



# **Cameroon: The Anglophone Crisis**

**Asylos, October 2025**

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Further, the COI presented is illustrative, but not exhaustive of the information available in the public domain, nor is it determinative of any individual human rights or asylum claim. While we strive to be as comprehensive as possible, no amount of research can ever provide an exhaustive picture of the situation. It is therefore important to note that the absence of information should not be taken as evidence that an issue does not exist.

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Many thanks,

Your Asylos Team

## Research Timeframe

The earliest source dates from August 2019 and the most recent source dates from June 2025. The findings in this report are set out in reverse chronological order.

## Sources consulted

All (web) sources were consulted in June 2025.

### 1. (Inter)governmental sources

- UN OCHA
- US Department of State

*DISCLAIMER:* recent reforms under the current US administration have had an impact on the scope and content of the information produced by the United States Department of State, as discussed by various [sources](#) or in Asylos' [blog](#). In this instance, Asylos has chosen to cite the 2024 USDOS report on the human rights situation in Cameroon because it has continued to provide coverage on issues that are relevant to this COI report.

### 2. NGOs and non-profits

- ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project)

*ACLED is a not-for-profit independent, impartial global monitor that collects, analyses, and maps data on conflict and protest.*

- Amnesty International
- Human Rights Watch
- Prison Insider

*Prison Insider is a French NGO founded in 2015 which monitors prison conditions worldwide.*

### 3. Media

- Africanews

*Africanews is a television channel and news website. It is a subsidiary of Euronews and was launched in 2016.*

- BBC News
- BBC News Afrique

- Conflits

*Conflits is a bimonthly magazine based in France and founded in 2014.*

- Deutsche Welle
- France 24
- Le Monde
- RFI
- VOA News

*VOA News is a news network funded by the US federal government in 1942. It is editorially independent by law.*

# Findings

## 1. Context

Sources describe the context of the current situation in the Anglophone region and increased violence since 2016.

- “The situation in the North-West and South-West regions (NWSW) remained fragile and volatile, with continuous attacks and confrontations between State security forces (SSFs) and non-State armed groups (NSAGs). Kidnappings for ransom, targeted killings, arbitrary arrests and civilian casualties continued to be reported.”

UN OCHA, ‘[Cameroon: North-West and South-West Situation Report No.76 - April 2025](#)’, 2 June 2025, last accessed: 12 June 2025.

- “The militants were - and still are - fighting for the independence of Cameroon's two Anglophone regions in what is a predominantly francophone country. A near-decade-long conflict that has led to thousands of deaths and stunted life in the area. [...] The roots of the separatist struggle lie in long-standing grievances that stretch back to full independence in 1961, and the formation of a single Cameroonian state in 1972 from former British and French territories. Since then the English-speaking minority have felt aggrieved at the perceived erosion of rights by the central government. Johnson was just an innocent by-stander, caught up in an increasingly brutal fight for self-determination and the government's desperate attempts to stamp out the uprising. The current wave of violence began almost a decade ago. In late 2016, peaceful protests started against what was perceived to be the creeping use of the francophone legal system in the region's courtrooms. The French- and English-speaking parts of Cameroon use different judicial systems. The protests rapidly spread, and led to a call for the closing of shops and institutions. The response of the security forces was immediate and severe - people were beaten, intimidated and there were mass arrests. The African Union called it ‘a deadly and disproportionate use of violence’. [...] Armed groups were set up. And, in late 2017 as tensions escalated, Anglophone separatist leaders declared independence for what they called the Federal Republic of Ambazonia.”

BBC News, ‘[‘Nowhere is safe’ - Cameroonians trapped between separatists and soldiers](#)’, 26 May 2025, last accessed: 4 June 2025.

- “This centralisation [of power to the capital] was perceived by English speakers as the marginalisation and an erosion of their culture, language and political rights, and even as de facto segregation. This feeling intensified over time, particularly after the adoption of a multi-party system in 1991, exacerbating tensions between the English-speaking communities and the central government of President Paul Biya, who came to power under controversial circumstances in 1982. [...] While the federal

