

## CAMEROON; THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS BY AMBAZONIAN SEPERATISTS FIGHTERS



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The use of children in conflicts is particularly very troubling. Reason why the necessity for protecting child rights especially those in conflict situations is of grave importance to the Africa Science Diplomacy and Policy Network (ASDPN). Protecting children in conflict is one of the most urgent human rights issues of our time. Around the world more than 240 million children are living in countries affected by conflict. Many of them face violence, displacement, hunger and exploitation by armed forces and groups. According to Child Soldiers International's World Index there has been the participation of children in at least 18 conflicts during the last year.

In the Central African State of Cameroon where a brutal war has broke out against the Government and Ambazonioan separatist movement, children are being used to terrorize the citizens of Cameroon most especially those living in the Anglophone regions of the country. children as young as 7 years old have been recruited by the Ambazonian fighters often against

the wish of these children and their families. ASDPN have identified families in Anglophone Cameroon who for the past 3 years have been unable to see their children.



In order to achieve the purpose of ensuring a massive recruitment of child soldiers among the Anglophone community, the Ambazonian defense groups like the Ambazonian Defense Force (ADF), Ambazonian Security Council (ASC), Southern Cameroons Defense Force (SOCADEF), Ambazonian Restoration Army (ARA), The Red Dragons of Lebialem among many other groups have systematically prevented children from going to school. So that the idle and uneducated kids will serve as a good recruitment ground.



The children are trained as killers who will not even sympathize with their families if they as much violate the rules passed by the separatist on the civilian population. They are armed with AK 47 machine guns without any consideration of the ages of these children. Ambazonian Child soldiers have been involved in beheadings, amputations, kidnap, and even burning of some homes of persons the classify as ‘black legs’ within the revolution

The Africa Science DIPLOMACY AND Policy Network have come under increasing threats from various separatist groups operating in the in the two English speaking regions of Cameroon which are today referred to by the separatist as Ambazonia for calling for an end to the use of

child soldiers. We however reiterate our demand to the Ambazonian separatist to immediately end the use of child soldiers.