



ACERWC

African Committee of
Experts on the Rights
and Welfare of the Child

CAEDBE

Comité Africain d'Experts
sur les Droits et le Bien-
être de l'Enfant

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Statement of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on the reported killing of children in Cameroon

The African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) is gravely concerned about the killing of children in the village of Ngarbuh on the 14th of February as has been reported by the Office of the Spokesperson of the United Nations Secretary General. The Committee calls on the Government of Cameroon, as a signatory to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, to fully implement its legal obligations of protecting children and expeditiously conduct an independent, impartial and comprehensive investigation to bring the perpetrators of rights abuses to account.

The Committee further recalls its Letter of Urgent Appeal (DSA/ACE/64/3567.18) to the Government of Cameroon on 26 September 2018, relating the extrajudicial execution of children along with their mothers/caregivers for suspicion of being members or sympathizers of Boko Haram. The Government of Cameroon is yet to respond to the Committee on this issue.

Concerning the recently reported killings of children, the Committee urges all parties to the conflict to respect children's rights as enshrined in **Article 5(1) of the African Children's Charter which stipulate that 'every child has an inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law.'** The same provision obliges state parties to 'ensure, to the maximum extent possible, the survival, protection and development of the child. As such, in line with the 2020 African Union theme, Silencing The Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions For Africa's Development, the Committee counts on the positive and cooperative actions by the Government of Cameroon to ensure the full protection of children's rights in the country.

The Committee calls on the Government of Cameroon for initiating an investigation into the reported killings. The Committee requests the Government of Cameroon to share with the Committee, the findings of the investigation, including the process followed. The Committee is also interested in knowing the steps that the government intends to take towards implementing measures aimed at promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the child in Cameroon.

As noted in the 2018 Letter of Urgent Appeal, the Committee remains available to engage as well as support, with good practice and guidelines on the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the child in situations of conflict

Hon. Joseph NDAYISENGA

**Chairperson ,
African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,**