government reacted swiftly by banning the SCNC, it struggled to quell Anglophone irredentism, which, after a brief lull tinged with inconsequential events, was to reawaken again in 2016. The bloody dispersal of another demonstration in defence of the English language added fuel to the still smouldering embers of Anglophone separatism. Independence fighters declared the secession of Ambazonia, adopted an official flag and appointed a president in the person of Sisik Julius Ayuk Tabe, leader of the Southern Cameroons Ambazonia Consortium United Front (SCACUF). When the insurrection spread to the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon, the separatist president had to flee to neighbouring Nigeria before finally being extradited in January 2018 and sentenced to life imprisonment. Deprived of their leader, the separatists, who are very active on the internet, started to tear themselves apart. Samuel Ikome Sako, Tabe's successor, continues to give orders to the 'Amas boys' from abroad where he is in exile. However, he was deposed in February 2022 by a dissident group. A new leader has been appointed, Marianta Njomia, a physics teacher in London, although her real influence within this pro-independence movement is unknown." (Translated by bilingual EN-FR researcher)

#### ORIGINAL SOURCE

*« Cette centralisation va être perçue par les Anglophones comme une marginalisation et une érosion de leur culture, de leur langue et de leurs droits politiques, voire comme une ségrégation de fait. Un sentiment qui va s'intensifier avec le temps, notamment après l'adoption du multipartisme (1991), exacerbant les tensions entre les communautés Anglophones et le gouvernement central du Président Paul Biya arrivé au pouvoir dans des circonstances controversées en 1982. [...] Si le gouvernement fédéral réagit promptement en interdisant le SCNC, il peine à mater l'irrégentisme Anglophone, qui après une brève accalmie teintée d'événements sans conséquences, va à nouveau se réveiller en 2016. La dispersion dans le sang d'une nouvelle manifestation en faveur de la défense de la langue anglaise jette de l'huile sur des braises encore incandescentes. Les indépendantistes déclarent la sécession de l'Ambazone, se dotent d'un drapeau officiel et d'un président en la personne de Sisik Julius Ayuk Tabe, dirigeant du Southern Cameroons Ambazonia Consortium United Front (SCACUF). Alors que l'insurrection s'étend aux régions du nord-ouest et du sud-ouest du Cameroun, le président séparatiste doit fuir au Nigeria voisin avant d'être finalement extradé en janvier 2018 et condamné à la prison à vie. Privé de son leader, les indépendantistes, très actifs sur internet, vont se déchirer. Samuel Ikome Sako, successeur de Tabe, continue de donner des ordres aux « Amas boys » depuis l'étranger où il est en exil. Il a pourtant été destitué en février 2022 par un groupe dissident. Une nouvelle dirigeante a été nommée, Marianta Njomia, enseignante de physique à Londres, sans que l'on sache son poids réel au sein de cette mouvance indépendantiste. »*

Conflits - Frédéric de Natal, "[L'Ambazone, un conflit oublié de tous en Afrique](#)", 9 July 2024, last accessed: 12 June 2025.

- "What has since the bloody marches [*marches sanglantes*] of October 2016 been dubbed the 'Anglophone Crisis' has already claimed more than 6,000 lives, initiated the flight of more than 712,000 internally displaced people and more than 180,000 refugees, the majority of them to neighbouring Nigeria." (Translated by bilingual EN-

FR researcher)

ORIGINAL SOURCE

*« Ce qui est depuis les marches sanglantes d'octobre 2016 baptisé la "crise Anglophone" a déjà fait plus de 6.000 morts, provoqué la fuite de plus de 712.000 déplacés internes et plus de 180.000 réfugiés, dont la majorité au Nigeria voisin. »*

Deutsche Welle, '[Cameroun : l'inquiétude après une attaque](#)', 2 May 2023, last accessed: 12 June 2025.

- "According to the UN, 530,000 people have taken refuge in the surrounding forests and French-speaking regions as a result of the armed conflict that has been raging for two years between the country's defence and security forces and separatists demanding independence for the North-West and South-West, Cameroon's two English-speaking regions." (Translated by bilingual EN-FR researcher)

ORIGINAL SOURCE

*« En raison du conflit armé qui oppose depuis deux ans les séparatistes réclamant l'indépendance du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest, les deux régions Anglophones du Cameroun, aux forces de défense et de sécurité camerounaises, 530 000 personnes se sont réfugiées dans les forêts environnantes et dans les régions francophones, selon l'ONU. »*

Le Monde, '[Au Cameroun, le calvaire des déplacés des régions Anglophones](#)', 5 August 2019, last accessed: 12 June 2025.

## 2. Reported attacks by Anglophone separatists in Cameroon, their nature, and particular targets

### a) Attacks by Anglophone separatists in Francophone Cameroon

Media sources report that attacks by Anglophone separatists have taken place in francophone Cameroon.

