Part 1

Tears, Joy and Carnage

Ambazonia Lives!

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Introduction to The Ambazonia Problem

The Movement for the Restoration of the Independence of Southern Cameroons (MoRISC) is horrified, deeply saddened, and heart-broken by the carnage detailed in this report.

“Tears, Joy and Carnage” highlights the Atrocity Crimes and crimes bordering on genocide that the colonial forces of the Republic of Cameroon (independent on 1st January 1960) are visiting on the people of the former United Nations British Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons (independent on 1st October 1961). The territory was renamed Ambazonia on the occasion of the symbolic restoration of its independence on 1st October 2017. Hundreds of thousands of brave Ambazonians – perhaps up to a million people - defied an undeclared state of emergency and a ban on gatherings of more than three people to celebrate in street rallies.

The Republic of Cameroon responded in blood and with carnage. Over 100 people have been killed, most of them execution style. Thousands have been injured, arrested, abducted, taken hostage, “disappeared”, raped, maimed or mutilated. Thousands more are internally displaced or driven into exile. Their “crime”? Seeking an end to annexation and colonial rule by the Republic of Cameroon in a way similar to the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia.

This report is based on extensive research and contributions from a network of field-based journalists, rights activists, pro-democracy campaigners and security sources. Many of the details included in this report, along with the hard-to-watch pictures, are intended to draw the attention of the Civilized World to the blind repression; to the deluge of hate speech voiced against Ambazonians; and to decry the unadulterated evil currently unfolding across Ambazonia.

It offers recommendations for consideration by a number of key stakeholders keen to provide a lasting solution to the crisis. At MoRISC, we believe that The Ambazonia Problem has an easy solution. It is either the case that Southern Cameroons gained independence under United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 1608(XV); in which case Ambazonians should enjoy it in full; or independence was not granted; in which case, it is long overdue.

The way forward, in our opinion, includes dialogue with all options on the table. Ambazonians have been waiting at the table of dialogue since 2009 when the African Union (AU) recognized Ambazonians as a people, with a right to self-determination. The court called then for dialogue between the two peoples of The Cameroons. The colonizer chose dialogue with weapons. The AU and UN have just renewed their offer. They can be excellent mediators. A lasting solution will come only if they ensure that the final word belongs to the sovereign people of Ambazonia.

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Over 100 Killed, Thousands Injured, Abducted

British Trust Territory of Southern Cameroons. The territory was renamed Ambazonia on Sunday, 1st October 2017 on the occasion of the restoration of its independence¹ which should have become effective on the 1st of October 1961.² Thousands have been injured, arrested, abducted, taken hostage, “disappeared”, raped, maimed or mutilated. Thousands more are internally displaced or driven into exile. An undeclared state of emergency blankets all of Ambazonia, with the army (pictured above, left, in Buea) and gendarmerie exercising little to no restraint in taking lives.

By Saturday night, October 8, updates on WhatsApp from Buea, capital of Ambazonia, said at least 50 people had been killed. One posting read: “More corpses discovered in bushes, and mortuaries are all full”. It came with pictures showing citizens carrying mortal remains in makeshift stretchers. Another picture showed bodies lying on the bear floor of a room.

¹ English-speaking Southern Cameroons, renamed West Cameroon at independence, now two of the ten regions of what was known as the Cameroons) voted in a UN-supervised referendum on 11 February 1961 in favor of independence. On 21 April 1961, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 1608 (64 YES votes; 23 NO votes; 10 abstentions) endorsing the outcome of the referendum.

² At hundreds of rallies at home and abroad, Ambazonians chanted liberation songs, reaffirming their commitment to give their lives – if necessary – to achieve peaceful separation from the Republic of Cameroon through peaceful, legal, diplomatic and non-violent means.

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Ambazonians – maybe a million-plus people – took to the streets in hundreds of villages and towns to celebrate restoration of independence. Warm up rallies had held on September 22 turning out hundreds of thousands of supporters. The crowds conquered the fear of what everyone feared: blind repression. They defied the heavy presence of ruthless troops and a state of emergency banning any gatherings of over three people. The celebrations across Ambazonia were mirrored around the globe by Ambazonians in the Diaspora.

