

CCDHR

Cameroon Center for Democracy Human Rights

CONFERENCE ON THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN CAMEROON '50 YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE'

"Understanding the Dynamics and Fostering the Struggle for Democracy and Human Rights in Cameroon"

Saturday, March 6, 2010
American University, Washington DC, United States of America

CONFERENCE DECLARATION

- Whereas CCDHR's objectives amongst others, is to foster democracy, respect for human rights, good governance, and public accountability in Cameroon;
- Mindful of the fact that nepotism, corruption, embezzlement and violations of the principles democracy, human rights, and rule of law continue unabated in Cameroon;
- Concerned at the fact that the country's elections management body, Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) as founded and constituted lacks independence and credibility;
- Considering that the prevailing circumstances in Cameroon lends credence to the fact that no free, fair, and transparent election can currently be conducted in Cameroon;
- Alarmed at the fact that the government continues to suppress press freedom through closure of private media sources, and the harassment, intimidation, arrest, and imprisonment of journalists;

The following is hereby resolved at this conference holding this 6th day of March 2010:

1. That 50 years after independence, the entire Government machinery has failed Cameroonians by being incapable of enabling them achieve their legitimate aspirations;
2. That far from a celebration, Cameroonians should use the 50th anniversary of the independence of Cameroon as a time of sober reflection on the enormous challenges facing the country;
3. Call on President Biya to release all political prisoners who are languishing in prisons in Cameroon not because of any crime committed, but for their dissent of government policies and actions;
4. Recognize the resilience of youths in the face of incredible odds and specifically ask them to recognize their numeric force and use such to serve as a source of strength for a new dawn in Cameroon;
5. Urge the civil society to be more proactive in the democratization efforts in Cameroon, do more in the domain of civic education, defense of human rights violations, and articulate with greater vigor the concerns of Cameroonians who yearn for a change in the status quo;
6. Call on leaders of political parties to exhibit greater democracy within their parties by creating avenues for leadership changes, and demonstrate public accountability as an example to Cameroonians that there can be a better alternative to the last 50 years;

7. That after serving for 46 years at the highest levels of government in Cameroon, President Paul Biya should retire at the end of his current term in office in 2011;
8. That Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) be dissolved immediately as it is neither legitimate nor credible, and does not have the ability to organize free and fair elections in Cameroon;
9. That the anticipated Presidential elections in 2011 be deferred, as there is yet no authentic legal and institutional framework to organize and manage transparent elections in Cameroon;
10. That a 'Transitional Government' be established to include representatives of political parties, civil society organizations, clergies, prominent scholars, and other pro-democracy stakeholders;
11. That the 'Transitional Government' be headed by a qualified independent person, that is acceptable to the political parties and the civil society, and who can be viewed as a symbol of national unity and reconciliation;
12. That the 'Transitional Government' should have a mandate of four (4) years with specific responsibility to draft a democratic constitution, revise electoral laws in Cameroon, set-up the requisite democratic institutions, and organize Municipal, Parliamentary, and Presidential elections by the end of its mandate.
13. That members of the transitional government be barred from running for office in the Municipal, Parliamentary, and Presidential elections that will culminate the expiration of the mandate of the 'Transitional Government';
14. Call on the International Community to demonstrate greater interest and scrutiny of the situation in Cameroon and put more pressure on the government to open up to genuine reforms for a vibrant democracy to thrive in Cameroon.

Done this day, **March 06, 2010.**

Presented on behalf of CCDHR,

Eric NGONJI NJUNGWE.

President/Executive Director.

Cameroon Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CCDHR).