- "Since 2021, Cameroon's French-speaking West region has regularly been the target of attacks attributed to English-speaking separatists from the neighbouring North-West and South-West regions, which have been embroiled in armed conflict over secessionist claims for the past seven years. The latest attack, in November 2023 which left nine people dead, targeted Bamenyam, a small village in the Bamboutos department, six hours' drive from the capital Yaoundé." (Translated by bilingual EN-FR researcher)

ORIGINAL SOURCE

*« Au Cameroun, la région francophone de l'Ouest fait depuis 2021*

*régulièrement l'objet d'attaques attribuées aux séparatistes Anglophones des régions voisines du Nord-Ouest et du Sud-Ouest, en proie depuis sept ans à un conflit armé sur fond de revendications sécessionnistes. La dernière attaque en date, qui a fait neuf morts, a visé en novembre 2023 Bamenyam, un petit village enclavé du département des Bamboutos, situé à six heures de route de la capitale Yaoundé. »*

France 24, '[Violence au Cameroun : les séparatistes menacent les zones francophones](#)', 9 February 2024, Last accessed: 12 June 2025.

- “Very early on Monday morning, in Matouké in the Littoral region of Cameroon, members of the security forces were ambushed by English-speaking separatists. It is rare for English-speaking secessionists to attack targets in francophone Cameroon. However this is not the first time that such an incident has occurred in the Moungo department. [...] It should be noted that Matouké, near Penda Boko, borders the Moungo river in the Littoral region, therefore in the French-speaking zone, and faces Muyuka, on the other side, in the English-speaking zone, which has been experiencing separatist violence since October 2016. [...] Departments such as Menoua, Noun and Bamboutos in the west of the country, and Moungo in the Littoral, have suffered this kind of aggression on several occasions. Before Matouké, there was also the Kompina locality, also in Moungo, which was attacked in 2018 by armed men from the South-West.” (Translated by bilingual EN-FR researcher)

#### ORIGINAL SOURCE

*« Très tôt lundi matin, à Matouké dans la région camerounaise du Littoral, des éléments des forces de sécurité sont tombés dans une embuscade tendue par des séparatistes Anglophones. Il est rare que les sécessionnistes Anglophones lancent des attaques du côté francophone. Mais ce n'est pas la première fois qu'un tel incident survient dans le département de Moungo. [...]*

*A noter que Matouké, près de Penda Boko, borde la rivière Moungo dans la région du Littoral, donc en zone francophone, et fait face à Muyuka, de l'autre côté, en zone Anglophone qui connaît des velléités séparatistes violentes depuis octobre 2016. [...] Des départements tels que la Menoua, le Noun et les Bamboutos, à l'ouest du pays, ou encore le Moungo dans le Littoral ont plusieurs fois subi ce genre d'agression. Avant Matouké, il y a également eu la localité de Kompina, toujours dans le Moungo, qui a été frappée en 2018 par des hommes armés venus du Sud-Ouest. »*

Deutsche Welle, '[Cameroun : l'inquiétude après une attaque](#)', 2 May 2023, last accessed: 12 June 2025.

- “Authorities in Cameroon say Anglophone rebels have attacked military posts near the country’s port city of Douala, killing several people. The attack is the closest the separatist conflict has come to Douala since fighting broke out in 2017. Officials in Cameroon say at least 15 heavily armed rebels attacked a military post Monday in Matouke, a farming village less than 40 kilometers west of Douala. Officials say the separatists killed at least six people and wounded many others without giving a figure.



The government said it is yet to confirm the identities of victims but rebels and villagers said they killed five troops and a civilian.

Speaking via a messaging app, Samuel Dieudonne Ivaha Diboua, governor of Cameroon's Littoral region, which includes Matouke and Douala, said he visited the injured in a military hospital Monday night.

Diboua said both the military and civilians will not accept separatists extending attacks and disorder to Douala, an economic hub in central Africa. He said the military presence has been increased on the border between Cameroon's Littoral region and the English-speaking Southwest region, where the fighters came from. He said civilians have been mobilized to denounce suspected fighters in their towns and villages.

It's the first time rebels have attacked so close to Douala, a seaport of about four million people that supplies 80% of imported goods for the landlocked Central African Republic and Chad."

On several occasions, troops have reported suspected fighters in the city and made arrests. [...]

The rebels have vowed to attack all military posts along the borders with Cameroon's Francophone regions.

