

48th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 2: Oral update by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

14 September 2021

Delivered by Mickaël Repellin

Madam President,

We would like to express our deep concern about the human rights situation in the Anglophone part of Cameroon since 2017.

The current crisis, which stems from a long-standing socio-political conflict dividing the French- and English parts of Cameroon, is characterized by numerous attacks on the civilian population in the anglophone region. These attacks affect homes and crops, and health centres and schools. They also take the form of abductions, arsons, as well as the use of systematic violence through torture, rape, and sexual assault.

We would like to draw the Council's attention to the situation of children, which is of particular concern. For more than 5 years, nearly 700,000 children have been denied sustainable access to education. Schools are at the core of the tensions, as the Kumba massacre showed on October 24, 2020, in a bilingual school, which caused the death of 7 students.

We urge the government of Cameroon to declare a ceasefire as soon as possible. We also exhort the government to ensure that the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of all Cameroonians are equally respected and protected, regardless of language, cultural identity or political affiliation in application of ratified international human rights conventions.

Finally, we also respectfully request the High Commissioner for Human Rights to release the report following her visit to Cameroon in 2019.

I thank you.