

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: CMR30526
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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

1. Please provide information on the Social Democratic Front (SDF), its structure, its policies, its history and its leaders.
2. Is there any evidence that supporters or members of the SDF suffer mistreatment in Cameroon?
3. Is there any evidence that voters in Cameroon are forced to vote for the CPDM? How free and fair are elections there?
4. Please provide information on Radio Lumiere and in particular whether it has any connection with the SDF.
5. Are there any reports of a runner who overstayed in the US in 1996 and was imprisoned on his return to Cameroon?
6. Do those who criticise the government or expose corruption face mistreatment in Cameroon?

RESPONSE

1. Please provide information on the Social Democratic Front (SDF), its structure, its policies, its history and its leaders.

The SDF is Cameroon's largest opposition political party and contested elections throughout 2004. It is a legally registered political party and has seats in the National Assembly and mayoral representation throughout the country (UK Home Office 2006, *Operational Guidance Note – Cameroon*, 30 January, para.3.6.2 – Attachment 1).

The SDF was founded in 1990 in the English-speaking town of Bamenda in western Cameroon and was legalised in 1991. The US State Department reports that the SDF's support base is in the Anglophone provinces (Banks, Arthur S. et al 2006, *Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006*, CQ Press, Washington, pp.191-192 – Attachment 2; US

Department of State 2006, 'National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

Attached is an outline of the party's history and a map of Cameroon (Banks, Arthur S. et al 2006, *Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006*, CQ Press, Washington, pp.191-192 – Attachment 2; United Nations Cartographic Section 2004, 'Cameroon', September <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/cameroon.pdf> – Accessed 30 August 2006 – Attachment 4).

In additional a recent article states:

...Since its inception, the SDF has been riven with internal divisions and disciplinary measures have frequently been used by Fru Ndi [the SDF leader] to dispense with rivals within the movement. Divisions between its Francophone (largely ethnic Bamiléké) and Anglophone leadership have widened over the past five years, with Asonganyi and Bernard Muna quietly petitioning for Fru Ndi's removal. Fru Ndi has struck pre-emptively, but his move may further divide an already diminished party, which performed poorly in the 2004 presidential poll and will struggle again in parliamentary polls scheduled for next year (Melville, Christopher 2006, 'Leading Dissident Ejected from Principal Opposition Party in Cameroon', *Global Insight Daily Analysis*, 2 February – Attachment 5).

Another news article reported that:

...the SDF is becoming a party reduced to one province and riddled with internecine wranglings, cleavages and intolerance...(Tataw, Emanuel 2006, 'SDF : Riddled With Internecine Wranglings', *Cameroon Tribune (Yaoundé)*, allAfrica.com website, 29 June <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200606290331.html> – Accessed 30 August 2006 – Attachment 6).

Reports indicate that Michel Tazoacha Asonganyi, a secretary general of the SDF, was expelled from the party in January 2006. In May 2006 there were clashes between party factions in which Gregoire Diboule, a provincial administrative secretary in Yaounde, was killed. In August 2006, Fru Ndi was charged with murder, complicity to murder and causing minor injuries in connection with the May 2006 violence (Melville, Christopher 2006, 'Leading Dissident Ejected from Principal Opposition Party in Cameroon', *Global Insight Daily Analysis*, 2 February – Attachment 5; Manyong, Peterkins & Mbunwe, Chris 2006, 'SDF Dismisses Asonganyi', *The Post (Buea)*, allAfrica.com website, 31 January <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200602020305.html> – Accessed 29 August 2006 – Attachment 7; Musa, Tansa 2006, 'One killed as Cameroon party split turns violent', *Reuters News*, 26 May – Attachment 8; '23 held in Cameroon violence between rival political opposition groups' 2006, *Agence France Presse*, 16 July – Attachment 9; 'Cameroon party leader on murder charge over May unrest' 2006, *Agence France Presse*, 22 August – Attachment 10).