Despite waving only tree branches - a sign of peace and proof that the demonstrators carried no weapons – [see picture left taken in Bafia, Muyuka] troops killed “at least 100 demonstrators” using “live bullets”, according to the Central Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (REDHAC), 3 Amnesty International reported 17 deaths. Government-owned media in the Republic of Cameroon4, said ten people lost their lives. The official government statement on the death toll was a reminder of how little the colonial regime of President Paul Biya cares about human life.

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4 The French-speaking Republic of Cameroon, renamed East Cameroon in 1961, gained independent from France on the 1st of January 1960 within international boundaries that did not include Southern Cameroons.
On Tuesday, October 3, more than 48 hours after the massacre started, Government Spokesperson, Issa Tchiroma, maintained that soldiers did not use live bullets - talk less of killing anyone. The next day, Mr. Tchiroma reiterated that claim in an interview with Cameroon Journal. It was not until Thursday and Friday (October 5 and 6) that Mr. Tchiroma finally admitted, for the first time, that ten people died – not that they were killed. He alleged that security forces fired in self-defense after reportedly coming under armed attack from those he called “assailants” or “extremists”, five of whom died. The other five deaths, he explained, were

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5 Mr. Tchiroma spoke on Equinox TV  
6 He spoke in an exclusive interview with Christ Anu, editor of the online news portal on the web at www.cameroonjournal.com  
7 The admission Friday was on a panel discussion on the TV program “Washington Forum” aired by Voice of America French to Africa.
prisoners whose death he initially blamed on arson in their prison in the town of Kumbo, chief town of Bui State in Ambazonia’s Northern Region. He later changed the cause of death.

The blind repression has included raids on homes and churches followed by arrests, beatings and torture extended to all – even to grandmothers above 90 years old. [The granny pictured right happily survived]. It has involved the killing of peaceful demonstrators, sometimes using gunfire from helicopters. Censorship has been heightened. Propaganda from state media has drummed out any views that do not throw roses at the government’s devilish response.

The Government of the United States of America decried the violence in a statement. The “government’s use of force to restrict free expression and peaceful assembly, and violence by protesters, are unacceptable”, the statement read, in part.

“Let us not pass this over in silence,” said European Union Member of Parliament, Arne Gericke, on Wednesday October 4, sensing the limited media interest in the story and European indifference in the face of what is not and should not be mistaken for “just another African tragedy”. Mr. Gericke said he was scandalized by the colonial government Yaounde being “violent against (a) 65-year-old mother who simply wanted to celebrate their independence”. 9

Roman Catholic Bishops of the Bamenda Ecclesiastical Province (with geographic reach over all of Ambazonia) “condemned in very unequivocal terms the violence by some groups of young people on the one hand and the acts of brutality, torture, inhuman and unjustified treatment meted out to some of our youths by the Forces of Law and Order on the other hand”.

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8 Mr. Tchiroma polished this lie in a later statement, claiming that two of the prisoners were killed in a stampede while the three others were killed by prison staff doing what he said staff have to or must do in the event of a prison break.
9 The grandmother is, in fact, aged 94, and happily survived the brutal attack on her by the colonial security forces of the Republic of Cameroon.
“The sacredness of human life has been defiled”, exclaimed the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) in a statement which “out rightly and with vehemence condemned the brutal killings”. The PCC statement chastised Yaounde for “excessive use of force”. The pastors rubbed the main excuse used to justify the carnage: “The sacredness of human life and its protection supersedes the preservation of territorial integrity and national sovereignty”.

On social media chatrooms, Ambazonians slammed the United Nations, perhaps just as hard as they did the colonial government of the Republic of Cameroon. They wondered why the United Nations Human Rights Office seemed unequipped to gather information on what was unfolding. While “the genocide is in progress”, read one post, “it is very chilling when the UN Human Rights Office is asking a list of names instead of initiating emergency investigations. This reminds me of Ruanda. I guess they were waiting for a list of names of those killed first and B4 they knew it 800,000 had perished... Hope they finally got the 800,000 names and opened an investigation after the fact”.

