



CAMEROON IS USING CHEMICAL WEAPONS ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS

By: Nche Tala Aghanwi

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The use of chemical weapons constitutes some of the worse war crimes which can be recorded in any conflict. Reason why it is even more troubling especially when the Cameroon military burns the corpses of Anglophone Cameroonians after using chemical weapons to gas them to death. This situation is very disturbing because the international community has chosen to standby whilst the killing of innocent civilians goes on unabated.

The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction is a great decision by world leaders indeed. The Convention aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

However, the Convention on Chemical weapons has not stopped the Cameroonian military from melting away members of the opposition (political and civil) and even innocent civilians using its stock pile of chemical weapons.

The Government of Cameroon has used a sarin-like gas to attack Bali Nyonga, a war torn town in Mezam Division in the country's unruly North West Region killing children, women and adults. Government soldiers had suffered a devastating blow a day before. In retaliation, Cameroon Defense Ministry ordered the using of chemicals across the city, especially in the bushes where it's suspected Anglophone armed groups might have taken refuge.

37 people were killed in this attack who were mostly innocent civilians. A few of the armed separatist were killed also. None of the 37 bodies showed any sign of gunshot wounds confirming they were gassed to death. In an attempt to cover up her tracks, the military burnt the corpses. The Cameroon government however continues to maintain her stance that all those killed are Ambazonian separatist fighters. This claim has been repeatedly refuted by the local indigenes of the area that have been able to identify some of their loved ones among the dead.

The violence has intensified since November 2018 after the chemical weapons crimes as government forces have conducted large-scale security operations and separatists have carried out attacks. The Africa Science Diplomacy and Policy Network continue to insist that Cameroon's government should investigate allegations of crimes against humanity and ensure that civilians are protected during security operations. Chemical weapons must by no means be used as a weapon of war. We further recommend that separatist leaders should immediately direct their fighters and followers to halt all human rights abuses and to stop interfering with children's education.