On the party factions, one May 2006 news article reported that the SDF had split into two, with Ni John Fru Ndi and Barrister Bernard Muna heading each of the factions. Muna's chief organiser, Clement Ngwasiri, called his faction the authentic SDF ('SDF Breaks Up!' 2006, *The Post (Buea)*, AllAfrica.com website, 30 May <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200606010723.html> – Accessed 30 August 2006 – Attachment 11).

On the 2004 presidential election, a Canadian government body stated that:

In the 25 October 2004 presidential election, the SDF president won 17.4 per cent of the vote, putting him in second place (*Africa Research Bulletin* 31 Oct. 2004, 15948; IRIN 26 Oct. 2004). In the 2002 legislative elections, the SDF won 22 seats (*Europa* 2004 2004, 986; SDF n.d.), earning it second place after the governing Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais, RDPC), which won 149 of the 180 seats in the Cameroonian National Assembly (ibid.) (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CMR43540.FE – Cameroon: The Social Democratic Front (Front social démocrate, SDF), including its structure, its organization and its membership card* (April 2005), 29 April – Attachment 12).

Structure

According to the SDF website, the party is organised at the national level thus: the National Convention, the National Executive Committee (NEC), the National Advisory Council and the NEC Policy Committees on Constitutional and Political Affairs, Finance and Economic Affairs, External Relations, Social and Cultural Affairs, Rural Development and the Environment and the Councils Commission ('About the Social Democratic Front' (undated), Social Democratic Front website <http://www.sdfparty.org/english/> – Accessed 28 August 2006 – Attachment 13).

(Note: The SDF website appears to belong to the John Fru Ndi faction as Asonganyi is not shown as the general secretary: see 'Leaders' below 'SDF Dismisses Asonganyi', *The Post (Buea)*, allAfrica.com website, 31 January <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200602020305.html> – Accessed 29 August 2006 – Attachment 7; 'SDF Breaks Up!' 2006, *The Post (Buea)*, AllAfrica.com website, 30 May <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200606010723.html> – Accessed 30 August 2006 – Attachment 11).

The SDF website outlines the party structure at the local level thus: Provincial, District (Constituency) and Ward Conferences and Executive Committees and Divisional Coordinations ('About the Social Democratic Front' (undated), Social Democratic Front website <http://www.sdfparty.org/english/> – Accessed 28 August 2006 – Attachment 13).

Also, information on the SDF website states that the party had commissioned research, accessed through the AsylumLaw.org website, "to identify ways people forge its membership for various reasons including asylum claims" ('Verification of claims of membership' (undated), Social Democratic Front website <http://www.sdfparty.org/english/references/466.php> – Accessed 29 August 2006 – Attachment 14).

The research, dated May 1998 and appears to have been circulated to various embassies in Cameroon, covered the topics:

- Emblem of the SDF (p.2)
- Organs/Structures of the Party (p.3)
- Executive Members in various SDF Organs (p.8)
- Membership cards (p.11, note: p.10 is missing)
- Is SDF membership enough to qualify for political asylum (p.14)
- False publications in the newspapers (p.15)

False letters (p.21) (Social Democratic Front 1998, 'Abuse of membership of the SDF Asylum seekers', 30 May, AsylumLaw.org website http://www.asylumlaw.org/docs/cameroon/usdos98_cameroon_letter.pdf – Accessed 28 August 2006 – Attachment 15).

This 1998 document states that the SDF has five structures: The ward, The Electoral District, The Divisional Coordination, The Province and The National (p.3). The executive posts in these structures are also set out (pp.8-9) (Social Democratic Front 1998, 'Abuse of membership of the SDF Asylum seekers', 30 May, AsylumLaw.org website http://www.asylumlaw.org/docs/cameroon/usdos98_cameroon_letter.pdf – Accessed 28 August 2006 – Attachment 15).