The death toll has been rising steadily since Sunday, October 1st, as more of the seriously injured, carried to emergency services of hospitals by other demonstrators, succumb to their wounds. On Friday, October 6, blogger Albert Nchinda reported one of the deaths at the Regional Hospital in Buea, capital of Ambazonia. The diseased, a certain Alfred (last name not provided), lost his battle with two bullet wounds he had sustained on October 1st. The wounded are guarded by heavily armed security forces at that hospital in Buea. Lawyers are denied access and even family members are turned away from visiting their loved ones.
Death Toll Still Elusive, Expected to Rise

An exact death toll may never be known. Eyewitnesses of the massacres say security forces worked extra hard on October 1st to cover up their crimes and prevent an accurate death toll from ever being established. Many of the mortal remains were neither turned over to the mortuary nor handed over to family members for burial. Instead, most of the bodies were picked up by their killers [pictured above left] and carted away in the trunks of military pick-up trucks or on the back of open-head lorries. Families whose loved one sustained gunshot wounds in their own homes found it impossible – thanks to the state of emergency – to rush them to the nearest emergency room.

To conceal the extent of the massacres of last September 22 and October 1, security forces have not hesitated to steal mortal remains. It is not known how widespread this practice is as only families who already know their loved one is among the victims can testify. The bulk of victims are considered “missing” or “disappeared” at this moment. MoRISC has, however, confirmed one case of “corpse theft”. This has been possible only because the family members who reported the corpse stolen knew that their loved one had died. In this particular case, they moved the remains into a mortuary. On the day set for the funeral, family members were shocked to find out that the mortal remains of their loved one had been stolen by the troops.

That is how riots erupted on Friday, October 6 in Tombel, a cocoa growing town in Ambazonia’s Southern Zone where at least two young men were killed on Sunday, October 1st. Disgusted by the theft, infuriated town dwellers and mourners set fire to one administrative building. One reason the “theft of corpses” is being organized is the desire by government officials to destroy evidence of as many of the victims as possible, but also to to prevent the organization of state
funerals for victims. With caskets draped in the Ambazonian national colors, funerals for fallen heroes have tended to mobilize several hundreds of mourners in impromptu political rallies, winning more sympathy and supporters.

Even as it seemed that the deaths could not get grimmer, reports said more decomposing bodies were still being discovered October 5 and 6 in four towns: Buea, capital of Ambazonia; Bamenda, chief town of Ambazonia’s Northern Zone; Akwaya, on Ambazonia’s western border with Nigeria; and Wum, the third biggest town of the Northern Zone.

News of the discovery of a new mass grave in Akwaya, broke October 3 but MoRISC has not independently verified the allegation. The story is that people were pulled by Mr. Biya’s security thugs out of the Presbyterian Church in Akwaya, where they were seeking refuge amidst the carnage. Those arrested were taken towards the outskirts of this very isolated town and summarily executed and their lifeless bodies dumped in a pit deep in the outskirts of the town.

“Several families have been left in pain and hurt, not knowing the whereabouts of their loved ones, this is totally unacceptable in a nation that claims to respect human rights and all international conventions”, wrote Barrister Felix Agbor Nkongho in only the fourth of his public statements since being released earlier last month from eight months of detention for advocating reforms.

With security forces storming churches and arresting people [as pictured left, during the attempted arrest of the catechist of Mamfe Cathedral on Sunday, October 8] a senior prelate of the Catholic Church is warning Ambazonians in the Diaspora to put off visiting home any time soon. Fears are that visitors may be “disappeared”. The prelate voiced his disgust at the ongoing “disappearance” of some children. “How do you explain the fact that a child is murdered and his/her mortal remains are carted away and buried without the knowledge of the parents,” he asked?

Social media reports announced the discovery of 17 fast decomposing bodies found on farms around Buea. MoRISC received pictures showing six previously unidentified bodies followed by three more pictures showing a combined total of six bodies. Another six bodies were discovered in three neighborhoods of Bamenda. One report said as many as 20 bodies were recovered from a river in Wum, chief town of Menchum State in Ambazonia’s Northern Zone. Yet another report said 11 bodies had been discovered in the bush in Ekona, a major farming
community and site of an agronomic research center on the highway between Buea and Kumba both in the Southern Zone of Ambazonia.

