

Annex 2
Timeline of Relevant Events

The following incidents were reported between 2018 and the date of this submission in April 2023.
More details of these incidents can be found at: cpj.org; freedomhouse.org

Killing, abduction, and torture of journalists

2019

- August 3, 2019: Samuel Ajiekah Abuwe (also known as Samuel Wazizi) was arrested in retaliation for his critical coverage of the government's activities in Anglophone Cameroon, and was accused of having connections with armed separatists.¹ According to the Ministry of Defense, Wazizi died in government custody 15 days after his arrest in 2019 from severe sepsis.² It is alleged he was tortured by security forces.³

2020

- June 3, 2020: Denis Nkwebo, the president of the Cameroon Trade Union of Journalists, issued news reports and tweets alleging that Samuel Wazizi died at a military hospital at an unspecified date after being tortured by security forces.⁴ Subsequent reports indicate that Wazizi died in August 2019.⁵
- June 5, 2020: The French Ambassador to Cameroon stated that President Biya promised to open an investigation into Samuel Wazizi's death.⁶
- September 3, 2020: The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations indicated that an investigation would be launched into Samuel Wazizi's death.⁷
- September 2020: No progress apparently had been made on the investigation into Samuel Wazizi's death.⁸

2021

- March 13, 2021: Gunmen presumed to be separatists abducted Ayiseh Bonyui Fame, a journalist assigned to the CRTV station in Buea, the Southwest Region. A video that was widely circulated on social media featured Ayiseh pleading for her life while in captivity at knifepoint at an unknown location. Ayiseh was eventually released on the night of March 14 after her family paid part of the ransom amount requested.⁹
- September 2021: Philosophy professor Fridolin Nke, who had recently published a book criticizing the Biya government, was detained by military security forces in September 2021 but quickly released; Nke reported being tortured while in custody.¹⁰
- December 2021: Although Wazizi was officially pronounced dead in June 2020, and despite the French Ambassador to Cameroon's statement that President Biya promised to open an investigation into his death, there has been no credible or transparent investigation into his

death in custody.¹¹ As of March 2023, a family spokesperson confirmed with CPJ that Wazizi's family has still been unable to see or recover his remains, over two and a half years after his death was announced.¹²

2023

- January 17, 2023: Unidentified men abducted Martinez Zogo, editor-in-chief of the privately owned radio broadcaster Amplitude FM, near his home in the capital city of Yaoundé, after Zogo commented on alleged embezzlement in public-sector procurement that benefitted a prominent businessman and media owner, Jean-Pierre Amougou Belinga. The attackers chased Zogo to the gate of the local gendarmerie office near the journalist's home, where he had sought help.¹³
- January 22, 2023: Martinez Zogo's mutilated body was found on January 22, 2023; Cameroonian authorities announced the same day that they had begun an investigation to find the perpetrators and hold them accountable.¹⁴
- February 2, 2023: In a statement published on social media, Ferdinand Ngoh Ngoh, the secretary general of Cameroon's presidency, announced that investigations into the death of Martinez Zogo led to the arrest of several individuals "highly suspected of being involved in this heinous crime," and that others remain wanted. According to the same news reports, the investigations led to the recent arrests of Léopold Maxime Eko Eko, head of the General Directorate of External Intelligence (DGRE), and Justin Danwe, director of operations at the DGRE.¹⁵
- February 6, 2023: Cameroonian police arrested Jean-Pierre Amougou Belinga and two of his associates in connection to the investigation into the murder of Martinez Zogo. In his reporting, Zogo had alleged that Belinga, a businessman and media owner, was involved in a public embezzlement scheme.¹⁶
- March 3, 2023: Jean-Pierre Amougou Belinga has been provisionally charged with complicity in torture and is now in six-month pre-trial detention in Kondengui Principal Prison.¹⁷ The next stage is for the examining magistrate to investigate independently and decide whether to proceed to trial on this charge, or amend the charge or even discharge him.
 - Among the more than 20 other accused sent to Kondengui alongside Amougou Belinga are Leopold Maxime Eko Eko, head of the General Directorate for External Research (similar to the FBI), and its director of operations Justin Danwe. Eko Eko was charged with negligence in service and violation of instructions, while Danwe and other accomplices, were charged with kidnap and torture.
 - Nsoe and Bidjang were granted conditional bail to appear before the military tribunal whenever summoned.
 - At least 12 others detained in connection with the journalist's murder were released without charge.

