



Central Africa Human Rights Defenders Network

***TRIALS OF ACTIVISTS ARRESTED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE "ANGLOPHONE CRISIS"
SINCE NOVEMBER 2016.***

REDHAC calls for the unconditional release of all 71 activists including the leaders arrested in the "so-called Anglophone crisis"!

PRESS RELEASE:

Yaounde-Cameroon May 31th, 2017: At the hearing of May 24, 2017, the Military Court of Yaounde would support the release of Mr. Nkongho Agbor Balla and Dr. Fontem Neba, 2 of the 3 leaders who led the claims in the North-West and South-West region with judicial oversight, the reason is that they have a home, a decent job. This Tribunal is also preparing to reject the request for Mancho Bibixy and the other 25 demonstrators who were appearing in a joint proceeding.

While the final verdict of the request for provisional release subject to judicial oversight submitted by the defense counsel was to be known at the hearing of June 7, 2017, **Barrister Nkongho Agbor Balla**, in a tweet published on Monday, May 29th 2017 on @maenowtabetrust, rejects the idea of a conditional release on bail because "IT SAYS ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE". REDHAC salutes the courage of **Barrister Nkongho Agbor Balla** and gives him his full support.

ALSO,

The **Central Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (REDHAC)** welcomes the deferral of the request for provisional release to Mr. Nkongho Agbor Balla and Dr. Fontem Neba and asks magistrates from all courts to grant unconditional release to all demonstrators.

OTHERWISE,

The **Central Africa Human Rights Defenders Network** informs the national, regional and international opinion of the following:

- 1) Minister of Communication, Spokesman of the Government, Mr. Issa Tchirouma BAKARY, at a press conference in Yaoundé on March 23, 2017 had recognized that 61 activists arrested in the "Anglophone crisis" between november 2016- april 2017 are detained at the Central Prison of Kondengui;
- (2) REDHAC has in its possession a list of 71 activists, all accused of "acts of terrorism, rebellion, hostility to the fatherland, degradation of public property, looting in a band".

FROM ALL THE ABOVE,

The **Central Africa Human Rights Defenders Network** remains worried and concerned about the conditions of detention of the protesters who languish in the prisons of Kondengui, Bamenda and Buea and warns the Military Court against any maneuvers that would free some of the leaders, isolate and condemn in total discretion the 69 others under article 2 of Law No. 2014/028 of 23 December 2014 on "**Punishment of Acts of Terrorism**".

THAT IS WHY,

To the Minister of Justice the REDHAC recommends:

- to instruct the courts before which all activists are tried to proceed with their immediate, unconditional release and to abandon the charges against them;

To the ACHPR (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights), while informing national, regional and international opinion of the filing of its complaint with this mechanism of the African Union

against the State of Cameroon for "VIOLATION OF ARTICLES 6 AND 7 (1) (d) OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER OF HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS "which provides:

- 1) Article 6 *“Every individual shall have the right to liberty and to the security of his person. No one may be deprived of his freedom except for reasons and conditions previously laid down by law. In particular, no one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained.”*
- 2) Article 7 (1) (d) *“Every individual shall have the right to have his cause heard ... within a reasonable time by an impartial court or tribunal;*

The REDHAC recommends:

- to examine on behalf of the 71 activists arrested in the so-called "Anglophone crisis" the complaint submitted on the 8th of May 2017 before the ACHPR;
- to declare it admissible, well founded, relevant and to ensure justice for all complainants by declaring the State of Cameroon guilty of a violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

**REDHAC REQUESTS THE COMMUNITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS TO
MOBILIZE FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL ACTIVISTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION,
07/06/2017.**

For all actions taken to inform the Permanent Secretariat of REDHAC:

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