The military says separatists have attacked their positions in the French-speaking West region at least 40 times since the conflict erupted."

VOA News, '[Cameroon Separatists Stage Attack Near French-Speaking City of Douala](#)', 2 May 2023, last accessed: 4 June 2025.

## **b) Anglophone separatist attacks in Anglophone Cameroon targeting Francophone Cameroonians**

Among the sources consulted within the time constraints of this research, one media report was found on francophone Cameroonians living in the Anglophone region who have also been targeted by Anglophone separatist attacks.

- "Kidnapping, targeted assassinations, mistrust of Anglophones,.....French-speaking Cameroonians living in Limbé, in the English-speaking south-west of the country, say they are being targeted by Anglophone separatists. And their fear is only growing as the Anglophone crisis continues to unfold.

'We live in fear,' says Edouard, a resident of Limbé, a coastal town in Cameroon's English-speaking South-West region, where French-speaking residents are regularly targeted by armed separatist groups. [...]

Many francophones, both military and civilian, have decided to leave their families out of fear of attacks. 'I've moved my family to Douala', the nearby economic capital, explains Edouard, a young administrative manager who has lived in Limbé for several years, because 'we live in fear'. Other witnesses, speaking on condition of anonymity, claim to have had relatives 'tortured' by separatists.

Edouard no longer dares to return to Mile 4, the peripheral district where he lived for years until he moved in July. Overlooked by mountains, this district, cut off from the other areas of Limbé, is one of the few in the city where the separatists roam

openly, according to witnesses, with weapons and machetes in hand to identify themselves.

### **Mutual distrust**

The rest of the time, they retreat to the surrounding mountains. On the night of 26-27 September, they attacked the Mile 4 police station, killing two policemen. The area was cordoned off by the army for several days.

Several previous incursions by separatists aimed at intimidating francophones have been reported in Mile 4: 'They came into the neighbourhood and started asking where the houses of francophones were,' says one resident. 'They came to my house twice to kidnap me, but fortunately I wasn't there,' he added.

According to him, 'they tried to kidnap a neighbour, but he managed to escape'. 'They have also come at night to sing the national anthem of Ambazonia (the name of the English-speaking state that the separatists want to create) outside the homes of some French-speaking people' he continues.

The increase in the number of these incursions forced Edouard to move his family, and he spent several days in a hotel before finding accommodation in another area." (Translated by bilingual EN-FR researcher)

### **ORIGINAL SOURCE**

*« Kidnapping, assassinats ciblés, méfiance d'Anglophones,.....Des Camerounais d'expression française résidant à Limbé, au sud-ouest Anglophone du pays, disent être pris pour cibles par des séparatistes Anglophones. Et la hantise ne fait que s'amplifier au fil de l'évolution de la crise Anglophone.*

*"On vit dans la peur" affirme Edouard, habitant de Limbé, cité balnéaire de la région camerounaise du Sud-Ouest Anglophone, où les francophones sont régulièrement pris pour cibles par des groupes séparatistes armés. [...]*

*De nombreux francophones, militaires et civils, ont préféré faire partir leurs familles par crainte d'agressions. "J'ai déplacé ma famille vers Douala", la capitale économique proche, explique Edouard, jeune cadre administratif installé à Limbé depuis plusieurs années, car "on vit dans la peur". D'autres témoins, sous couvert d'anonymat, affirment avoir eu des proches "torturés" par des séparatistes.*

*Edouard n'ose plus retourner à Mile 4, quartier périphérique où il vivait depuis des années jusqu'à son déménagement en juillet. Surplombé par des montagnes, ce quartier, coupé des autres zones de Limbé, est un des rares de la ville où les séparatistes rôdent, armes et machettes à la main, pour marquer leur présence, selon des témoins.*

### **Méfiance réciproque**

*Le reste du temps, ils sont reclus dans les montagnes environnantes. Dans la nuit du 26 au 27 septembre, ils ont attaqué le commissariat de Mile 4, tuant deux policiers. Le quartier a été bouclé par l'armée durant plusieurs jours.*

*Auparavant, plusieurs incursions de séparatistes visant à intimider les francophones ont été rapportées à Mile 4. "Ils sont entrés dans le quartier et ont commencé à demander la maison des francophones", témoigne un habitant. "Ils sont passés chez moi à deux reprises pour me kidnapper, mais je ne m'y trouvais pas, heureusement", ajoute-t-il.*