These discoveries add to the fast-rising death toll. A brief report shared online Monday evening by one human rights activist alleged that 30 bodies were buried in a freshly dug mass grave in the outskirts of Buea. No precise location was provided for the mass grave and MoRISC has not independently confirmed this information. On Friday, October 6, there was another allegation of a mass grave reportedly on the foot of Mount Fako\textsuperscript{10}. No pictures of the bodies or graves have been shared and MoRISC has not independently confirmed the allegations.

Yet, more reports of what, in some cases, may be double counting, continue to stream in, especially online, where activist Ashy Kingsley on Thursday, October 5, reported thus: “Over 100 new bodies discovered in different locations in Southern Cameroons”. He listed “17 dead bodies behind Checkpoint Stadium between Bokova and Bettwingi Village. 10 dead bodies... also found behind the Buea Central Prison, 20 behind a valley at Mount Mary Hospital. Over 12 others behind Mutengene Hill, 7 others scattered around Mamfe”.

Citing eyewitnesses, Ashu Kingsley, added that some 300 Ambazonians arrested on Sunday, October 1, “were brought to court (in Buea on Thursday, October 5) with fractured legs and arms and most will definitely remain incapacitated”.

The corpses being discovered are popping up everywhere. A voice message shared on WhatsApp on Wednesday October 4 claimed, without offering any other proof, that hundreds of young men from Bamenda who were arrested and/or abducted, were being transferred to Yaounde. It alleged further that these young men were being summarily executed by Mr. Biya’s security forces shortly after arrival in Yaounde.

“They are slaughtering our people here, one by one, and throwing them into a mass grave. It’s as if the killers are killing chicken for a soup meal,” said the WhatsApp voice message. It added that some of the soldiers are using guns fitted with silencers to preform these gruesome acts. The carnage, the voice message says, usually begins at about 3 a.m. since 2\textsuperscript{nd} October 2017.

\textsuperscript{10} Previously known as Mount Cameroon, Mount Fako is Africa’s second highest peak after the Kilimanjaro.

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According to this source, the 13th mass grave had just been dug that morning after the first 12 mass graves filled up with bodies.  

In one Bamenda neighborhood on Tuesday, October 3, inhabitants said one mortal remains found in the farmland next to their school may have been hit by a bullet fired from one of the helicopters which hovered over that area during the afternoon of Sunday, 1st October. The colonial security forces of the Republic of Cameroon fired live bullets and tear gas at peaceful demonstrators from some of those helicopters. Smart phone video footage posted on the Internet shows one of the helicopters initially circling what looks like a school compound before overflying the building directly and opening fire on peaceful demonstrators below.  

Hundreds of people have been injured, most of them from live bullets fired by security forces into crowds of peaceful demonstrators. Some of the injured were forced by security forces to volunteer one of their lower limbs – a leg, thigh or foot – on which they preferred a bullet to be lodged.

It is feared that hundreds of girls and women have been raped.

**Crimes Bordering on Genocide**

Three days before Sunday, October 1st, several media outlets linked Cameroon’s defense minister, Joseph Beti Assomo, and the minister in charge of the police and national security, 

11 These claims should not be taken lightly. In a video interview, one retired officer of the Cameroonian armed forces, Rigobert Kouyang, speaking only of one of several units struggling to curb crime in the city of Douala, Cameroon’s economic capital, admits that his unit committed 400 extrajudicial killings. [http://www.alafnet.com/retired-cameroonian-soldier-says-his-unit-committed-400-extrajudicial-killings/](http://www.alafnet.com/retired-cameroonian-soldier-says-his-unit-committed-400-extrajudicial-killings/)

12 Video footage of the celebrations of Independence Restored of last September 22 and October 1 can be viewed at [www.morisc.org/countdown](http://www.morisc.org/countdown)

13 The figures cited throughout this report come from a wide range of reliable sources, including eyewitnesses, hospital staff, journalists, human rights activists, lawyers, humanitarian workers and citizen journalists. All information not independently verified is so identified.
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Assassination Squads Targeted, Hunted Down and Killed Specific People