Physical attacks and harassment of journalists

2018

- Fall 2018: Mimi Mefo, the head of English news and a presenter for privately owned Equinoxe television and radio station, and runner of her own news website Mimi Mefo Info, reported that threats against her related to her reporting had increased in recent months leading up to her November 2018 arrest, including social media accounts posting and sharing menacing messages and images, identifying Mefo as a female journalist and threatening violence and even murder.¹⁸

2019

- February 2019: Paul Chouta, a journalist covering politics, corruption, local news, and human rights for independent news website *Cameroon Web* and the Facebook news page *Le TGV de l'info*, was physically attacked outside his home by suspected government agents and received anonymous threats for months leading up to his May 2019 arrest.¹⁹

2021

- March 13, 2021: Gunmen presumed to be separatists abducted Ayiseh Bonyui Fame, a journalist assigned to the CRTV station in Buea, the Southwest Region. A video that was widely circulated on social media featured Ayiseh pleading for her life while in captivity at knifepoint at an unknown location. Ayiseh was eventually released on the night of March 14 after her family paid part of the ransom amount requested.²⁰
- April 29, 2021: The private daily newspaper *Le Jour* reported that Yaounde V municipal police members assaulted two reporters from Canal 2 International while they were covering a protest by commercial bike riders. According to media reports, the Yaounde V police severely beat Canal 2 cameraman Bertrand Tchasse, seized and destroyed his working equipment, and threatened to kill him. Other team members, including a driver and a reporter, were threatened. A government spokesperson said Tchasse's work equipment was seized because the journalists were encouraging motorbike riders to be disorderly in order to record additional footage for their report.²¹
- September 2021: Philosophy professor Fridolin Nke, who had recently published a book criticizing the Biya government, was detained by military security forces in September 2021 but quickly released; Nke reported being tortured while in custody.²²

2022

- March 2022: Paul Chouta was watching the UEFA Champions League soccer game between Real Madrid and Paris St. Germain with friends in a snack bar in the Damas district of Yaounde when three unidentified men in a green pick-up truck abducted the journalist, drove him to the outskirts of the city, and viciously kicked and beat him with stones, bricks, a baton and a whip.²³
- May 18, 2022: Eyong Macdella Bessong, a reporter for pan-African privately owned sports news website *kick442.com*, was accosted and dragged away from the main pitch minutes before the opening whistle by Njonje Mbua, the Molyko Omnisport Stadium's director, because she could

not produce a hard copy of her press accreditation and only had a digital one on her cell phone.²⁴

2023

- January 17, 2023: Unidentified men abducted Martinez Zogo, chasing him to the gate of the local gendarmerie office near the journalist's home, where he had sought help.²⁵ Zogo's mutilated body was found on January 22, 2023; Cameroonian authorities announced the same day that they had begun an investigation to find the perpetrators and hold them accountable.²⁶

Imprisonment of journalists

2018

- March 20, 2018: Akumbom Elvis McCarthy was arrested on March 20, 2018 while he filmed police allegedly harassing taxi drivers and commuters in Bamenda.²⁷ McCarthy was detained by judicial police in Bamenda for three weeks before appearing before a military tribunal on charges of attempted secession and disseminating secessionist propaganda on air.²⁸
- April 10, 2018: Ahmed Abba, a Radio France Internationale correspondent who had been arrested on July 30, 2015 in Maroua and charged under Cameroon's Law N°2014/028 on Repression of Acts of Terrorism, was convicted by a military tribunal after nearly two years in custody of "non-denunciation of terrorism" and "laundering of the proceeds of terrorist acts" and sentenced to 10 years in prison.²⁹ Abba was reportedly detained incommunicado for at least three months after his arrest, and was beaten with machetes and sticks by members of the intelligence agency.³⁰
- April 10, 2018: A military tribunal ruled that McCarthy be detained in Bamenda Central Prison for a renewable six-month period while police investigate the allegations against him.³¹ McCarthy was then detained for 7 months without trial before being charged.³²
- May 15, 2018: Wawa Jackson Nfor, who worked for local broadcaster Abakwa FM before starting his own Facebook and text message-based news service, Wawanews, and contributing to local news websites like *Hilltopnews*, was arrested without a warrant by National gendarmerie officers when returning to Bamenda.³³ Nfor was reportedly detained by the gendarmerie brigade in Nkambe, the capital of Donga-Matung, and interrogated by Patrick Engola, the district officer for Nkambe central district, who accused Nfor of publishing unfavorable news about his administration.³⁴ Nfor faced charges of publishing secessionist information (related to his journalism) and threatening the life of a prominent local ruling party politician and businessman, Ngala Gerard (though the threat charge was later dropped).³⁵
- May 25, 2018: Mancho Bibixy was sentenced by a military court in Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital, to 15 years in prison on anti-state and false news charges: terrorism, secession, hostility to the fatherland, spreading false information, revolution, insurrection, rebellion, and contempt for civil servants.³⁶
 - Thomas Awah was sentenced to 11 years in prison for terrorism, hostility to the fatherland, secession, revolution, insurrection, spreading false news, and contempt for