*Selon lui, "ils ont tenté de kidnapper un voisin, mais il a réussi à s'échapper". "Il est arrivé aussi qu'ils viennent nuitamment entonner l'hymne national de l'Ambazonie*

*(nom de l'Etat Anglophone que les séparatistes veulent créer) devant la maison de certains francophones”, poursuit-il.*

*La multiplication de telles incursions a contraint Edouard à déplacer sa famille, puis il a vécu plusieurs jours à l'hôtel avant de trouver un logement dans un autre quartier.»*

Africanews, '[Cameroun : à Limbé, des francophones se disent "terrifiés" par des séparatistes Anglophones](#)', 13 August 2024, last accessed: 4 June 2025.

**c) Anglophone separatist attacks on educational establishments, students, and teachers**

Media sources, UN OCHA, the US Department of State, and Human Rights Watch report that in Anglophone Cameroon separatists have targeted educational establishments, students, and teachers.

- “At least five attacks on education were reported in April, involving the kidnapping of five teachers and one divisional delegate (four men and two women) in Ndop, Balikumbat, and Fungom subdivisions. The military use of a school in Njikwa subdivision (Momo division) was also reported since 22 April 2025. All these incidents occurred in the North-West region.”

UN OCHA, '[Cameroon: North-West and South-West Situation Report No.76 - April 2025](#)', 2 June 2025, last accessed: 12 June 2025.

- “Part of the separatists' strategy to weaken the state and its security forces is to push for a ban on education which they say is a tool of government propaganda. In October 2020, a school in Kumba was attacked. No-one claimed responsibility for the atrocity but the government blamed separatists. Men armed with machetes and guns killed at least seven children. The incident sparked, for a brief moment, international outrage and condemnation. ‘Nearly half the schools in this region have been shut,’ says journalist Eyong. ‘A whole generation of kids is missing out on their education. Imagine the impact this will have for our communities and also for our country.’”

BBC News, '["Nowhere is safe" - Cameroonians trapped between separatists and soldiers](#)', 26 May 2025, last accessed: 4 June 2025.

- “Of the 6,515 schools expected to open during the 2022-23 academic year in the Northwest and Southwest, only 3,013 were operational as of January, with insecurity as the primary reason for this, according to OCHA and echoed in Amnesty International's July report. Nonstate armed groups announced and enforced a lockdown that delayed the start of the 2023-24 academic year in the Northwest and Southwest. The government reported only 35,000 primary students (8 percent) of the estimated 450,000 students in the region reported to classes on the September 4 school year start date. Nonstate armed groups enforced the lockdown with several violent attacks on civilians, including on two elementary school teachers in the Northwest. Schools were not permitted to reopen until September 19, when

students gradually returned to school”.

US Department of State ‘[Cameroon 2023 Human Rights Report](#)’, 22 April 2024, p. 18, last accessed: 12 June 2025.

- “Sara was a 17-year-old high school student when separatist fighters occupied her school, causing her to flee her hometown in Cameroon’s North-West region out of fear. She decided to move to the capital, Yaoundé, to finish her education. On the way, she was stopped by armed separatists, who searched for items she had relating to education, tore up her schoolbooks and notebooks, and warned her that worse would befall her if she was found with such materials again. In Yaoundé, she could not afford the school fees, and had to seek work, which she found at a pineapple company. After working for two years, she abandoned her dream of finishing school. In the South-West region, Clara the head teacher at a government school, refused to abide by the separatist-ordered education boycott. When separatist fighters broke into her home in March 2019 to extort and punish her, she paid 30,000 CFA (US\$56) and more in blood: they inflicted wounds all over her body, cutting her right hand so severely it had to be medically amputated, and losing the use of her left hand. [...] Separatist fighters began to order and enforce school boycotts, including by attacking scores of schools across the Anglophone regions. They have also used school buildings, such as Sara’s school, as bases for storing weapons and ammunition as well as holding and torturing hostages. Separatist fighters have also attacked, intimidated, or threatened thousands of students, education professionals, and parents in their attempts to keep children out of school. These attacks, the resulting fear, and the deteriorating security situation have caused school closures across the Anglophone regions, denying students access to education.

