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BASLER MISSION
DEUTSCHER ZWEIG E.V.

Geneva, 27th August 2021

H.E. Paul Biya
President of the Republic of Cameroon
Unity Palace
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Your Excellency President Biya,

STATEMENT ON THE SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST ATTACK ON THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NTANFOANG-BALI NORTH WEST REGION IN CAMEROON

The members of the Ecumenical Forum for Peace and Justice in Cameroon, representing churches, church-based organizations, and networks committed to accompanying the churches and people of Cameroon are appalled by the continuing violence and targeted sectarian attacks against people and communities, including religious communities and places of worship in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon.

The recent attack on the Presbyterian Church Ntanfoang-Bali on Sunday 22nd August is one of the latest atrocities in a long and painful history of State and non-State violence in the region. Violence is perpetrated despite repeated appeals for a ceasefire both to the Government of Cameroon and to the 'Ambazonian' non – State forces, and impels us to issue this statement

We join the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon (PCC) and all the churches of the country in our grief at the news of the death of Grace Titalabo killed in the Sunday attack at the Presbyterian Church Ntanfoang-Bali and the many others who have lost their lives because of the ongoing conflict. We also pray for the speedy recovery of the pastor of the church who is the Presbytery Secretary for Bali Presbytery Rev. Simon Montoh, who sustained injuries and is receiving medical care. The ongoing violence and insecurity have created great hardship for the whole civilian population including but not limited to women, children, the physically-challenged and the vulnerable in the community, compounding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, the intensity of such attacks has increased markedly in recent weeks. We therefore appeal to all parties to the conflict to embrace an unconditional ceasefire. We call on the government of Cameroon to conduct an impartial and transparent investigation into the attack on the Presbyterian Church Ntanfoang-Bali, and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

We join the churches and all peace-loving people within and outside Cameroon in condemning in the strongest terms all such senseless killings and attacks on people, communities and places of worship by both sides involved in the conflict.

We pray for an end to the conflict, violations and displacement, and for an inclusive process for sustainable peace and reconciliation in the nation of Cameroon.

Respectfully submitted by:

World Council of Churches, Dr Peter Prove, Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

All African Conference of Churches, Rev. Dr Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, Director of Programme

World Communion of Reformed Churches, Rev. Dr Hanns Lessing

Lambeth Palace, Bishop Precious Omuku - Special Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury on Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Methodist Church Great Britain, Dr Olubunmi Olayisade, Africa Desk officer

Presbyterian Church USA, Sara Lisherniss, Director, Compassion Peace and Justice, Interim Director, Presbyterian World Mission

Basel Mission German Branch, Rev. Johannes Stahl, Partnership Coordinator BMG