

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CAMEROON

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05th November, 2018

**Concerned God's Children
Brothers and Sisters**

COMMUNIQUE ON SUCCESSIVE ABDUCTIONS AT PRESBYTERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL (PSS), NKWEN, BAMENDA

The Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) has within one week suffered from the abduction of both students and members of staff from PSS, Nkwen, Bamenda in the North West Region of Cameroon on Wednesday the 31st of October and Sunday the 4th of November 2018.

On Wednesday the 31st of October 2018, eleven (11) male students of this institution were abducted on campus by gunmen who found their way into the premises of the school. All the eleven students were of the form 5 class who had resumed studies to prepare for their end of course certificate examination. Because of the fighting going on in the vicinities of Bafut and Bali, these students were gathered from the Cameroon Protestant College (CPC), Bali and Presbyterian School of Science and Technology (PSST), Bafut for studies. The abductors asked for a huge ransom and the Church was helpless. However, the students regained their freedom very traumatised.

While the Church was bleeding and pondering on this unfortunate incident, 78 (seventy - eight) students, and 3 (three) staff members were abducted from the same school on Sunday the 4th of November 2018, barely five days after the Wednesday incident. The PCC is greatly terrified and shocked by these successive attacks on this institution, given that the Church had seen the shooting and killing, and shooting and seriously wounding its personnel, particularly of the educational sector of late.

The kidnap of these huge number of innocent children and some members of their staff, including the Principal is particularly very worrying! We therefore react as follows:

1. Call on whosoever has committed this grave act of inhumanity on these innocent children and the staff members of this institution to immediately and unconditionally release them. We must note that

this is an open serious crime against humanity that no one in his/her right senses, no government and organisation would hesitate to vehemently condemn.

3. We call on both the Cameroon military and the Ambazonia militia to respect the right of children to education. This is a universal right that all governments and anti-government forces fighting everywhere on earth respect and protect.

4. We call on the government of the Republic of Cameroon to take very urgent measures to resolve the Anglophone crisis that has led to the killing of thousands of innocent children of God, be they military or civilians, and the destruction of overwhelming private and public property, homes of people and entire villages.

5. We call on both the Cameroon government and the Ambazonia fighters to agree on providing maximum security for the innocent young Cameroonians to exercise their right to study. And that these innocent children and their teachers should not be used as baits and sacrificial lambs.

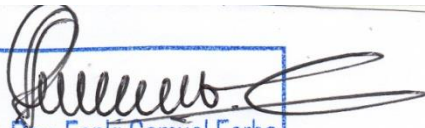

6. We call on the international community to take note of these graveous cycle of acts of inhumanity that have become a daily occurrence in Anglophone Cameroon that puts the lives of over seven million people in harms way. We also call on the international community not to be aloof, but look for ways to urgently assist in ending this crisis.

7. That we will suspend the education of young Cameroonians provided by the Presbyterian Education Authority (PEA) wherever there are security challenges.

However, we call on the parents, family members and friends of our sons and daughters and the staff members abducted to remain calm and supportive of our efforts to have them released.

We take this opportunity to call on all God-fearing Cameroonians and beyond to continue to pray fervently that God should take away this dark cloud of evil and wickedness that has descended on Cameroon, particularly the Anglophone community.

Yours for the Sake of the Faith,

Rt. Rev. Fonki Samuel Forba
MODERATOR

Cc:-The Synod Clerk, PCC

- The Financial Secretary, PCC

- The Education Secretary, PCC