While armed separatists bear full responsibility for their targeted attacks on education, the response by the Cameroonian government and security forces has been insufficient and is hampered by the fact that they have conducted many abusive counterinsurgency operations in the English-speaking regions which sowed deep distrust among the civilian population victimized in those operations. Sometimes the abusive operations have also had a direct impact on education. For example, the report documents security forces burning at least one school which was being used by armed separatists as a base. Therefore, while enhanced security should offer protection to students and teachers, in practice many students and teachers also fear abuses from the security forces. [...]

#### **Attacks on Students, Teachers, and Schools**

Separatist fighters have killed, kidnapped, assaulted, threatened, or extorted hundreds of students and teachers while at school, on the way to or from school, or at home. Human Rights Watch does not claim to have documented all or even the majority of such attacks but believes what it has documented indicates the scope of the problem, and disproves any claims that these are isolated problems. Human Rights Watch documented the killings of eleven students and five teachers: seven students were killed during an attack on their school in Kumba, South-West region, three students and one teacher were killed during an attack on their school in Ekondo-Titi, South-West region, while the eleventh student and the other teachers were killed while they were at home or on their way to or from school. [...] Human Rights Watch documented the kidnapping of at least 268 students and education

professionals by armed separatists between January 2017 and August 2021. In two incidents alone, one in 2018 and another in 2019, fighters kidnapped 78 and 170 students, respectively, from their schools in the North-West region. Most of the victims (255) were students, while nine were teachers and four were principals. [...] Human Rights Watch documented the occupation, between early 2017 and March 2019, of at least five schools by separatist fighters in the North-West region. They used schools as bases, and also held hostages and stored weapons and ammunitions in them. Some moved from school to school, like the ones who took over Sara's school. In one case, evidence suggests Cameroonian security forces burned a school building that had been used by separatist groups.

#### **Government Response**

The Cameroonian authorities have taken steps to respond to attacks on education, including by endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration – an intergovernmental political agreement to protect students, teachers, and schools during armed conflicts – in September 2018. In line with its commitments to ensure that students are able to continue their education, the government has conducted more robust back-to-school campaigns in the Anglophone regions. It has also stationed security forces in or outside schools, mainly in major urban centers, to increase safety. However, there is almost no such security presence in rural areas or on roads leading to and from schools. More importantly, students and teachers have had mixed reactions to the deployment of security forces in or outside schools, as some believe their presence increases the risk of being targeted by armed separatists. [...]

Clara, unlike the vast majority of victims of attacks on education, has experienced a degree of justice, as at least one of her alleged assailants was arrested and is currently facing trial. This is not the norm: in addition to the arrest made in her case, Human Rights Watch is aware of only two sets of arrests for attacks on schools since 2017 – one set involves the arrest of 10 persons after a 2019 attack on a university, the other involves the arrest of 12 persons following the October 24, 2020 attack on the school in Kumba. [...]"

Human Rights Watch, ["They Are Destroying Our Future" Armed Separatist Attacks on Students, Teachers, and Schools in Cameroon's Anglophone Regions](#), 16 December 2021, last accessed 4 June 2025.

#### **d) Anglophone separatist attacks on other civil servants and civilians in the Anglophone region**

There are reports from media sources, NGOs, and the US Department of State that Anglophone separatists have targeted other civil servants in the Anglophone region, as well as civilians more generally.

- "Separatists [...] attacked and killed government workers and civilians alleged to have assisted government forces or who did not observe separatist-imposed lockdowns. [...] On January 6, media reported on and circulated footage of the alleged torture of Ngang Musongong, an employee of the Moyoka municipal council, Southwest Region, by separatists who identified themselves as members of the ADF. The footage portrayed Musongong bound and covered in blood as his captors accused

him of being a traitor to the separatist cause and a government collaborator.”

US Department of State ‘[Cameroon 2024 Human Rights Report](#)’, 12 August 2025, last accessed: 1 October 2025

- “Ngabi Dora Tue, consumed by grief, was barely able to stand on her own. The coffin of her husband, Johnson Mabilia, sat amid a crowd of stricken mourners in Limbe in Cameroon's South-West region - an area that had witnessed scenes like this many times before. While on a work trip, Johnson - an English-speaking civil servant - and five colleagues were captured by armed separatists. [...] When he was abducted four years ago, Dora struggled to reach Johnson. When she eventually heard from separatist militants, they asked for a ransom of over \$55,000 (£41,500) to be paid within 24 hours in order to secure his release. Dora then received another call from one of Johnson's relatives. ‘He said... that I should take care of the children. That my husband is no more. I didn't even know what to do. Tuesday he was travelling, and he was kidnapped. Friday he was killed,’ says Dora. The separatists responsible had not just murdered but decapitated Johnson, and left his body on the road. [...] Joe (not his real name) was - like Johnson [Mabilia] - taken hostage by a separatist group, keen to maintain control through fear - and to cash in. ‘I walked into the house, and found my children and my wife on the floor while the commander was sitting in my kitchen with his gun very close. All around me, my neighbour had been taken, my landlord had been taken. So when I saw them, I knew it was my turn,’ says Joe. He was led into the forest with 15 other people where he witnessed the execution of two of his fellow captives. But he was eventually freed after the military discovered the camp. Johnson was not as lucky and, about two years after his funeral took place, news arrived that neither were his five colleagues kidnapped with him. Their bodies had just been found.”

