

• Appoint a Special Rapporteur to lead the collection and preservation of evidence of Atrocity Crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes bordering on genocide, working with an African Union Special Envoy.

• Deny the government of Cameroon (as an accused or party to the conflict) the sovereignty and/or jurisdiction over any such crimes as well as over any dialogue.

• Provide admission to an Ambazonia Governing Authority or Government initially under the same Observer Status granted the Palestinian Authority.

• Request the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan of Action by the UNGA Fourth Committee on Decolonization to accompany Ambazonia in its Walk to Freedom.

• Assume full responsibility for the implementation of UNGA Resolution 1608(XV).

To the General Assembly of the African Union

• Appoint a Special Envoy to lead the collection and preservation of any and all evidence of crimes against humanity and crimes bordering on genocide, working with the UN Special Rapporteur.
• Reaffirm the right of the people of Ambazonia to self-determination and self-rule, recognizing independence as the only instrument that will restore power to the people of Ambazonia and give them control of their destiny.

• Reiterate the AU’s commitment to Article 4(b); to the right of all people to self-determination; and the AU’s commitment to end domination of any people by another.

• As soon as possible, provide admission to an inclusive Ambazonia Governing Authority under the same Observer Status granted the POLISARIO.

• If a more rapid move to sovereignty is not possible, prepare a multi-year transition arrangement (like the five-year comprehensive agreement put in place for South Sudan) to accompany Ambazonia on its Road to Restoration of Independence.

**To the UN Decolonization Committee**

• Conduct an independent scientific survey among Ambazonians to develop an informed opinion on the extent to which they seek peaceful separation from the Republic of Cameroon.

• Facilitate the election, setting up of and admission into the United Nations and the African Union of an inclusive Ambazonia Governing Authority.

**To the British and French Governments**

• Take urgent action and assume full responsibility in fixing the mess left by your colonization in ways that guarantee a peaceful separation for Ambazonia but good relationships post restoration.

• Assume with the Republic of Cameroon the same role that China is called to play when it comes to holding North Korea in check.

**To the UN Office on Human Rights**

• Call on the Biya government to put an immediate end to the massacres, mass arrests, deportations, killings and “disappearances”.

• Name a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights to Ambazonia.
• Call for an end to “calle calle” (cordon and search) operations during which mass arrests continue to be made, property looted, women raped, and victims mercilessly brutalized.

• Call for the respect of the right of civil society groups, human rights and humanitarian workers, etc. to operate free of threats, molestation, intimidation, harassment, arrests, and censorship.

To the Government of President Paul Biya

• Order the immediate and unconditional release of all those arrested and detained for exercising their right to freedom of assembly.

• Immediately and unconditionally restore access to the Internet across Ambazonia.

• Immediately and unconditionally demilitarize Ambazonia.

• End the excessive use of force by security forces against peaceful demonstrators and stand ready to handover for persecution any security officers indicted as a result.

To Southern Cameroonians/Ambazonians

• Reaffirm and maintain the campaign for restoration of independence and self-rule as exclusively legal, non-violent, diplomatic and legal, notwithstanding provocations.

• Spurn any and all temptation to violent approaches, including temptations to form militia or any other armed self-defense units.

• Reject any and all dialogue with the colonial government of the Republic of Cameroon before all arrested are released; all killed or “disappeared” are accounted for; the Internet is restored; exiles are free to return home without fear; and attend only dialogue that has all options on the table, including the option to separate.

• Revive the worldwide protest marches at Western embassies and United Nations offices worldwide to insist on international sovereignty for Ambazonia.

• Continue to support signature referenda aimed at proving that an overwhelming majority of our people support restoration, peaceful separation and admission into the community of nations.
• Move the restoration of independence movement to the phase of the internationalization of our cause, following in the footsteps of the Free Mandela Campaign.

• Call on as many Ambazonians as possible to emulate the work by Ambazonians in Lowell County, Massachusetts, culminating in the recognition of Ambazonia by more city councils across the world.

• Organize an Ambazonia Sunday all across the world calling on Ambalanders to lead a brief talk on Ambazonia after church service on said day and recruit the first members of the global network of supporters.

• Convene a Diaspora Global Event with the lone objective of reviving the campaign, designing, and adopting an action plan for the way forward.

• Launch campaigns to deny visas and to encourage persecution against certain colonial officials, Facebook stars encouraging genocide, and journalists advocating genocide as on Radio Mille Collines.

To the International Community

• Impose a series of smart political, economic and financial sanctions – including ending all military and financial assistance to Cameroon's armed and security forces, notably the BIR (Rapid Intervention Brigade).

• Freeze the bank accounts, investments and financial resources as well as revoke any visas granted officials who are accused of or found guilty of advocating or acting as accomplices or accessories to war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes bordering on genocide.

• Support the organization within a reasonable delay, of a referendum in which Ambalanders ONLY will vote in favor of peaceful separation from or continued association with the Republic of Cameroon.

END