Leaders

The leaders of the SDF are identified on the website as follows:

Ni John Fru Ndi (National Chairman and Chair of the Advisory Council)
Dr. Elizabeth Tamanjong (Secretary General)
Barrister Augustin Mbami (Treasurer General)
Hon. Joseph Mbah-Ndam (SDF Parliamentary Group Leader)
Hon. Kwemo Pierre (Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly)
Hon. Awudu Mbaya (Secretary, National Assembly)
Hon. Dr Bandzem Jospheh Lukong (Deputy Parliamentary Group Leader)
Hon. Dr Ngetcham (Parliamentary Group Secretary)
Hon. Yoyo Emmanuel (Questor of the National Assembly) ('About the Social Democratic Front' (undated), Social Democratic Front website <http://www.sdfparty.org/english/> – Accessed 28 August 2006 – Attachment 13).

Other information on leaders during 1994-1996 is in: RRT Country Research 2004, *Research Response CMR16546*, 31 March, quest.2/p.7 – Attachment 16).

Policies

According to the SDF website the party is a social democratic party and is a member of the Socialist International ('About the Social Democratic Front' (undated), Social Democratic Front website <http://www.sdfparty.org/english/> – Accessed 28 August 2006 – Attachment 13).

The SDF website states that, in accordance with its 1990 Manifesto and Constitution, the party pledges:

- Uphold **true national unity** as the most appropriate (sic) political environment for real development;
- Mobilise Cameroonians to establish a just, free and democratic society in which the elderly, the disabled, the retired, men, women, the youth and the unemployed can live in dignity;
- Promote the official bilingual and multi-cultural character of Cameroon;
- Promote the **political cohesion** of the Cameroon society as a means of securing the basic needs for all the people, regardless of sectional, tribal, religious, social and linguistic interests;
- Uphold **human dignity** and **the right to pursue lawfully and freely**,

- ends which maximise and sustain individual and group happiness;
- Guarantee **workers' rights to collective bargaining** for decent working conditions and wages;
- Adopt policies of **free market economy** and the **private ownership** and **disposal** of property;
- Promote commerce, equal opportunities and eliminate poverty; undertakes to develop, protect and preserve Cameroon's natural resources and the environment;
- Guarantee **freedom** under the law and the respect for the individual's **fundamental human rights**;
- Abolish all forms of oppression and suppression;
- Adopt **participatory democracy** and government as the best means of getting every citizen involved in the political process; pledges to advance education, science, industry, arts and the humanities;
- Guarantee the freedom of association and a multiparty system;
- Pursue a policy of winning power through elections;
- Uphold its belief the sovereignty of the people, self-determination and independence;
- Promote **international peace** and **co-operation** in accordance with international law and practice;
- Guarantee the **separation of powers**, the **rule of law** and in the **equality of all citizens** before the law ('About the Social Democratic Front' (undated), Social Democratic Front website <http://www.sdfparty.org/english/> – Accessed 28 August 2006 – Attachment 13).

2. Is there any evidence that supporters or members of the SDF suffer mistreatment in Cameroon?

There have been reports that SDF supporters and members, although not all, have been mistreated by government authorities.

In the most recent US State Department report on human rights practices for 2005 wrote that:

Natives of the North West and South West provinces tended to support the opposition party SDF and suffered disproportionately from human rights violations committed by the government and its security forces. The Anglophone community was underrepresented in the public sector...(US Department of State 2006, 'National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

It also noted that, unlike 2004, there were no reports of security forces breaking up or disrupting SDF gatherings during 2005 (US Department of State 2006, 'Freedom of Assembly' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

In June 2005 a Canadian government office reported:

Sources indicate that on 20 August 2004, John Khontem, an SDF leader in the North West Province, was beaten to death by the guards of Gah Gwanyin Doh III (*Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, sec. 1.a; see also AI 25 May 2005) in Balikumbat (PANA 26 Aug. 2004). Gah Gwanyin is not only the traditional ruler and mayor of this village, but he is also a representative of the Cameroon

People's Democratic Rally (Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais, RDPC [the party in power]) in that region (AI 25 May 2005; PANA 26 Aug. 2004; *ibid.* 23 Aug. 2004). According to *Country Reports 2004*, John Khontem was returning from a meeting where he had accused Gah Gwanyin of committing pre-electoral fraud (28 Feb. 2005, sec. 1.a) (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CMR100062.FE – Cameroon: Government attitude toward and treatment of members of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) (June 2005)*, 9 June – Attachment 17).