BBC News, ‘[‘Nowhere is safe’ - Cameroonians trapped between separatists and soldiers](#)’, 26 May 2025, last accessed: 4 June 2025.

- "In the two Anglophone regions, real or suspected armed separatists continued to carry out murders, hostage-taking for ransoms and extortion, targeting defence and security forces, political and administrative authorities, civil servants and other civilians they accused of not complying with their rules, including lockdowns and a ‘liberation tax’."

Amnesty International, ‘[Cameroon 2024](#)’. Last accessed: 4 August 2025.

- "In Cameroon, there were 25 acts of violence against local government officials, the second-highest yearly figure after 2020. 84% of all events in 2023 occurred in Cameroon's Anglophone Northwest and Southwest regions, home to a secessionist rebellion that armed separatists launched in 2017, when they proclaimed the independence of the self-styled ‘Federal Republic of Ambazonia.’ Over the past few years, Ambazonian rebels have targeted civilians suspected of collaborating with the Yaoundé government, including local government officials, civil servants, and

traditional chiefs. In 2023, at least four local officials were killed at the hands of the separatists in the Northwest region. However, violence was not only used to retaliate against suspected collaborators. ACLED records at least 10 abduction attempts aimed at mayors, councilors, and council workers in the Anglophone regions in 2023, suggesting the existence of a lucrative shadow economy based on kidnappings for ransom."

ACLED, '[Annual Report on violence targeting local officials, 2023](#)' May 2024. Last accessed 4 August 2025.

- **"Killings:** There were reports that government forces and separatist fighters deliberately killed numerous civilians. Although independent observers accused government forces of killing unarmed civilians, officials claimed those killed by government forces in conflict zones were in fact separatists. Separatists also attacked and killed government workers and civilians alleged to have assisted government forces or who did not observe separatist-imposed lockdowns.

[...] In one of the largest attacks since the conflict began, on November 6 [2023], suspected members of a nonstate armed group entered Egbekaw Village in Manyu Division of the Southwest Region, shot randomly, and set ablaze several houses. In a November 7 statement, the government indicated the preliminary death toll from the attack was 25 persons. The government attributed the attack to a separatist group known as the Manyu Unity Warriors, affiliated with the Ambazonian Defense Forces. Subsequent estimates put the death toll between 40 and 60, making it the single deadliest attack of the seven-year conflict."

**Abductions:** Armed separatists reportedly abducted several individuals for not respecting separatist-imposed lockdown measures. Separatists held civilians as hostages, including public officials, political leaders, teachers, schoolchildren, and religious and traditional leaders. There were reports abductors physically abused their victims. [...]

In August, the bodies of five government officials abducted in 2021 by separatists were exhumed. The bodies, along with the remains of four other unidentified victims, were discovered in a mass grave outside Ekondo-Titi in the Southwest Region. A former separatist fighter who had been present during the killings informed authorities of the grave location."

US Department of State '[Cameroon 2023 Human Rights Report](#)', 22 April 2024, p. 16, last accessed: 12 June 2025

- "Armed separatists have also murdered civil servants, workers in state-controlled companies, people accused of being 'black legs' (traitors), and people who have not complied with their orders [...]

