



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Cameroon - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 1 & Monday 4 March 2019

Information on the current security situation in the Anglophone region

A report released in 2019 by *Freedom House* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that:

“The conflict between security forces and separatists in the Anglophone Northwest and Southwest Regions has intensified, resulting in widespread civilian deaths and displacements” (Freedom House (2019) *Freedom in the World 2019, Cameroon*, p.1).

A report published in January 2019 by *Voice of America* notes:

“Towns and villages in Cameroon's restive Anglophone regions are being deserted as battles rage between separatists and the country's military” (Voice of America (3 January 2019) *Cameroon's English-Speaking Areas Becoming Deserted*).

The *Guardian* in January 2010 points out that:

“The country has been descending into crisis as separatists in the English-speaking part battle with security forces to split off from the Francophone part, with civilians caught in the crossfire. The UN says more than 430,000 people have been displaced and hundreds killed. The military has been accused of killing civilians and looting, while separatists are apparently behind a rising number of kidnappings for ransom. Civilians are frequently deserting their homes and hiding in the countryside” (Guardian (29 January 2019) *Cameroon arrests opposition leader who claims he won 2018 election*).

A report issued in February 2019 by the *International Crisis Group* states that:

“Cameroon, long considered an island of relative stability in a troubled region, is steadily sliding toward civil war as the crisis in the country's two Anglophone regions deepens” (International Crisis Group (6 February 2019) *Eight Priorities for the African Union in 2019*).

Voice of America states that:

“Renewed fighting has killed 69 people in English-speaking regions of Cameroon...” (Voice of America (9 February 2019) *Nearly 70 Killed in Cameroon as Separatists Stop Youth Week Activities*

In February 2019 *Jane's* states that:

“Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC) has recorded an increase in the tempo of militancy in Cameroon's Anglophone Nord-Ouest and Sud-Ouest regions, as well as the neighbouring Littoral Region, between 1 January 2017 and 1 January 2019” (Jane's (13 February 2019) *Increased kidnapping attacks on education sector*

in Cameroon's Anglophone regions highlight developing strategies of separatist militants).

A report published in February 2019 by *Reuters* points out that:

“Unrest has historically been rare in Cameroon, and when it happens it tends to be quelled with overwhelming force. Protests erupted in its troubled western Anglophone region more than two years ago, and after they were repressed they morphed into a low level rebellion” (Reuters (13 February 2019) *Cameroon's main opposition leader charged with rebellion –lawyer*).

A report released in February 2018 by the *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project* states that:

“Violent events associated with the conflict have been on a sharp decline since the 2018 peak in October...” (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (14 February 2018) *Crackdowns, “Ghost-Towns,” and Violence against Civilians in Anglophone Cameroon*, p.2).

References

Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (14 February 2018) *Crackdowns, “Ghost-Towns,” and Violence against Civilians in Anglophone Cameroon*
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/acleddata.com-Crackdowns%20Ghost-Towns%20and%20Violence%20against%20Civilians%20in%20Anglophone%20Cameroon.pdf>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre 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. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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