civil authority.³⁷

- Tsi Conrad, a freelance journalist who had been arrested at gunpoint on December 8, 2016 by at least 10 military officers while filming a rally of the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement that had turned violent.³⁸ Conrad was transferred to Yaoundé and detained without outside contact for two weeks at the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance, the police's secretive intelligence arm.³⁹
- September 17, 2018: Following a viral social media campaign, Thomas Awah was admitted to the hospital and treated for chronic tuberculosis and pneumonia, but was discharged from the hospital and returned to prison after only 16 days because of mounting hospital bills.⁴⁰
- October 23, 2018: Michel Biem Tong, editor of the privately owned *Hurinews* website, was detained without any charges after being summoned to the State Secretariat for Defense in Yaoundé following publishing articles criticizing the government's handling of grievances of Anglophones leading up to Oct. 7 presidential elections.⁴¹ Tong had reportedly received repeated calls from Cameroonian military official Colonel Joel Emile Bamkoui to present himself to the State Secretariat for Defense in relation to an alleged audio recording in which Tong expressed sympathies toward Anglophone separatists (which Tong denied having made).⁴² Tong was reportedly not granted access to a lawyer, but was charged by a military tribunal on Nov. 15 with apologizing for terrorism, fake declarations, and outrage to the head of state.⁴³ On December 15, 2018, Tong was released following a presidential pardon (along with 289 prisoners who had been arrested and held in Military Tribunals).⁴⁴
- October 31, 2018: Mimi Mefo was summoned to appear before the national gendarmerie in Douala, the capital of Cameroon's Littoral region, on November 5, 2018 as part of a false news and cybercrime investigation, following her active reporting about political unrest in Cameroon's Anglophone region.⁴⁵
- November 7, 2018: Mimi Mefo was questioned for several hours, charged with "publishing and propagating information that infringes on the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cameroon," arrested, taken to the central New Bell prison in Douala, and scheduled to appear before a military tribunal on November 12, 2018.⁴⁶ Mefo was released on Nov. 10, 2018 and charges were dropped on Nov. 12, 2018.⁴⁷
- December 2018: Cameroon jailed the second highest number of journalists (4) on charges of false news, behind only Egypt.⁴⁸ Cameroon was the sixth-worst jailer of journalists in the world, with eight.⁴⁹

2019

- January 28, 2019: Théodore Tchopa and David Eyengue Nzima, journalists with the privately owned daily newspaper *Le Jour*, were arrested and detained at a house where opposition leader Maurice Kamto and opposition activists were also arrested, after covering an opposition gathering in Douala.⁵⁰ Tchopa and Nzima were released without charge on February 1, 2019.⁵¹
- May 28, 2019: Paul Chouta was arrested in Yaoundé on May 28, 2019 by plainclothes officers following a defamation complaint from French-Cameroonian writer Calixthe Beyala.⁵²

- May 31, 2019: CPJ and eight other civil society organizations wrote a letter to the UN Security Council ahead of the June 2019 briefing of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) describing the increasing humanitarian and human rights crisis in the Anglophone Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon, citing the use of torture and incommunicado detention, the detention of Journalists (at least four of whom were behind bars at the time in relation to their reporting on the crisis), and ongoing threats of arrest and attack for members of the media.⁵³
- July 22, 2019: Following a protest by inmates at the Kondengui Central Prison over prison conditions, Mancho Bibixy was sentenced for an additional two years to run concurrently with his original sentence for group rebellion;⁵⁴ Bibixy appealed, but the judgment was rendered in French on October 9, 2020 and an English judgment had not been provided to defendants or their lawyers as of October 2022.⁵⁵
 - Thomas Awah was sentenced for an additional three years to run concurrently with his original sentence for group rebellion, destruction of property, and resistance to the administrative order.⁵⁶
 - Tsi Conrad was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a military court in Yaoundé for terrorism, secession, hostility against the state, contempt for civil authority, rebellion, and spreading false news, including by electronic means.⁵⁷
- August 2, 2019: Samuel Wazizi was arrested and held at the Muea police station before being transferred to the military and held in Buea without access to his lawyer or family.⁵⁸ Wazizi's lawyer filed a Habeas Corpus Application on August 13, 2019, but it was dismissed on Nov. 5, 2019. Wazizi later was reported to have died in custody.⁵⁹
- October 28, 2019: CPJ and 64 other civil society organizations joined at open letter calling on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to address serious and systematic human rights violations in Cameroon, including the jailing of journalists (at that time including Paul Chouta, Mancho Bibixy, Tsi Conrad, Thomas Awah Junior, Amadou Vamoulke, Wawa Jackson Nfor, and Samuel Wazizi).⁶⁰
- November 7, 2019: Adalbert Hiol, publisher of the privately owned *Ades-Infos Jeunesse en Action* newspaper, was detained after he responded to a summons, on charges of false news, defamation, and insult stemming from an April 2, 2019 defamation complaint filed by Louis Richard Njock, the director of a regional hospital in Edea, regarding 2017 and 2018 articles by Hiol regarding Njock's management of the hospital.⁶¹ The warrant ordering Hiol's detention stated that he should be held until May 8, 2020; Hiol was found guilty of those charges on December 27, 2019 and sentenced to 18 months in prison.⁶² Hiol appealed his conviction on December 30, 2019, but the appeal was delayed because of COVID.⁶³
- December 1, 2019: There were at least 73 journalists in prisons in Africa, including seven in Cameroon⁶⁴

