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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

**CAMEROON HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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**STATEMENT BY THE CAMEROON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
TO MARK THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
OF AND TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

21 August 2024

**Theme.- *Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates
and Educators***

The Cameroon Human Rights Commission (hereinafter: “the Commission” or “the CHRC”), established by Law No. 2019/014 of 19 July 2019 and rendered operational on 29 April 2021, following the swearing in of its Members before the Supreme Court sitting in Joint Benches,

Recalling the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and those of the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Council on human rights and terrorism¹, and more specifically, Resolution No. A/RES/72/165 of 19 December 2017, by which the United Nations General Assembly, meeting in its 73rd plenary session proclaimed 21 August of each year *as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism*,

Recalling also that this day was established to “honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms”², while reaffirming that “the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for preventing and combating terrorism”³,

¹ See United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “HCHR, terrorism and violent l’extremism, Resolutions”, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/terrorism/resolutions>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

² See United Nations General Assembly, “Resolution A/RES/42/165 adopted on 19 December 2017, based on the report of the third Human Rights Council (A/72/439/Add.2), International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism”, <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n17/455/53/pdf/n1745553.pdf>, 2 pp., spec. p. 2, accessed on 16 August 2024.

³ *Ibid.* p. 1.

Noting that by its Resolution No. A/RES/73/305 of 28 June 2019, the United Nations General Assembly calls for the strengthening of international cooperation to assist victims of terrorism, reaffirms the commitment of Member States to take measures that address the dehumanisation of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations⁴, and thus calling on Member States to develop *comprehensive national assistance plans to support victims of terrorism*. The aim is to provide adequate solutions that meet the needs of victims and survivors of terrorism throughout their lives, from the immediate aftermath of the events that caused their trauma⁵,

Recalling the special tribute ceremony organised at the *9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York* (United States) on 20 September 2021 by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to mark the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, during which 2,977 people from more than 90 countries lost their lives, and thousands of others were seriously injured or suffered indelible trauma and other consequences⁶,

Recalling further that through its Resolution 77/243 of 20 December 2022, the United Nations General Assembly decided to make 12 February the *International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism*, in order to raise public awareness of the threats linked to the phenomenon, especially in the sense that it leads to terrorism, equally as well as to enhance international cooperation intended to eradicate it⁷,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy which highlights the importance of protecting human rights and taking into account the needs of victims of terrorism in view of the crucial role they play in fighting terrorism, preventing violent extremism, promoting international solidarity and helping Member States to recognise and uphold their rights and support their specific needs⁸,

Welcoming the theme of the 7th International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism this year, *Voices for Peace: Victims of Terrorism as Peace Advocates and Educators*, made public on 9 August 2024 by Mr António Guterres, the UN Secretary-General in his contextual message⁹, which reveals that this day calls on us to:

- pay tribute to all victims of terrorist acts and survivors, families, and communities torn apart and forever changed by terrorist acts
- listen and learn from those who have decided to share their experiences marked by trauma, the scars – both visible and invisible – [that] never fully heal, perseverance and forgiveness

⁴ See Resolution A/RES/42/165 of the United Nations General Assembly adopted on 28 June 2019, <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n19/201/44/pdf/n1920144.pdf>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

⁵ See UNOCT/UNCCT, 'United Nations and Philippines launch new project to support victims of terrorism through legislative frameworks', <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/united-nations-and-philippines-launch-new-project-MLP>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

⁶ See UNOCT/UNCCT, 'The United Nations pay tribute to victims of 11 September terrorist attacks of the Memorial in New York', <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/un-pays-tribute-to-victims-911-terrorist-attacks>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

⁷ See United Nations, 'International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when Conducive to Terrorism', <https://www.un.org/en/observances/prevention-extremism-when-conducive-terrorism-day>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

⁸ See United Nations, 'International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism of 21 August', <https://www.un.org/en/observances/terrorism-victims-day>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

⁹ See United Nations, « 'International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism: the Secretary General commends their contribution to peace and their sensitisation work?', <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sgsm22329.doc.htm>, accessed on 14 August 2024.

