

COMMISSION DES DROITS
DE L'HOMME DU CAMEROUN

SOUS-COMMISSION EN CHARGE
DE LA PROTECTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

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CAMEROON HUMAN
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PRESS RELEASE

Prompted by information spreading on social media about the arrest and detention of a young man named Junior Ngombe, the Observation, Investigation and Alert Unit of the Cameroon Human Rights Commission (CHRC) conducted a fact-finding mission at the Central Judicial Investigation Service (SCRJ) of the National Gendarmerie on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

There, the CHRC team held discussions with the Lieutenant Colonel in charge of the service, and Junior Ngombe, who was about to be brought before the military court. The result was as follows:

On the judicial proceedings initiated against Junior Ngombe

Mr Junior Ngombe was arrested in Douala on 24 July 2024. He is charged with "*inciting rebellion and spreading fake news*". After being questioned by the SCRJ, he was transferred to the legal department of the military court in Yaoundé on 30 July 2024. On the same day, the State Prosecutor at the Military court (SP/MC) referred him back to the SCRJ for further investigation. He once again appeared before the SP/MC this 31 July 2024.

On the physical and detention conditions of Mr Ngombe

Mr Ngombe confirmed the information provided by the Lieutenant Colonel, indicated he was 23 years old and that he voiced deep contrition for the accusations leveled against him. He added that he was well treated and expressed gratitude to the Lt. Col. heading the SCRJ for his paternal care. He also stated that he was well fed and did not complain of any discomfort. Additionally, he claimed not to have been subjected to any torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during his arrest, transfer from Douala to Yaoundé and detention in the SCRJ security rooms. Finally, he confirmed to the CHRC that he is assisted by a group of lawyers, some of whom took part in the proceedings.

The CHRC also observed that Mr Ngombe is clean and shows no signs of physical violence. He is coherent and freely expresses himself.

The CHRC acknowledges the Order of Release on bail of Mr Junior Ngombe, signed today, 31 July 2024, by the State Prosecutor, and notes that the preliminary investigation in the *judicial proceedings against Mr Junior Ngombe is taking its normal course*. The CHRC remains actively seized of the matter.

Yaounde, 31 July 2024



James Mouangue Kobila