Well – on Sunday, 1st October 2017 and - without letting off ever since then – that policy went into force and everyone’s worst fears came true. The colonial forces of the Republic of Cameroon committed “heinous acts of brutality and barbarism”, according to Catholic Bishops. “Some priests and some members of Christ’s Lay Faithful were prevented by the heavy military presence on their streets from going to church and so they failed to exercise their constitutional right of freedom of worship”.16 They did worse. They hunted down and, without pity, executed activists they were most likely trialing ever since the massive demonstrations of September 22. Some of the leaders killed were presumably on some black list, earmarked for assassination.

The government’s ever-changing account of the five prisoners killed in Kumbo is very telling. Whereas Mr. Tchiroma initially claimed that two of the prisoners were killed in a stampede with the three others killed by the fire that consumed their prison cell, sources close to the prison and accounts by some inmates, contradict this version. Proof of its having been entirely hatched in a fertile mind is the fact that Mr. Tchiroma himself has taken back his initial account of the events.

According to our sources, the five prisoners killed in Kumbo were among the most active supporters of the Restoration of Independence. They were being held on frivolous claims that they were members of a self-styled youth self-defense group. The group had posted a daring video on WhatsApp in which they told other Ambazonians that Kumbo had already declared independence and that they were ready to give their blood for it – if need be. The group was also credited with storming the palace of the traditional ruler (Fon of Nso)17 accompanied by hundreds of supporters during which they presented the national colors of Ambazonia and hoisted same on palace grounds.

Our sources say the two prisoners said to have been killed in a stampede were, in fact, tortured to death. The other three prisoners, according to our sources, were simply targeted and

16 Excerpt from the statement by the Catholic Bishops of Bamenda Ecclesiastical Province.
17 Nso is one of the four biggest traditional kingdoms of the Northern Zone, the other three being Kom, Bali and Bafut.

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executed in the commotion and panic that seized the prison once a fire was reported. At a press conference on Tuesday, October 10, Mr. Tchiroma’s new and, shall we say, sanitized (?) version of events was no longer that the five prisoners were victims of arson. He said two died in a stampede\(^{18}\) while the other three were killed by prison guards, doing what they must do, according to government spokesperson.

One of the youth leaders who led the negotiations when soldiers were overwhelm by a crowd in Tombel and held overnight on 30 September [pictured right] was hunted down and killed the next day.

Few think that it was no accident that troops tracked down, targeted and assassinated Emmanuel Tah, the Youth Community Leader of Bafia, Muyuka [pictured left] on Sunday, October 1\(^{st}\). Mr. Tah’s heroism is credited with the success of the massive demonstrations in Bafia, Muyuka, on September 22.

Another youth organizer of the September 22 protests in Besongabang in the outskirts of Mamfe, Egbe Kingsley Takang [pictured left] nearly suffered the same fate. He was hunted down but shot on the leg on Sunday, October 1\(^{st}\). Some of the victims merely happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. For instance, the father of three [pictured below], went farming with one of his cousins on Sunday, October 1\(^{st}\). Sadly, he got hunted down and killed. In an audio account, his niece, says her uncle and cousin retreated back to the farm after noticing that their town (Bali, on the outskirts of Bamenda) was on lockdown.

They hoped to hang out until calm returned to Bali. It is on their way back to the farm that they fell into an ambush by police officers. The two got arrested and were beaten. At one point, the police fired a bullet into one of his arms. As he cried, he was beaten up a lot more. The cousin decided that there was only one way for him to escape death: it was to flee from the scene. This he did, with the police giving hot pursuit. However, not without shooting another bullet into and shattering one of her uncle’s legs.

\(^{18}\) This is a recycled explanation of deaths at the hands of security forces. When troops shot and killed six people during the launch of Cameroon’s first opposition political party on 26 May 1990, the then government spokesperson said the six had died in a stampede.

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As her uncle lay bleeding, the police officers chased after his cousin, firing and missing him. The cousin dived into a river as more bullets were fired at him. Fortunately, he made a successful escape. By the time the uncle was brought from the farm to the hospital in Bali, he had lost so much blood that he passed into glory.