- contribute to raising awareness among present and future generations to build more peaceful and resilient societies for all,

Noting that in his aforementioned message, the UN Secretary-General reiterates his remarks made during the 2023 celebration of the 6th International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, in which he stated that it is imperative for everyone to commit “*to support victims and survivors, to amplify their voices, to work together to ensure that the lives taken and changed by terrorism are never forgotten. And to build a better future for us all*”¹⁰ as he emphasizes that:

[Sharing] personal trauma to educate others is an act of immense courage [and that] this day urges us to listen [,] to learn and is a reminder that we must always seek out the light of hope [,] together raise up the voices of all victims and survivors educate present and future generations [as well as] build more peaceful and resilient societies for all¹¹,

Recalling that Article 2.1 (b) of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, of 9 December 1999 defines “a terrorist act” as:

any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act,

Recalling also that in its Resolution 1566 adopted at its 5053rd meeting on 8 October 2004, the United Nations Security Council defines terrorist acts as

criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act,

Highlighting that the word “terrorism” is also defined as “*any deliberate act having the effect of creating terror, i.e., violent fear that paralyses both individuals and public authorities*”¹²,

Highlighting also that according to the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (1985), “victim” means:

persons who, individually or collectively, have suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, as a result of a crime or abuse of power, regardless of whether the perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted or convicted and regardless of the familial relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. The term “victim” also includes, where appropriate, the immediate family or dependents of the direct

¹⁰ See United Nations, ‘International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism of 21 August’, <https://www.un.org/en/observances/terrorism-victims-day/messages>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² See Fabien Marchadier, « *Terrorisme* », in : Joël Andriantsimnazovina *et al.* (dir.), *Dictionnaire des Droits de l’homme*, Quadrige/Presses Universitaires de France, Paris, 2012, pp. 919-922, spec. p. 920.

victim and persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization

Recalling the dedication ceremony of the *United Nations Victims of Terrorism Solidarity Tree*, held on 19 June 2023, on the side-lines of the *Third High-Level Counter-Terrorism Week*, organised by UNOCT in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism. This group comprises 37 UN Member States and two regional organisations. The primary purpose of this ceremony was to bolster victims' resilience and reaffirm the international community's resolve to support them through a permanent symbol of remembrance erected on the grounds of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States¹³,

Acknowledging that immediate victims of terrorist acts, and families of injured or killed victims and all people involved (witnesses and professionals at the scene) all need an urgent psychological assistance, followed by a personalized listening and support proposal. They must be the central focus of efforts and actions aimed at providing them the support and justice they deserve,

Highlighting that the standard and institutional framework for countering terrorism and violent extremism has seen little change since the previous observance of this day. The relevant provisions are articulated in the statement published for the 2022 celebration of this day¹⁴,

The Commission notes a gradual return to peace in regions plagued by insecurity due to the activities of terrorist groups, but remains concerned about the great number of attacks perpetrated by secessionist terrorists in the North-West and South-West Regions and *Boko Haram* terrorists, causing the death of civilians, members of the Defence and Security Forces (DSF), destroying private property and public facilities, and instilling a perpetual feeling of terror in the population, in particular:

- the explosion of an artisanal bomb hidden in a tyre used to block the road at a check point in Mile 4 Nkwen, Bamenda, in the Mezam Division, North-West Region, on 9 August 2024. This attack was perpetrated by secessionist groups and resulted in the death of two police officers and the injury of one civilian who was taken to a health facility in town¹⁵
- the attack on 27 May 2024, on the Catholic School of Bafaka in the Ndian Division, South-West Region by secessionist terrorists who abducted teachers for having participated in the 20 May 2024 celebrations. the Catholic priest who

¹³ See UNOCT, "dedication ceremony of United Nations victims of terrorism solidarity tree", <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/dedication-ceremony-united-nations-victims-terrorism-solidarity-tree>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

¹⁴ See CHRC Statement to mark the 5th International day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, published on 21 August 2022, <http://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2022-08-2111-04-00.pdf>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

¹⁵ See *Journal du Cameroun*, "Cameroon: bomb explosion kills two police officers in Bamenda", <https://fr.journalducameroun.com/cameroun-lexplosion-dune-bombe-tue-deux-policiers-a-bamenda/>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

had gone to negotiate their release was also captured and had to pay a ransom of 10 million CFAF to the terrorists for his release and the victims were subsequently released; [the chronology, a basic element of primary logic, was not respected].

