

# UNITED NATIONS

## TRUSTEESHIP

## COUNCIL



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### SEVEN PETITIONS CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85 of the rules of procedure  
of the Trusteeship Council)

Note by the Secretariat: The petitions circulated in this document are those mentioned in paragraph 6 (a) of the final report of the Committee on Communications from the Cameroons under French administration (T/L.671). All contain complaints concerning material damage and loss of property resulting from the incidents of May 1955 in the Bafang Subdivision, Bamiléké region. The petitions have been collected in one document in order to facilitate their examination by the members of the Trusteeship Council. The Secretariat has grouped together the various articles enumerated in the unduly long lists attached to some of the petitions; where this has been done the abridged lists are given in square brackets. In addition, over-lengthy passages of the petitions have been summarized; such summaries appear in square brackets.

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1. Petition from Mr. René Kamden

Kamden, René  
Tailor, planter,  
Bafang, Cameroons

Maquis, 24 October 1955

To the Chairman of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Cameroons

Sir,

I have the honour to approach you in order to explain the situation in the Cameroons. I am a victim of the May war, the foul war to which the French Government does not dare to give its proper name. I and my whole family were driven out by the colonialists and their lackey on 29 May 1955, since when we have been scattered in the bush, at the mercy of wild animals.

I do not know yet whether my children and my wives are still alive. I have seven children and two wives. My goods were looted and carried off, my house destroyed. All this has caused me various losses, the loss of my children, my wives and my possessions.

These inhuman crimes, in a Trust Territory which France had undertaken to prepare for independence (yet when the people claim independence, they must start a war). In the Cameroons today, anyone who says openly that he is not a supporter of the French Union is driven from his home; France tells us that we are not capable of governing ourselves. I ask the United Nations to take the necessary steps and to ask the French Government to put an end to the present aggression against the Cameroonian people.

1. Compensation to people whose property was looted.
2. The situation of the political prisoners.
3. Cancellation of the prosecution of all those who advocate the immediate unification and independence of the Cameroons.
4. Force the French Government to pay compensation and war damage to the Cameroonian people.
5. Withdrawal of troops from the Territory.
6. I object to anyone "elected" by the Administering Authority. These men represent the French Government and not the Cameroonian people. I support the people's delegates: Moumié Felix, Ruben Um-Nyobe, Kingué Abel, Ouandié Ernest, Mrs. Gapeth, and others.

I attach a copy of the list of my looted property.

I have the honour to be, etc....

Long live the United Nations.

Long live peace.

Long live a united and independent Cameroons.

(Signed) Kamden René

N.B. I cannot sent you a final list of my goods until I am out of the maquis. It is impossible to draw up a complete list at present.

	<u>Francs</u>
1 mud-brick house comprising 10 rooms and a kitchen, total value	700,000
1 shop abutting on the house, containing goods of a total value of	325,000
2 men's sewing machines	60,000
2 briefcases containing miscellaneous articles	3,800
1 trunk containing lengths of cloth	200,000
6 pairs of shoes	10,000
2 English bicycles	35,000
2 large cupboards containing miscellaneous valuables and permanent articles	400,000
the agricultural implements in the plantation, value	8,000
11 sacks of unground coffee	280,000
1 large tin of drinking coffee	5,000
30 ducks	10,250
10 miscellaneous articles of clothing	10,000
20 miscellaneous household articles	17,500
28 miscellaneous pieces of furniture	<u>101,000</u>
Total:	2,165,550

2. Petition from Mr. Raymond Siwé

Siwe Raymond, member of the Bafang Centre Local Committee, (hotel-keeper),  
Husband of three wives and father of \_\_\_\_ children

Maquis, 8/7/1956

The President of the United Nations,  
New York

Sir,

I have the honour respectfully to submit to you this complaint against  
Mer Toukam Abraham, the foreigner who is Chief of the town of Bafang and leader of  
the Administration's mercenaries who took part in the sad events of May 1955.

It was on 16 June 1955 that he burst into my home with his henchman... and  
looted all my property, from top to bottom; it was perhaps envy of my riches that  
prompted these terrible depredations.

I hope that you will take a note of the damages I expect to recover through  
this complaint and the attached report, which gives every possible detail.

Hoping for favourable action on your part, I have the honour to be, etc...

(Signed) Siwé Raymond

Damage caused during the incidents of May 1955, under the leadership of  
Mer Toukam Abraham, foreign Chief of the town of Bafang.