Media reports, eyewitness accounts, photographic and video evidence published by mainstream media or shared on social media confirm that crimes bordering on genocide are, indeed, unfolding across Ambazonia.

Genocide has started in Ambazonia unless one disagrees with how the former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan defines it.¹⁹

Barrister Felix Agbor Nkongho, whose courageous leadership of lawyers of Fako State and of the consortium of trade unions which mobilized grassroots support for reforms, devoted his fourth public statement since being released from eight months of detention to decrying the atrocity crimes unfolding in Ambazonia.

“This must stop!” said Barrister Agbor Nkongho pointing to “the images of brutality, looting, arrests, inhumane treatment and violence upon peaceful, unarmed and harmless citizens by the military”.

Massacred for Who They Are

An entire people of Ambazonia is being targeted by the colonial regime of President Biya not for the crime each individual has and/or might have committed, but simply on account of who they are. It is, therefore, no coincidence that so far, all victims have been English-speaking. They all happen to have been born on the wrong side of the Mungo – the river which serves as a boundary between Ambazonia and the Republic of Cameroon. They all happen to be Ambazonians.

The troops perpetrating the crimes are overwhelmingly French-speaking citizens of the Republic of Cameroon and/or mercenaries hired by the Republic of Cameroon. Their lone “professional” qualification to serve in this evil enterprise is the certainty that they are firm supporters of the colonial project against which citizens of Ambazonia have arisen.

¹⁹ Kofi Annan’s citation highlighted above came after the United Nations failed to intervene to prevent and/or arrest the 1994 Rwanda Genocide in a proactive or timely fashion.
Reports have emerged that police officers and soldiers of Ambazonian origin who find themselves in their ranks are being compelled, at gun point, to work against their consciences by shooting down their own people. Commanding officers of Ambazonian extraction say they did not give orders to shoot and have been shocked that police offices and soldiers reportedly under their command were giving and taking their own orders. Such is the case of a superintendent of police in Kumba whose friends hurriedly published an account online distances – even exonerating - him from the excessive use of force including the loss of lives.

It has been reported but MoRISC has not independently verified that all officers of Ambazonian extraction who fail to take orders to participate in the killing are being court-marshaled - for the lucky ones. A number of them have been charged with treasons, a crime punishable with death by firing squad. It is easy to guess what happens to unlucky ones.

According to one report, an army officer of Ambazonian origin - Nelson Foncham, a native of the traditional kingdom of Bali just outside of Bamenda - was reportedly executed from point blank range by his military commander for refusing to participate in the horror the squad he belonged to perpetrated on the inhabitants of Nkambe on Ambazonia’s Northern Zone.
Guilty for being Ambazonian

Every Ambazonian has been, is currently targeted and/or feels targeted. It does not really matter if the person participated in the peaceful demonstrations of last September 22 or if they joined in celebrations marking Restoration of Independence. Ambazonians, without exception, are criminalized just because they are Ambazonians.

Additionally, Ambazonians are targeted whether or not they currently live on the territory. They have been targeted for arrests, detention and torture in the Republic of Cameroon. Massive arrests of Ambazonians continue in Yaounde throughout the production of this report.

A number of audio messages disseminated via WhatsApp provided some warnings but also shared alarming information about other prisoners, but MoRISC has not independently verified the information.

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20 On 21 November 2016, Mancho Bibixy, a newscaster with a local radio station in Bamenda, stood in an open casket at Bamenda’s Liberty Square, declared on a blow horn that he was ready to die to bring about change in TheCameroons. At his court appearance on 7 June 2017, he defied the regime by shouting out in the military court that Southern Cameroons will have independence.