- the attack on 29 April 2024 in Darack, a locality of the Logone-and-Chari Division, Far North Region, carried out by members of the terrorist group *Boko Haram*. This attack targeted advanced positions of the Defence and Security Forces and claimed the life of two soldiers and left one injured
- the attack perpetrated on 29 April 2024 in Gancé, a locality of the Mayo-Sava Division, Far North Region, by *Boko Haram* terrorists who stormed the homes of peaceful inhabitants after nightfall, leaving two civilians dead and taking away about thirty (30) small ruminants, clothes and several valuable items
- the incursion of *Boko Haram* terrorists on the night of 8 to 9 March 2024 into the homes of peaceful inhabitants of Ziver, a locality near Magoumaz, in the Mayo-Tsanaga Division, Far North Region, leaving one person dead, lootings as well as 116 internally displaced persons, including 26 men, 32 women and 58 children
- the incursion of *Boko Haram* terrorists on 20 February 2024, in Gubede, a locality of the Mayo-Sava Division, Far North Region, leading to three casualties including one young man and one pregnant woman, one injured party in addition to substantial material damage
- the attack with a homemade bomb by secessionist terrorists that occurred on 11 February 2024 at the Nkambe grandstand in the Donga-Mantung Division, North-West Region, where activities to commemorate the 58th National Youth Day were held. This attack claimed at least one life and left 40 individuals injured. Adolphe Lele L’Afrique, the Governor of the North-West Region announced on Monday 12 February 2024 the arrest of three persons in connection with this explosion¹⁶
- the attack perpetrated on the night of 29 to 30 January 2024 in Buea, in the Fako Division, South-West Region by secessionist terrorists, which left one person dead, several others seriously injured, and five vehicles burnt¹⁷
- the attack carried out on 25 November 2023 in *Mile 3 Nkwen*, a neighbourhood of Bamenda, in the Mezam Division, North-West Region, by secessionist terrorists who opened fire on civilians gathered in a bar called *Big G* to meet Sylvester Madu aka *Shina Rambo*, a Nigerian film actor. The official death toll

¹⁶ See *Africanews*, “English-speaking Cameroon: at least 40 injured and one dead in an attack”, <https://fr.africanews.com/2024/02/12/cameroun-anglophone-au-moins-un-mort-et-40-blesses-dans-un-attentat/>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

¹⁷ See *RFI Afrique*, « Sud-Ouest du Cameroun : une attaque de séparatistes à Buea fait au moins un (1) mort », [https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20240130-sud-ouest-du-cameroun-une-attaque-de-s%C3%A9paratistes-04C3%A0-buea-fait-au-moins-un-mort](https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20240130-sud-ouest-du-cameroun-une-attaque-de-separatistes-04C3%A9paratistes-04C3%A0-buea-fait-au-moins-un-mort), accessed on 1 August 2024.

given on 26 November 2023 by the Senior Divisional Officer for Mezam reported five deaths and nine individuals injured¹⁸

- the murder on 25 November 2023 of Mr Christopher Passi Dobah, the deputy Mayor of Balikumbat who doubled as principal of Government High School Ndop, in the Ngo-Ketunjia Division, North-West Region by secessionist terrorists, a few days after his abduction during his brother's funeral on 11 November 2023 in Baligashu, in the same Subdivision. The authors of this heinous crime published a video on social media showing the lifeless body of the local mayor abandoned in the streets of Balikumbat after they had killed him¹⁹
- the attack perpetrated on the night of 5 to 6 November 2023 in Egbekaw village, in the Manyu Division, South-West Region by secessionist terrorists, which killed 25 people, severely injured seven others and left around ten houses burnt²⁰
- the attack perpetrated on 4 October 2023 in Guzang, a village of the Momo Division, North-West Region by secessionist terrorists during which two civilians were abducted in their homes and shot dead in the village market square by the same terrorist in front of a helpless crowd. The perpetrators accused them of collaborating with the Defence and Security Forces²¹
- the attack perpetrated on 12 September 2023 in Nguetchéwé, a locality of the Mayo-Tsanaga Division, Far North Region, by members of the *Boko Haram* terrorist group using improvised explosive devices. The death toll reports two soldiers of the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) killed and two others injured²²
- the attack perpetrated on 4 September 2023 in Kumba, in the Meme Division, South-West Region, by secessionist terrorists, resulting in the death of the young Jeck Hilda, a student of *Troisième* (Form 4) in the francophone sub-system of education aged 16, at the Kake Grammar School in Kumba 1 Sub-division. Jeck Hilda was struck by a bullet that breached the wall of her family's home and fatally wounded her while she was in her bedroom,

¹⁸ *RFI Afrique*, "Cameroon: following a new attack in Bamenda, the local prefect denounces the repeated violence against civilians", <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20231127-cameroun-apr%C3%A8s-une-nouvelle-attaque-%C3%A0-bamenda-le-pr%C3%A9fet-local-d%C3%A9nonce-les-violences-r%C3%A9p%C3%A9t%C3%A9es-contre-les-civils>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