And

In addition, on 6 July 2004, John Fru Ndi, an SDF leader (AI 25 May 2005), was injured when security forces used excessive force to end a rally in Yaounde, the country's capital (*Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, sec. 2.b; see also AI 25 May 2005). In October 2004, security forces prevented a press conference from taking place at the SDF headquarters in Yaounde (*Country Reports 2004* 28 Feb. 2005, sec. 2.b; PANA 19 Oct. 2004). According to *Country Reports 2004*, "by occasionally censoring and significantly shortening proposed SDF programming" Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV) restricted the party's freedom of expression (28 Feb. 2005, sect. 2.a) (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CMR100062.FE – Cameroon: Government attitude toward and treatment of members of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) (June 2005)*, 9 June – Attachment 17).

A UK Home Office fact-finding mission report in 2004 stated:

Ni John Fru Ndi, National Chairman of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) told the delegation that government officials and the police harass and intimidate members of the SDF in Cameroon. Young people whose parents are members of the SDF in particular are harassed and intimidated by the government. The government bans students that are associated with the SDF from going to University to further their education. Therefore about 80 percent of young SDF supporters that want to further their education, do so in another country. Many young SDF supporters are also stopped from obtaining jobs or starting up new businesses. Often the government claim that they have not paid the correct taxes so keep postponing the necessary documents needed to start a new business. It is hard for many young SDF supporters to live in Cameroon because of the harassment and intimidation, therefore many claim asylum in other countries for two main reasons, to get an education or to get a job. However, it must be noted that this form of intimidation is not used against all SDF members (UK Home Office 2004, *Report of Fact-Finding Mission to Cameroon*, 17 – 25 January, para.3.2 <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/openssl.pdf?tbl=RSDCOI&id=4152c6cc4> – Accessed 20 June 2006 – Attachment 18).

Further information on the treatment of SDF members and supporters in the attached RRT Country Research Response (RRT Country Research 2004, *Research Response CMR16546*, 31 March, quest.1/pp.1-6, quest.4/pp.10-11 – Attachment 16).

3. Is there any evidence that voters in Cameroon are forced to vote for the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM)?

(Note: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) is also known as the *Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple Camerounais* (RDPC) (Day, Alan J. (ed) 2002,

Political Parties of the World, John Harper Publishing, 5th ed., London, pp.81-82 – Attachment 19).)

Country sources indicate that voters have been intimidated by the CPDM during elections.

The US State Department has noted that the President and his party (the CPDM), by electoral intimidation, manipulation and fraud, limit citizens right to change the government peacefully (US Department of State 2006, 'Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

A 2002 news article on the 2002 National Assembly elections stated that:

The furore over fraud was fuelled by allegations that a government minister offered 150 people money to travel to polling stations casting multiple votes and intimidating opposition voters (Musa, Tansa 2002, 'Cameroon ruling party tightens grip on parliament', *Reuters News*, 19 July – Attachment 20).

A 1998 US State Department *Cameroon – Profile of Asylum Claims & Country Conditions* reported that in the 1997 elections:

...Physical intimidation of voters appeared limited to some regions where traditional chiefs allied with the President were heavy-handed in blocking access to voting sites...(US Department of State 1998, 'Claims and relevant country conditions' in *Cameroon – Profile of Asylum Claims & Country Conditions*, March – Attachment 21).

Also, Musa in a 1997 news article wrote:

Some of the atrocities have been documented by Bishop Philippe Stevens of the Maroua-Mokolo Diocese in the Far North Province. In an open letter published in the Oct. 31 issue of *The Herald*, a Cameroonian newspaper, he complained that people in his diocese who had refused to vote had been forced to pay CFA 2,500 (five U.S. dollars – a sizeable sum in the countryside) and three fowls to soldiers to avoid torture.

Those who did not pay up faced the wrath of troops, said Stevens. Some went into hiding but, according to the bishop, local officials of the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) showed the troops the hideouts of some 15 "recalcitrant opponents" aged between 17 and 50, who were then seized and tortured (Musa, Tansa 1997, 'Cameroon – Human Rights: Orgy of abuses follows election', *Inter Press Service*, 5 November – Attachment 22).

And:

At Ikiliwindi in the South West province, ruling CPDM thugs attacked other villagers with machetes (sic), knives and clubs, inflicting severe wounds on them, for failing to vote. When Walson Ntuba, an Ikiliwindi dignitary, heard of the mayhem in his village, he collapsed and died (Musa, Tansa 1997, 'Cameroon – Human Rights: Orgy of abuses follows election', *Inter Press Service*, 5 November – Attachment 22).

4. How free and fair are elections there?

Opinions vary on how free and fair elections are in Cameroon and are reflected in the US State Department report on human rights:

In October 2004 President Biya, who has controlled the government since 1982, was re-elected with approximately 70 percent of the vote in an election widely viewed as freer and fairer than previous elections and in which opposition parties fielded candidates. However, the election was poorly managed and marred by irregularities, in particular in the voting registration process, but most international observers deemed that the irregularities did not prevent the elections from expressing the will of the voters. Some observers said progress had been made and called the election transparent; others, such as the Commonwealth Observer Group, stated that the election lacked credibility. Some opposition parties alleged that there was multiple voting by individuals close to President Biya's party and massive vote rigging. One domestic group described the election as a masquerade. The 2002 legislative elections, which were dominated by the CPDM, largely reflected the will of the people; however, there were widespread irregularities (US Department of State 2006, 'Elections and Political Participation' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

Attached is a Canadian advice on the October 2004 presidential elections including processes (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CMR43537. FE – Cameroon: The October 2004 presidential elections, including the process, the monitoring efforts, the election results, the reaction of government organizations and opposition parties, as well as the treatment of opposition party members by government authorities (2004-May 2005)*, 6 May – Attachment 23).

5. Please provide information on Radio Lumiere and in particular whether it has any connection with the SDF.

Although no recent information was found in the sources consulted on Radio Lumiere, 1999-2001 information indicates that Radio Lumiere is a private radio station in Yaounde. No connection between Radio Lumiere and the SDF was found in the sources consulted.

References to "Radio Lumiere" were found in two US State Department reports.

In the 1999 report it stated:

...In addition three private radio stations broadcast in Yaounde without licenses; one, Radio Reine, broadcasts Catholic religious programs. **Radio Lumiere, broadcasts music out of a secondary school, Ndi Samba Superier, and also serves as a training center for journalism students.** The third station, Radio Soleil, began operating in September. In March the Minister of Communications stated, on a CRTV radio broadcast, that such unlicensed stations operate "at their own risk," although the Government took no action to close them...(US Department of State 2000, 'Freedom of Speech and Press' in *Country Reports for Human Rights Practices for 1999 – Cameroon*, 25 February – Attachment 24).

The 2001 report stated:

In 2000 five Yaounde-based private radio stations that previously had been broadcasting illegally submitted applications and paid an interim fee of \$727

(500,000 CFA francs). The Government authorized them to continue broadcasting, pending final approval of their application and subsequent payment of the full licensing fee. Of these stations, two are religious: The Pentecostal “Radio Bonne Nouvelle” and “Radio Reine,” which is managed by a Catholic priest, though not officially sponsored by the Catholic Church. **Two others are affiliated with private nonaccredited academic institutions: NDI Samba University’s “Radio Lumiere”** and the Siantou University’s “Radio Siantou.” The fifth station is “Radio Venus,” which plays only music...(US Department of State 2002, ‘Freedom of Speech and Press’ in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2001 – Cameroon*, 4 March – Attachment 25).

One article noted that Ndi Samba was a private school “which has a university radio station, *Radio Lumière*”. The article also stated that *Radio Lumière* was “set up by an institution of higher education” (Paquot, Elisabeth 2000, *Media Status Report: Cameroon*, Research and Technological Exchange Group (GRET) website, November, p.6, 10 <http://www.gret.org/parma/uk2/ressource/edm/pdf/cameroun.pdf#search=%22Yaounde%20%22radio%20lumiere%22%22> – Accessed 31 August 2006 – Attachment 26).

A 1999 news article reported the Radio Lumiere was a privately-owned university campus station in Yaounde which commenced operation in the first week of February 1999. The article described the proprietor as “Ndi Samba” (Wongibe, Emmanuel 1999, ‘Cameroon Rules The Airwaves, Uneasily’, *PANOS (London)*, AllAfrica.com website, 27 October <http://allafrica.com/stories/199910270036.html> – Accessed 31 August 2006 – Attachment 27).

6. Are there any reports of a runner who overstayed in the US in 1996 and was imprisoned on his return to Cameroon?

No information was found in the sources consulted on this question.

However, an Amnesty International report, dating from September 1997, states that torture was a common occurrence, and that “hundreds of critics and opponents of the government, in particular members and supporters of opposition parties, journalists, human rights activists and students, have been harassed and assaulted, arrested and imprisoned”. The report does not mention any sporting figures in this context (Amnesty International 1997, *Cameroon: Blatant disregard for human rights*, AMR17/16/97, 16 September, pp.1-2 – Attachment 29).

It may be of some interest one report noted that after the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games 200 foreigners had applied for asylum in the USA (‘Other’ 2000, *Migration News*, Vol. 7. No. 12, December – Attachment 30).

7. Do those who criticise the government or expose corruption face mistreatment in Cameroon?

Cameroon has a poor human rights record and has been described as one of the world’s most corrupt countries. According to Amnesty International and US State Department information critics of the government are harassed, arrested and detained. It is reported that security forces torture, beat and abuse prisoners and detainees. The US State Department noted that the government used criminal libel laws to inhibit the press in reporting controversial issues such as corruption (UK Home Office 2006, *Operational Guidance Note – Cameroon*, 30 January, para.2.6 – Attachment 1; Amnesty International (undated), *Amnesty International Report: Covering events from January – December 2005: Africa: Cameroon* – Attachment

31; US Department of State 2006, 'Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment', 'Arrest and Detention', 'Freedom of Speech and Press' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

According to the US State Department:

Security forces and government authorities continued to arbitrarily arrest and detain persons, often holding them for prolonged periods without charges or trials and, at times, incommunicado. There were reports of political detainees, including Anglophone citizens advocating secession, local human rights monitors/activists, journalists, and other critics of the government (see sections 2.a. and 2.b.). Police also arrested persons during unauthorized demonstrations (see section 2.b.) (US Department of State 2006, 'Arrest and Detention' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

However, in the context of freedom of speech and the press the US State Department also reported:

The law provides for freedom of speech and of the press; however, the government continued to restrict these rights in practice. The government sometimes invoked strong libel laws to silence criticism of the government and officials. Journalists, particularly broadcast journalists, often practiced self-censorship as a result of government intimidation, harassment, and criminal penalties for speech-related offenses.