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One of the messages heard by MoRISC called on Ambazonians in Yaounde to delete anything from their phones that could link them to the Restoration Movement. “If they see anything for your phone, they go kill you,” said the voice message in Pidgin English. It explained that four Ambazonians who were reportedly discussing the restoration of independence in a street in Yaounde got gunned down in cold blood by unknown gunmen. Their bodies, according to the audio message, were whisked away by unknown individuals, presumably security forces.\(^{21}\)

One of the more plausible reasons for the massive arrests of Ambazonians in Douala and Yaounde is the claim that the colonial regime is pulling together a signature campaign to prove opposition to separation. Those arrested are photographed; their finger prints taken; their full names and place of birth included; and they are made to sign against their names. The claim is that their information is being used to produce new identity cards – free of charge. However, and according to our sources, the goal of the colonial regime is to submit the signatures to the United Nations and the African Union to prove that a majority of Ambazonians are opposed to separation.

\(^{21}\) MoRISC could not find one iota of proof to substantiate this story and no pictures have emerged of the street assassinations alleged.
“We strongly condemn the harassment of Anglophones (Ambalanders) in Yaounde and Douala. Cameroonians are free to live and work in any part of the country. No one should be stigmatized because they are Anglophones or Francophones,” a statement Saturday from Barrister Felix Agbor Nkongho read in part.

French-speaking Citizens Plead for More Bloodshed

There is ample evidence across social media platforms that French-speaking Cameroonians urged the colonial regime on; pleading with the troops deployed to Ambazonia to inflict worse and harsher punishment on Ambazonians. As night fell on October 1st with the number of those killed across Ambazonia reported as 40, many French-speaking citizens of the Republic of Cameroon took to social media, calling on the troops to show no mercy.

You should simply shoot a bullet into their skulls, instead of dragging people to jail, exclaimed one of them, commenting on video footage which showed a woman being dragged and kicked across the road to a waiting military pick-up truck.

On Facebook, one Joe Daya Harvey expressed his disappointment, that evening, that the confirmed death toll had not yet reached 100. Another supporter of the colonial project the Republic of Cameroon is implementing in Ambazonia, Dave Liam Ngony, said he wished nothing but death on all those he called “Ambazombies”. Bertrand la Chacala – perhaps, a pen name – said Ambazonians should be burnt at the stakes. "Ambazonians have earned death" wrote yet another under the name of Yannick Landry Bayiya Massa.

The seeds of the crimes now blooming or germinating across Ambazania were always there. However, in the weeks and days just before and ever since 22 September 2017, the signs of the unadulterated evil carefully premeditated over the past year and now being methodically implemented by the colonial regime, became very hard to miss.
Media outlets broadcasting to citizens of the Republic of Cameroon have been extremely hostile to the movement for restoration of independence. They aired segments in which a majority of reporters, guest columnists and analysts – all of them French-speaking citizens of the Republic of Cameroon – have literally begged President Paul Biya to massacre Ambazonians. The majority of Ambonia haters have stuck to the more widely used appellation of “Biafrans”, a reference to the leaders of a failed attempt at secession from Nigeria in the 1960s by the unsuccessful breakaway Republic of Biafra.

As in the lead-up to the 1994 Rwanda Genocide, pro-regime media outlets and government officials such as the colonial Governor of the Southern Zone of Ambazonia based in Buea – Mr. Okalia Bilia, started referring to Ambazonians as “dogs”. Others have called Ambazonians “roaches”, “rats”, “terrorists”, the “enemy within”. On one of the many pro-regime television stations, a journalist and political affairs editor for Vision 4 Television, Ernest Obama, echoed the same rhetoric heard on Radio Television Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM) in Rwanda. He described Ambazonians as “rats”; urging the regime of President Biya to apply the same approach one would adopt using pesticides to get rid of “pests”.

One pattern seems clear: atrocity crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes bordering on genocide are unfolding in Ambazonia. Collective punishment, targeting the entire Southern Cameroonian population, is the order of the day. Entire villages, notably those that staged the biggest rallies in support of restoration of independence on Sunday, October 1st, have emptied out. Inhabitants have fled into nearby bushes, onto hill tops, deep into ravines and/or forests. Reports are spreading about the atrocities committed by special execution squads searching through homes, looting shops, raping women and torching at least one home in one village.

22 On the air from 8 July 1993 to 31 July 1994, RTLM is blamed for creating and justifying the kind of racial hatred that led to the April-July 1994 Rwanda Genocide in which no less than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered.