

Appendix III, Response from Dr. Jonathan Levy

Dr. Jonathan Levy
Attorney at Law
Unit 7810, PO Box 6945,
London, W1A 6US
Tel [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Human Rights Watch
Mausi Segun
Executive Director, Africa Division

Dear Ms. Segun:

I am replying to your of September 22, 2021, letter on behalf of Dr. Ebenezer Akwanga, the African Peoples Liberation Movement (APLM) and the Southern Cameroons Defense Force (SOCADEF) or “the Respondents.”

First, the Respondents want to stress they support education and particularly education and equality of girl-children. The situation in Ambazonia is a tragedy, children are not only insecure in their schools but even more so in their homes, town, and villages. This appalling situation which is going on for more than four years now is the responsibility of the Republic of Cameroon (LRC).

Second, the Respondents disagree with your qualitative and quantitative sampling methodology including the line of questioning in the questionnaire. Phone calls to a few individuals, 110 altogether, is a small sample and subject to bias. Therefore, your conclusions are based on raw data that is suspect.

Third, while HRW is seemingly eager to apportion blame to Ambazonian freedom fighters, not being on the ground, HRW is missing the dynamics in play. The Ambazonian forces while at times jointly cooperating, do not have a united high command. The LRC on the other has diverted funding, logistics, and weaponry from the Boko Haram front to kill our people. This is a matter of self defense against a modern military with foreign advisors – French, Israelis, and Americans with Czech and Hungarian weaponry too.

Fourth, one cannot and should not lump together all the forces opposing the LRC, some are organized, others are simply vigilante or local self-defense movements. One day they may be a local band, the next claiming to be part of the IG or ADF or some other non-existing group.

Fifth, schools have become caught in the crossfire of the armed struggle but entire villages have been razed and burned by the LRC and in particular by the BIR unit which is notorious for its brutalities against civilians. Your narrow focus on schools misses the larger problem of an oppression of an entire people and the destruction of their homeland.

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Attorney at Law
Unit 7810, PO Box 6945,
London, W1A 6US
Tel [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sixth, there are other irregular armed forces at work, in particular the LRC supported MKPD or “black legs” militia who murder, rob, and terrorize civilians, often claiming to be “Amba Boys.”

Seventh, the use of child soldiers is inherently wrong; the Respondents condemn the practice but have seen little evidence of this occurring. However, the small physical stature or slight appearance of Ambazonian Freedom Fighters should not be mistaken for child soldiers.

The Respondents have been very open as to their policies:

1. Respondents support a Comprehensive Negotiated Settlement (CNS) and have been working directly with the Swiss Foreign Ministry and the Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) Center in Switzerland for more than 2 years to achieve conflict resolution.
2. Respondents have held meetings with the ICRC in an attempt to mitigate violence and have lobbied for a NIAC (Non International Armed Conflict) to be declared in order to bring the protections of the Geneva Convention to the conflict.
3. Respondents have worked with OEAS to self-declare a NIAC which was ignored by LRC and IGOs alike.
4. Respondents have utilized materials from ICRC and Geneva Call to train individuals associated with them in the conflict zone.
5. Respondents have received training on the Geneva Convention and laws of war from both the ICRC and Geneva Call.
6. Respondents have sought advice from the late Jerry Rawlings on how to resolve the dispute.
7. Respondents heeded the call of the UN Secretary General to call and extend a COVID cease fire.
8. Respondents recently have called off “ghost town” events as part of a Confidence Building Measures (CBM) requested by the State Party for the purpose of commencement of DIRECT TALKS towards a negotiated settlement – LRC has failed to reciprocate.
9. Respondent have had low level direct discussions with LRC representatives on various matters

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[REDACTED]

Respondents are dismayed that LRC has yet to reciprocate and that if there is a cycle of violence, it is becoming clear this serves the purposes of the Biya regime and its collaborators.

Ms. Segun, it is clear from the skewed attitude of HRW that it blindly serves the purposes of those close to the ancient dictator Biya. It is well known that Canada and France have a financial interest in the Biya regime as do others. Ambazonia is not Sierra Leone, Liberia, or eastern Congo. The goal is one of external self-determination brought on by decades of broken promises, discrimination and a brutal and barbaric annexation. Respondents are not warlords nor are the leadership cadre of the entire Ambazonian movement.

Respondents do not want your advice based on hearsay and innuendo. We know the problem and we know that the cycle of violence can only be ended through conflict resolution. The current situation is intolerable for the Ambazonian people but they have no choice but to defend themselves until the criminals in Yaoundé are brought kicking and screaming to the negotiating table by their financial backers.

Therefore, Respondents plead with HRW: do not enable violence by promoting the agendas of La Republique du Cameroun. HRW's work is admirable but it can also be influenced by politics and funding. Our advice to the HRW therefore is do not pander to bloodstained dictators and their foreign backers. Paul Biya has shown himself to be a craven coward who murders men, women, and children because he is afraid of doing anything other than perpetuating the status quo for his tribe, his family and his own survival.

Warmest regards,



Dr. Jonathan Levy
Legal Representative for Respondents