"As highlighted in section 4.1.3, armed separatists have been responsible for numerous crimes against the population in the Anglophone region, ranging from murders, abductions, torture and the destruction of homes. They have targeted people suspected of collaborating with the defence and security forces, and people accused of not complying with orders they have tried to impose in the areas they want to control. These include teachers and students attending public schools closed by the separatists, civil servants, government officials, traditional leaders (called

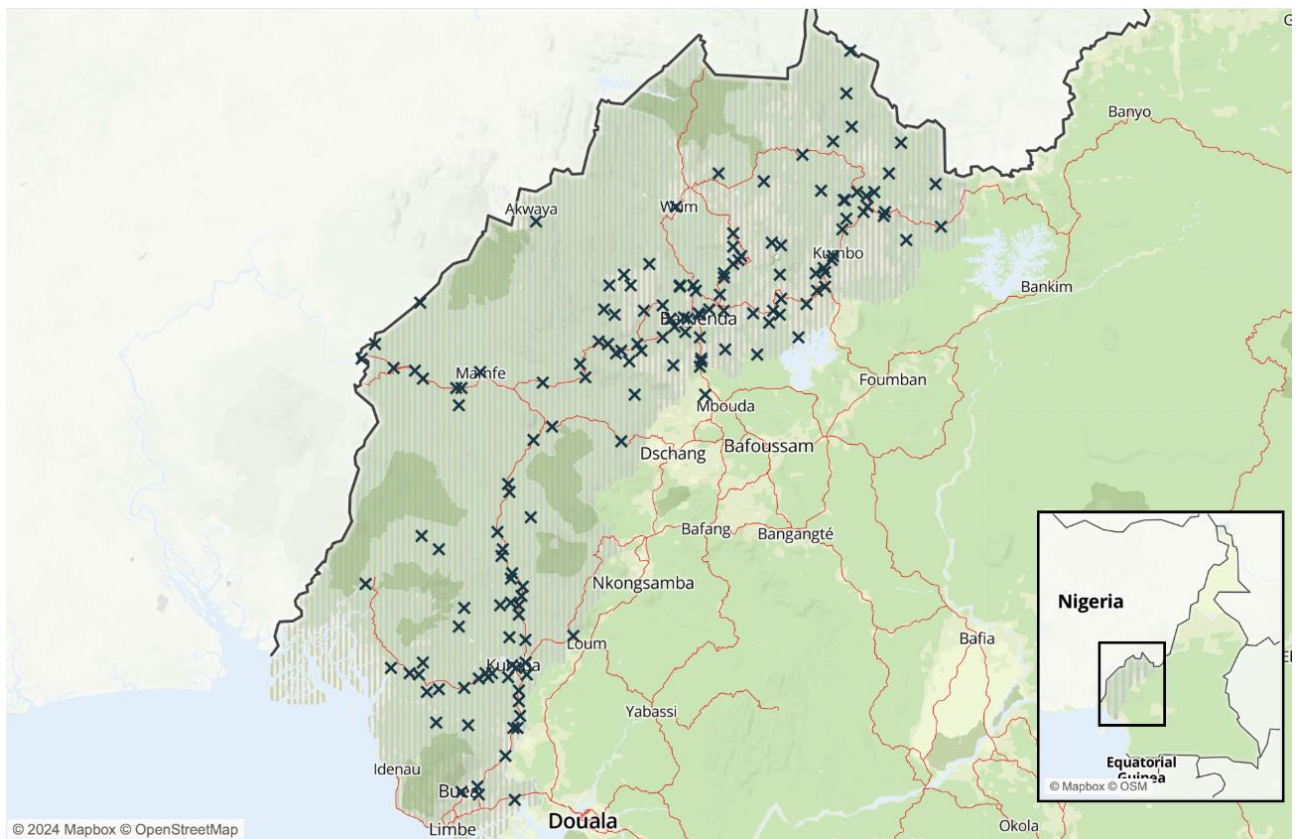
“Fon”) and members and supporters of the ruling party. Others have been targeted because of their social status or visible resources.”

Amnesty International, [With or against us: people of the North-West region of Cameroon caught between the Army, armed separatists and militias](#), July 2023, pp. 16,24. Last accessed 5 August 2025.





BBC News, [‘Nowhere is safe’ - Cameroonians trapped between separatists and soldiers](#), 26 May 2025, last accessed: 4 June 2025.



Source: Ladd Serwat, '[Q&A: The evolution of Ambazonian separatist groups in Anglophone Cameroon](#)', ACLED, 11 October 2024, last accessed: 13 September 2025.



## About Asylos

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This document has been produced by Asylos in response to specific questions posed by an asylum lawyer working on a claim. It is based on publicly accessible written sources as well as consultations with relevant experts. All translations provided in the research report are written by Asylos researchers, unless specified otherwise. This document is not exhaustive. Asylum lawyers may use the information in this report to support their clients in asylum and international protection procedures.

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