



STATEMENT ON THE UPSURGE OF CIVILIAN KILLINGS IN THE NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST REGIONS

The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms (NCHRF) is appalled and dismayed by the videos of unspeakable horror circulating on social media showing people brutally beheaded or otherwise murdered by secessionist terrorists in the North-West and South-West Regions, respectively on 4, 10 and 11 August 2020.

Preliminary investigations under the provisions of Law No. 2004/016 of 22 July 2004 to set up the Commission on such cases of international crimes and serious violations of the right to life, the right to physical and moral integrity and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of the victims, and the right to education of the youths of the North-West and South-West Regions, show the following:

- the first case involved APUM Treasure NCHOOH, aged 18, daughter of AKUM Emus and mother of a child named APUM Britney, aged three. Secessionists kidnapped her on 2 August 2020, on her way back from a birthday party of a relative in the Atuakom quarters in Bamenda. Her body was discovered in a pool of blood on the banks of the Mezam River, in the Mbingfibie quarter in the North-West Region, on 4 August 2020, and she was buried on 12 August 2020;
- the second case involved PIAYU Ibrahim, a chemistry teacher at the Santa Technical High School, whose lifeless body was found under a river bridge next to his motorcycle near Bamenda, on 10 August 2020. He was coldly murdered by secessionist terrorists blaming him for not respecting the weekly "Ghost Town" day;
- The third case involved TUMASANG ACHIRI Comfort, aged 35, murdered in horror by machete blows, in Makanga quarters, Muyuka Sub-Division, Fako Division, South-West Region. An alleged secessionist leader killed her on 11 August 2020.

The Commission condemns such acts on the strongest terms, which constitute the height of horror and cruelty, beyond any circumstances, and reiterates that since its resolution 1566 (2004) of 8 October 2004 calling for greater cooperation in the fight against terrorism, **the Security Council of the United Nations (UN) "...condemns in the strongest terms all acts of terrorism... irrespective of their motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed "**.

The Commission, recalling that even the worst terrorist followers of the Islamic State have abandoned beheadings once and for all, reiterates its appeal to the blind executioners who are spreading blood and horror in the North-West and South-West, to once and for all abandon their plan to partition the country and stop the series of crimes and destructions that are disrupting the peace of these regions.

The Commission expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and is indignant at the repeated nature of such acts happening for some time now in the Regions concerned, despite the Government's tireless efforts to restore peace and reconstruct these Regions.

It encourages the authorities to continue the investigations initiated in connection with each of these killings so that the suspects can be brought before the competent courts and the perpetrators punished in an exemplary manner, according to the applicable laws.

The Commission reiterates its appeals to the armed groups operating in these Regions urging them to put an immediate end to the suffering inflicted on the people they claim to defend, lay down their

arms, accept the extended hand of the public authorities and join the Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration Centres.

Lastly, the Commission calls on the people, especially those of the North-West and South-West Regions, to cooperate fully with the defence and security forces to ensure the maintenance of territorial integrity, protection of goods and persons and respect for State institutions.

The Acting Chairman

James MOUANGUE KOBILA