

## Appendix VII, Akoson Raymond letter to HRW



**Department of Human Rights &  
Humanitarian Services (HHS), Buea  
Ambazonia Governing Council**

AGovC/HHS/006/09-30-2021

The Executive Africa Director,  
Human Rights Watch  
350 Fifth Avenue,  
NY 10118-3299

9/30/2021

Dear Ms. Mausi Segun,

The Ambazonia Governing Council (AGovC), vanguard organization committed to the defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ambazonia (the former British Southern Cameroons) received your letter of September 22, 2021 addressed to the President of the AGovC, Dr. Cho Lucas Ayaba. In *Appendix II: Request for Information* of the said letter, your office sought responses to several questions we would like to formally make statements on.

For the sake of clarity, find our response below each question.

**• Question: What is your position with regards to the resumption of classes in the Anglophone regions?**

Response: The People of Ambazonia take offence at, and do not subscribe to, the colonialist appellation of “Anglophone regions”. Ambazonia (the former British Southern Cameroons) is a separate political entity from the Republic of Cameroun with well-defined international boundaries. As Human Rights Watch is aware of, in violation of international law including Article 4b of the African Union Constitutive Act that froze its boundaries as obtained at independence, Cameroun, in October 1961 marched an army of occupation and colonial administrators across international borders into Ambazonia (British Southern Cameroons at the time) that it has occupied to this day. Cameroun would gradually unleash a failed assimilation plan as publicly declared by its President Paul Biya in the November 2019 Paris Peace Conference ([Beta Tinz, 1:50](#)). A major item on this plan was to, inter alia, impose Cameroun’s socio-cultural and foreign educational system on the people of Ambazonia.

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The People of Ambazonia have collectively rejected Cameroun's colonial educational system. **The AGovC champions for the resumption of classes under an Ambazonian Educational system.** That is why, following the call of school boycott, the AGovC presented an alternative learning system under community schools run and managed by Ambazonians. Currently, Ambazonia boasts of fifty-four (54) community schools throughout its territory. Though insufficient, the progress is steady but slow due to insecurity challenges posed by Cameroun's terrorist soldiers. We call on the international community, including The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Human Rights Watch, to support this initiative.

**• Question 1: How do you respond to allegations that armed separatist fighters, including those belonging to the armed groups affiliated to your political organization, have attacked schools, teachers, and students since 2017?**

The pioneer and leading defense force in Ambazonia called the Ambazonia Defense Forces (ADF) is the military wing of the AGovC. There are several independent armed groups littered across Ambazonia that look up to the ADF for advice, direction, and leadership. Together with ADF soldiers, they are trained to conduct the Ambazonia Liberation War in strict conformity with the Geneva Convention and other international instruments. Be informed that, owing to the dire humanitarian situation orchestrated, fostered and perpetrated by Cameroun through its soldiers in our land, the AGovC (as a measure of responsibility) applied to The FDFA Directorate of International Law (DIL), through The Swiss Federal Council, for a Unilateral Declaration in accordance with Article 96(3) of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and in relation to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts – Protocol 1 of 8 June 1977.

Worthy of note is the fact that Cameroun soldiers, in a bid to sully the good image and reputation of the ADF and its allied forces, have camouflaged in civilian attire and conducted atrocious actions including the burning down of schools, property and farms in the furtherance of its open scorched-earth policy and genocide in Ambazonia. Human Rights Watch and the rest of the world community must resist falling for such cheap pranks by one of the world's worst and longest serving dictatorships of all time. It is not superfluous to reiterate that Cameroun's occupation of Ambazonia is responsible for the war and its ravaging consequences. The responsibility of all war crimes in Ambazonia including but not limited to crimes of colonialism, crimes against humanity, genocide, and ethnic cleansing rest squarely on the aggressor State of Cameroun and its current leaders.

**• Question 2: Could you please provide us with more information regarding how many armed groups have pledged allegiance and/or are fighting on behalf of your political organization? Could you tell us whether they are operating in both Anglophone regions, or just in one of the two?**

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The majority of forces have pledged allegiance to the AGovC and do operate throughout all Ambazonian states.

**• Question 3: Could you please provide us with more information regarding the chain of command within the armed groups which have pledged allegiance and/or are fighting on behalf of your political organization?**

Yes, in ascending order (from least to top):

- i. Soldiers of an ADF/allied force barracks
- ii. Deputy Commander of the ADF/allied force barracks
- iii. Commander of the ADF/allied force barracks
- iv. Chief Commander at the state level of the ADF/allied force
- v. Deputy Supreme Commander of the ADF
- vi. Supreme Commander of the ADF
- vii. Deputy Defense Chiefs of the Ambazonia War Council
- viii. Defense Chief of the Ambazonia War Council
- ix. Commander in Chief

**• Question 4: How many, if any, schools in the Anglophone regions have been used by armed groups affiliated to your political organization? Where, when, and why?**

None that the AGovC leadership is aware of.

**• Question 5: How many, if any, children have been recruited and used by armed groups affiliated with your political organization? Where, when, and why?**

None that the AGovC leadership is aware of. Again, the AGovC frowns at such practice(s) and will not condone the recruitment of minors. This remains a sacrosanct principle among the ADF and allied forces.

**• Question 6: Have you taken any steps to instruct fighters within the armed groups affiliated with your political organization to refrain from attacking schools, teachers, and students? If so, can you describe these actions?**

It is not official ADF policy to attack civilians, so going after teachers, students, schools and other civilian targets is not systemic. During recruitment, the forces go through training that discourage any practice that targets civilians.

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- **Question 7: Have you taken any steps to instruct fighters within the armed groups affiliated with your political organization to refrain from using schools for purposes such as checkpoints and bases? If so, can you describe these actions?**

ADF and its allied forces DO NOT use school campuses for whatever purpose. During recruitment, the forces go through training that discourage practices that undermine educational institutions.

- **Question 8: Have you provided fighters within the armed groups affiliated with your political organization with any code of conduct to guide their operations in the Anglophone regions, including to avoid harming civilians? If so, could you share a copy?**

Yes. See attached.

- **Question 9: Have you ever sanctioned fighters within the armed groups affiliated with your political organization for abusing civilians, including students and teachers, in the Anglophone regions? If so, could you please provide more details as per what kind of sanctions, when, where, against how many fighters, and for what kind of wrongdoing?**

The AGovC has received reports from the ADF hierarchy of a few soldiers affiliated to the organization guilty of certain crimes such as score settling kidnap and in about two instances, kidnap for ransom. In one of the kidnaps for ransom cases involving a medical doctor in Bamenda, investigation was conducted and the culprits were arrested, the money retrieved and refunded to the victim. The culprits were detained for one week and were subjected to retraining by the hierarchy of ADF Bamenda Brigade.

- **Question 10: Could you please explain what your organization is doing to address the impact of the Anglophone crisis on education, and to ensure protection and access to learning opportunities for students?**

Please, revisit the first question above.

The AGovC thanks and appreciates your organization, HRW for its continued interest in the Ambazonia Liberation War. If further questions arise from these responses, please, feel free to send us an email, or for quicker response, contact us on Whatsapp through +1-614-3770445.

Sign

*AkostonR.*

Akoston Raymond  
Secretary of the HHS

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