Individuals generally were able to criticize the government publicly and privately without being subjected to government reprisal, although the country's strict libel law resulted in self-censorship. The government prohibited discussion or the advocacy of secession, which resulted in numerous arrests of SCNC [Southern Cameroons National Council, an Anglophone secessionist group] members during the year (see section 1.d.). The government monitored the meetings of the SCNC, but not of any opposition parties (US Department of State 2006, 'Freedom of Speech and Press' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3);

and

...Newspapers were distributed primarily in urban areas, and most continued to criticize the government and report on controversial issues, including corruption, human rights abuses, and economic policies. However, the government used criminal libel laws to inhibit the press, and in 2004 the propagation of false information was also criminalized (US Department of State 2006, 'Freedom of Speech and Press' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

According to the US State Department, during 2005, the government took some steps to fight corruption, for example the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and the installation of a computer programme to detect fraudulent state employees and to better control the number of public employees (US Department of State 2006, 'Government Corruption and Transparency' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

Transparency International, in its *Global Corruption Report 2006* for Cameroon, wrote:

For many observers, while sustained efforts are required to reduce the extent of corruption, the EITI initiative forms part of a raft of measures recently introduced to clean up public sector management and promote professional ethics. The test will be in implementing them (Transparency International 2005, 'Cameroon' in *Global Corruption Report 2006 – Countries A-K*, 8 November, Part 2, p.141 http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr/report_gcr – Accessed 1 September 2006 – Attachment 32).

However, the judiciary is ultimately responsible for enforcing the law and sanctioning illegalities. The US State Department reported that the judiciary is highly subject to executive influence and corruption (Transparency International 2005, 'Cameroon' in *Global Corruption Report 2006 – Countries A-K*, 8 November, Part 2, p.140 http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr/report_gcr – Accessed 1 September 2006 – Attachment 32; US Department of State 2006, 'Denial of Fair Public Trial' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March – Attachment 3).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

United Nations (UN)

UNHCR: REFWORLD <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rsd>

Topic Specific Links

Committee to Protect Journalists

http://www.cpj.org/regions_06/africa_06/africa_06.html#cameroon

PANOS London <http://www.panos.org.uk/>

Search Engines

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. UK Home Office 2006, *Operational Guidance Note – Cameroon*, 30 January.
2. Banks, Arthur S. et al 2006, *Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006*, CQ Press, Washington, pp.191-192. (MRT-RRT Library)
3. US Department of State 2006, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – Cameroon*, 8 March. (CISNET)
4. United Nations Cartographic Section 2004, 'Cameroon', September <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/cameroon.pdf> – Accessed 30 August 2006.

5. Melville, Christopher 2006, 'Leading Dissident Ejected from Principal Opposition Party in Cameroon', *Global Insight Daily Analysis*, 2 February. (FACTIVA)
6. Tataw, Emanuel 2006, 'SDF : Riddled With Internecine Wranglings', *Cameroon Tribune (Yaoundé)*, allAfrica.com website, 29 June
<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200606290331.html> – Accessed 30 August 2006.
7. Manyong, Peterkins & Mbunwe, Chris 2006, 'SDF Dismisses Asonganyi', *The Post (Buea)*, allAfrica.com website, 31 January
<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200602020305.html> – Accessed 29 August 2006.
8. Musa, Tansa 2006, 'One killed as Cameroon party split turns violent', *Reuters News*, 26 May. (FACTIVA)
9. '23 held in Cameroon violence between rival political opposition groups' 2006, *Agence France Presse*, 16 July. (FACTIVA)
10. 'Cameroon party leader on murder charge over May unrest' 2006, *Agence France Presse*, 22 August. (FACTIVA)
11. 'SDF Breaks Up!' 2006, *The Post (Buea)*, AllAfrica.com website, 30 May
<http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200606010723.html> – Accessed 30 August 2006.
12. Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2005, *CMR43540.FE – Cameroon: The Social Democratic Front (Front social démocrate, SDF), including its structure, its organization and its membership card (April 2005)*, 29 April. (REFINFO)
13. 'About the Social Democratic Front' (undated), Social Democratic Front website
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