¹⁹ See *Actu Cameroun*, "North-West: the deputy mayor of Balikumbat kidnapped and murdered by secessionists", <https://actu.cameroun.com/2023/11/26/nord-ouest-ladjoint-au-maire-de-balikumbat-enleve-et-assassine-par-des-secessionnistes/>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

²⁰ See *TV5 Monde*, "Cameroon: an attack by Anglophone separatists leaves at least 20 dead", <https://information.tv5monde.com/afrique/cameroun-une-attaque-de-separatistes-anglophones-fait-au-moins-20-morts-2674566>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

²¹ See *Jeune Afrique*, "In Cameroon, separatists publicly execute two civilians", <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1490036/politique/au-cameroun-les-separatistes-executent-deux-civils-en-public/>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

²² See *Xinhuanet*, "Cameroon: two soldiers killed by Boko Haram in the Far North Region", <https://french.news.cn/20230912/67471f9f565e4dd4b12182fc647a490b/c.html>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

The Commission notes that due to these multiple attacks, forcibly displaced populations, are among vulnerable and marginalised groups that suffer from physical and psychological trauma, and a great socioeconomic vulnerability,

The Commission commends the organisation of a partnership briefing by the UNOCT, to appeal for *support for the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Programme*, in New York, on 24 June 2024. This briefing intended to galvanise the international community's support to uphold concrete progress in advancing the international agenda and commitments made at the first United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in 2022²³,

The Commission notes that the UNOCT and UNODC Global Programme on Victims of Terrorism, in collaboration with the Government of the Philippines, launched the Project *Technical support to the rights and needs of victims of terrorism through model legislative provisions and the development of national comprehensive assistance plans*, in Manila on 16 January 2024, to support the rights and needs of victims and survivors of terrorism²⁴,

The Commission also notes that the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Committee, chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, has adopted its Joint Work Programme for 2024-2026 on 24 January 2024 to guide its work and that of its eight working groups. The Joint Work Programme is comprised of the following five overarching priorities:

- Enhance the coordination and coherence of the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts
- Strengthen engagement with Member States
- Advance partnerships with regional entities, academia, private sector and the civil society
- Consolidate joint planning and resource mobilisation for UN counter-terrorism efforts and take into account the distinct needs of victims
- Mainstream gender dimensions, human rights standards and the rule of law in the context of counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism²⁵,

The Commission deplors the repeated incursions of terrorists in the West Region of Cameroon, notably the attack on 21 November 2023 in Bamenyam, a locality of the Bamboutos Division, by secessionist terrorists from the North-West Region. This incursion claimed the lives of nine people, abduction of several others, burning of houses and the theft of bikes, as per the information gathered by the CHRC West Branch during their investigation,

²³ See UNOCT/UNCCT, "Partnership Briefing to appeal support for the United Nations victims of terrorism programme", <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/partnership-briefing-appeal-support-un-victims-terrorism-programme>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

²⁴ See UNOCT / UNCCT, "The United Nations and the Philippines launch a new project ...", *op. cit.*

²⁵ See UNOCT, "Coordination Committee and Working Groups", <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/global-ct-compact/coordination-committee-working-groups>, accessed on 1 August 2024.

The Commission is still concerned about the result of the investigations carried out by the CHRC West Branch during the period under review, on the prevailing security situation in localities on the borders of the North-West and South-West Regions, particularly in the Noun, Bamboutos and Menoua Divisions, in the West Region, which are now subject to attacks and incursions by secessionist terrorists, with reports of more than 20 people abducted, some of whom were released after payment of ransoms,

The Commission notes with deep concern and deploras:

- the rape of several women resulting in their infection with sexually transmitted diseases or unwanted pregnancies
- the forced recruitment of children into non state armed groups
- the persistence of kidnappings with ransom demands
- the assassination of civilians suspected of collaborating with the Defence and Security Forces or who disapprove of the armed struggle or the secessionist project,

The Commission is pleased that public authorities have implemented the recommendations made to them in its previous statement to mark the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, on 21 August 2023, particularly the creation of the operational unit known as the *Kouoptamo Task Force* by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), mobilising elements of the National Gendarmerie who remain very active in the Noun Division, with day and night patrols as well as control of the Kouoptamo, Bangourain, Njimom and Magba localities, all in the West Region, to stop and deter any possible terrorist attack,

The Commission expresses satisfaction that, of the 220 recommendations accepted by the State during the adoption of *Report of Cameroon after undergoing the Fourth cycle* of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 26 March 2024, six are focused on assisting victims of terrorism. The CHRC has distributed these relevant recommendations to Government bodies, civil society organisations (CSOs) and political parties with each entity expected to implement them as follows:

- the recommendation to "*continue dialogue in order to definitively restore peace in the North-West and South-West Regions of the country*" was addressed to the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) and the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM)
- the recommendation to "*continue implementing measures to resolve the crises in the affected areas peacefully, giving priority to national reconciliation processes*", addressed to the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic (SG/PR), the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), MINAT, the Ministry of Decentralisation and Local Development (MINDDEVEL), the NCPBM and civil society organisations (CSOs)

- the recommendation to "*adopt a global and inclusive approach to tackling the root causes of conflict in the affected regions of Cameroon, by adopting a comprehensive strategy for sustainable peace*", addressed to the Prime Minister's Office, MINEPAT, MINAT and the NCPBM
- the recommendation to "*develop effective measures to prevent and combat acts of violence, including attacks and threats against civilians, medical staff and patients, particularly in the North-West and South-West Regions, in application of Security Council Resolution 2286 (2016)*", addressed to the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE), MINDEF, MINAT and General Delegation for National Security (DGSN)
- the recommendation to "*give priority to the effective participation of young people, women and children, including adolescents, at all levels of peace negotiations, peace-building efforts, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, as well as in crisis response plans and reconstruction programmes*", addressed to the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS), the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Civic Education (MINJEC), the Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP), the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC), the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB), MINAT, MINEPAT, as well as to political parties and CSOs,

The Commission reiterates its recommendations made during the previous International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism and of the International Day to Protect Education from Attacks, in particular to:

- *MINDEF*, to continue to track down those terrorists who refuse the outstretched hand of the Head of State, wherever they may be, to capture them and bring them before the competent courts so that they may answer for their despicable actions and be punished with utmost severity
- *MINESUP*, *MINESEC* and *MINEDUB* to ensure that education policies do not exacerbate conflicts but instead promote the physical and psychological protection of learners and their teachers. Ultimately, these policies should support the return of peace and the preservation of the rights of victims of terrorism
- *United Nations System, development partners and CSOs* to continue to raise public awareness about the dangers of intolerance, hate speech and violent extremism, which are the driving forces that fuel terrorism, with a special emphasis on critical thinking, communication, language learning, knowledge of religious texts that promote a culture of peace, as well as the necessary technical skills to help women participate in debates in mainstream and social media to mitigate the violence of extremist messages,

The Commission recommends to the State, to ensure the effectiveness of the approach to countering terrorism, taking into account the contribution of victims of terrorism working for peace and education for peace, namely:

- to collaborate closely with neighbouring countries (Nigeria, Chad, Central African Republic) to exchange information and coordinate efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism
- to invest more in its endogenous intelligence capabilities through the development of its human and material resource to anticipate and counter all terrorists' threats
- to undertake more extensive awareness-raising efforts targeting the general population, civil society organisations, media outlets, and local communities. This is essential to achieve greater involvement of victims, their representatives, and rights holders, or CSOs specialised in the defence of victims' rights in counter terrorism strategies and practices. Such involvement is absolutely critical for preventing radicalisation, reporting suspicious activities and encouraging terrorists to lay down their arms and surrender at the nearest Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Centres,

The Commission once again recommends that, the members of the armed secessionist terrorist groups and those of *Boko Haram* cease all forms of attack against the population and Defence and Security Forces, and work for the permanent return of peace for the development and the urgent reconstruction of the Far North, North-West and South-West Regions,

The Commission will dedicate its resources to promote and protect human rights, and particularly support victims of terrorism and their families. This will be achieved through training workshops, awareness-raising campaigns, advocacy, visits to prisons, fact-finding missions as well as the handling of complaints and self-initiated investigations,

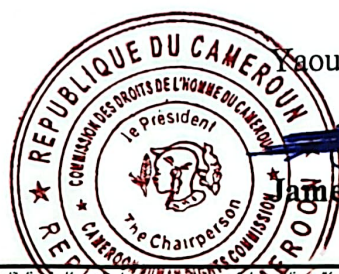
The Commission once more, calls upon all victims or witness of the acts of violent extremism, radicalisation or terrorism to freely contact the police on 117 or the Gendarmerie on 113. It also invites all those who have been victims or witnesses of a human rights violation, especially of a violation of the right to peace and to security to contact the Commission, including via its **toll-free number 1523** (free calls, even without telephone credit).

Useful CHRC addresses

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Yaoundé, the 21st August 2024

James Mouangue Kobila