	<u>Francs</u>
1 five-roomed house	300,000
20,000 francs in cash, tricycle (45,000)	65,000
40 tons of stone (15,000 francs), 60 rafters (18,000 francs)	33,000
Cash	1,000,000
18 fields of food crops	90,000
Utensils for the hotel kitchen	27,360
Miscellaneous items of bedding and household linen.	14,800
Miscellaneous articles of clothing	47,725
25 pairs of shoes	20,500
Miscellaneous household articles	29,040
32 pieces of furniture	57,000
Miscellaneous tools	1,500
Ornaments	<u>1,200</u>
Total	1,783,725

3. Petition from Mr. Marcus Tchiago

Tchiago Marcus, father of six children and husband of three wives,  
Village of Bafang-Centre  
Tchiago Marcus, planter and trader  
Sub-Chief, and Chairman of the Cameroonian Notables,  
Bafang, local branch

Damage suffered by us at the hands of the mercenaries of the French  
Administration and their lackey during the incidents of May 1955.  
To The President of the United Nations General Assembly,

	<u>Francs</u>
1 brick house	700,000
1 store containing stock to a value of	650,000
2 sewing machines	67,000
12 wooden beds, 130 metal armchairs	83,000
45 sacks of cement, 22 chairs	54,000
1 Raleigh bicycle, 15,000 francs, 1 typewriter	31,000
3 dozen paper, 1,800 francs, 3 dozen carbons	2,040
1 His Master's Voice gramophone	12,500
160 planks, 2 large mirrors	56,000
4 towels, 60 records	31,600
4 miscellaneous pieces of furniture	20,000
Miscellaneous items of bedding	62,600
Miscellaneous articles of clothing	190,000
19 pairs of shoes	25,800
Miscellaneous household articles	33,240
Miscellaneous tools	80,110
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	<u>73,000</u>
Total	2,700,280

In the hope of a favourable reply, I have the honour to be, etc...

Tchiago Marcus, in the maquis,  
Tombel, West Kamerun

4. Petition from Mr. Emmanuel Tchoumbo

To the President of the United Nations,  
New York,

Sir,

I have the honour to approach you in order to lodge a complaint against Toukam David, Village Chief of Balembo-Bafang, who, in company with Somokam, Tchuetcheko, Jimsi, Kemani Dominique, Difo Simon, Ngaleu Thomas etc. destroyed my hut and looted all my goods, which are listed below.

During the disturbances of May 1955.

	<u>Francs</u>
1 brick hut	150,000
15 sacks of roasted coffee	55,000
6 wooden settees	8,000
3 goats	3,600
3 ducks	4,000
6 hens	600
Cash	<u>30,000</u>
Total	251,200

Balembo-Bafang, 29 May 1955

(Signed) Tchoumbo Emmanuel, planter,

P.O. Box No. 124

V. Petition from Mr. Gabriel Mouno

Mouno Gabriel, living at Bana,  
at present in the maquis

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
New York

Sir,

I have the honour most respectfully to submit to you the attached report on the losses I suffered during the incidents of May 1955.

You will see what the losses of a father of a family like myself are. After the meeting of the Chief Subdivisional Officers and the Village Chiefs, the disturbance began with the destruction of Mr. Buendé Jean's concession. When the guards came to destroy mine, I was away. When they had destroyed the articles on the list enclosed herewith, they stationed a sentinel in my field, who stayed there for several weeks without seeing me. My children and my wives left and to this day I have seen nothing of them. I have been told that two of my children are dead. Sir, the Cameroonian people are now living in the bush like animals.

We have great confidence that the United Nations will be able to give a thought to us, a defenceless people, at the next session of the United Nations General Assembly.

We have all been reduced to the condition of homeless wanderers, for fleeing repression, we have to hide in the bush to save our lives.

I am the sole support of my family, which has had to bear the consequences of these losses.

Sir, we have confidence in our four leaders; they are the true people from whom you can obtain the necessary information on the situation in the Cameroons.

I hope you will listen to my complaints and that you will be able to give them favourable consideration.

Hoping for a favourable answer, I have the honour to be, etc...

Long live the United Nations.

Long live its Members.

Long live the Independence and Unification of the Cameroons.

Mouno Gabriel

Report from Mr. Muno Gabriel, member of the Bana Local Committee of the UPC, concerning losses suffered on 16 June 1955 as a result of French repression. Cameroons under French administration.

	<u>Francs</u>
10 wine calabashe	1,500
30 goats	4,500
9 pigs	45,000
30 hens	4,500
3,000 coffee plants	30,000
My personal savings in cash	100,000
1 store of ground-nuts and maize	100,000
7 huts	810,000
3 fences	235,000
6 miscellaneous pieces of furniture	4,750
Miscellaneous articles of clothing	155,000
9 miscellaneous tools	<u>6,000</u>
	1,536,700

Report from Mpoussi Julienne, mother of four children, whose hut was destroyed and property stolen.

	<u>Francs</u>
Cash	16,000
1 Singer sewing machine	15,000
6 small towels, at 150 francs each	900
1 wooden bed	900
1 store of ground-nuts	100,000
15 hens	2,250
22 miscellaneous household articles	5,600
2 tools	200
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	<u>4,200</u>
Total	147,050

This is the damage done to this woman's house.

Mpoussi Julienne



Report from Tonwé, mother of three children, two of whom are deceased.

	<u>Francs</u>
1 wooden bed	900
2 blankets	1,500
A sum of money kept in the house	50,000
1 store of ground-nuts and maize	100,000
20 hens	3,000
Cash	22,000
1 goat	1,500
40 miscellaneous household articles	6,755
23 miscellaneous articles of clothing	12,880
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	<u>1,500</u>
Total:	200,035

Report from Tchokoté, mother of three children.

	<u>Francs</u>
1 wooden bed	1,500
2 blankets	1,800
1 trunk of children's dresses and clothes	35,000
1 store of ground-nuts and maize	58,900
10 hens	1,500
Cash	8,000
27 miscellaneous household articles	<u>5,930</u>
	142,225

Report from Tchokane Wonden

	<u>Francs</u>
15 hens	2,250
8 goats	12,000
1 store containing ground-nuts, maize and beans	150,000
1 trunk containing all her dresses	75,000
16 miscellaneous household articles	1,950
Her own savings	1,900
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	37,500
A sum of money belonging to her son	<u>50,000</u>
Total	341,000

Report from Nganden, mother of three children.

	<u>Francs</u>
1 wooden bed	1,500
2 blankets	1,800
1 sack of pimento	8,000
1 store of ground-nuts and maize	100,000
3 goats	4,500
21 miscellaneous household articles	4,075
51 miscellaneous articles of clothing	<u>11,750</u>
Total	142,225

6. Petition from Miss Monique Njomeni

Njomeni Monique, aged twenty-four, daughter of Tenkékam and Meni Wouégang, born at Fondjomekwet, Njileum Quartier, Bafang Subdivision, wife of Mr. Youmbi Zopa Salomon, head of the family, Balako Quartier, Bandoumgia.

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
New York,

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you a detailed list of the damage caused on 30 May 1955 by Roland Pré's soldiers, under the leadership of Tchoumbissié Pierre, Village Chief of Bandoumgia.

	<u>Francs</u>
1 suitcase	550
Cash kept in the suitcase, which was intended for the payment of the men working on the building, i.e., the brick-layer and the carpenter.	15,000
1 wooden bed	1,500
5 chickens	1,250
4 pairs of <u>Tchingia</u> (women's necklaces)	3,000
8 bracelets	1,600
In the bush for about one year, without means of subsistence	100,000
37 miscellaneous articles of clothing	15,750
3 pairs of shoes	1,800
6 miscellaneous items of bedding	11,400
32 miscellaneous household articles	9,850
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	<u>23,100</u>
Total	185,800

Then the Village Chief of Bandoumgia, whose name is Tchoumbissié Pierre, arrested me and sold me to Chief Potauni, who then sold me at Banéssing to a man called Mbiendié Sop Kamtio, Komentchou Quartier.

Later, when I heard from a passer-by that my husband, Zopa Youmbi Salomon, had come out of Dschang prison, I ran away with my little girl, who was in slavery with me, and I spent two weeks in the bush before rejoining him in the bush, at the town of Bafang, on 28 May 1956.

I have the honour to be, etc.....

Njomeni Monique

7. Petition from Miss Odette Kamwa

Kamwa Odette, aged eighteen,  
daughter of Noutchidjam Ntenbengo and Toukam, of Bandoumgia,  
wife of Mr. Youmbi Zopa Salomon, head of the family.

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
New York,

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you a statement of the loss of my property,  
which was stolen by Roland Pré's soldiers on 30 May 1956, under the leadership of  
Tchoumbissié Pierre, Village Chief of Bandoumgia:

	<u>Francs</u>
6 pairs of <u>Tchingta</u> (women's necklaces)	4,200
4 bracelets	1,000
1 wooden bed	1,500
1 plantation of sweet potatoes	15,000
3 plantations of yams	20,000
In the bush for a period of one year, without means of subsistence	100,000
14 miscellaneous household articles	5,300
5 miscellaneous items of bedding	6,800
3 miscellaneous articles of clothing	7,500
7 pairs of shoes	5,000
Miscellaneous foodstuffs	<u>12,500</u>
Total	180,600

I have the honour to be, etc...

Kamwoua Odette

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