2020

- January 17, 2020: Martinez Zogo was arrested by judicial police officers in Yaoundé and charged with criminal defamation following a complaint filed by Sylvie Biye Essono, the ex-wife of a government official,⁶⁵ but was later released.
- April 2020: Journalist Sébastien Ebala was arrested in April 2020 and sentenced in September 2021 to two years in prison for “contempt” of the president after stating publicly that President Biya should leave power while advocating for an antigovernment march.⁶⁶
- April 29, 2020: The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued its opinions that the deprivation of liberty of Amadou Vamouké – who had been arrested on July 29, 2016 allegedly in connection with proceedings instituted against him for the misappropriation of public funds and held in pretrial detention because he allegedly had no known address (despite reportedly having such an address) – being in contravention of Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, is arbitrary and falls within categories I and III. The Working Group requested the Government of Cameroon to take the steps necessary to remedy the situation of Mr. Vamouké without delay and to bring it into conformity with the relevant international norms, specifically by releasing Mr. Vamouké immediately and to accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations.⁶⁷
- May 15, 2020: Freelance journalist Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka was arrested and allegedly held in arbitrary detention, which the Government of Cameroon contests stating instead that he was suspected of being the coordinator of the operation of several *WhatsApp* pro-secessionist groups including one (BUI WARRIORS Group).⁶⁸
- June 3, 2020: Denis Nkwebo, the president of the Cameroon Trade Union of Journalists, issued news reports and tweets alleging that Samuel Wazizi died at a military hospital at an unspecified date after being tortured by security forces.⁶⁹ Subsequent reports indicate that he died in August 2019.⁷⁰
- June 12, 2020: Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka was transferred to Kondengui Central Prison where he remained while his case before a military tribunal was pending and subject to repeated postponements.⁷¹ Since his transfer he has been denied access to counsel for most of 2021.
- August 17, 2020: Six armed men in plainclothes arrested Mbombog Mbog Matip, director of the privately owned *Climat Social* newspaper who also posts political commentary on Facebook. Matip was held at the State Secretariat for Defense (SED) until September 7, 2020.⁷²
- September 7, 2020: Mbombog Matip was brought before a military court judge and charged with “propagation of false news,” and ordered to be detained until March 7, 2021.⁷³

2021

- August 19, 2021: After repeated delays, a military appeals tribunal overturned Thomas Awah’s convictions for terrorism and rebellion charges but upheld the others, maintaining the original 11-year sentence but dropping certain fines.⁷⁴

- September 2021: Philosophy professor Fridolin Nke, who had recently published a book criticizing the Biya government, was detained by military security forces in September 2021 but quickly released; Nke reported being tortured while in custody.⁷⁵
- October 2021: According to one of Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka's lawyers, the matter was still before the government commissioner at the Military Tribunal, and Njoka's six-month preventive custody had been extended.⁷⁶

2022

- February 3, 2022: The Committee to Protect Journalists joined 26 other civil society organizations in calling on President Paul Biya to release all those arbitrarily detained in Cameroon for acts of free expression, including at least four journalists. The letter states that over 100 people have been detained, most for more than a year, and some for over five years, for simply "peacefully exercising their human rights."⁷⁷
- February 22, 2022: The national gendarmerie arrested Malcom Barnabe Paho, director of the newspaper Midi Libre Hebdo; opened a criminal defamation case against him; and detained him for two days in the capital Yaoundé, following a complaint filed by Boba Denis, a pastor who heads the Africa Life World Mission church, an international religious organization.⁷⁸
- June 6, 2022: Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka appeared before a military trial, but in repeated court appearances following that date, was not formally arraigned.⁷⁹ The case has not made further progress since.
- December 1, 2022: There were five journalists imprisoned in Cameroon.⁸⁰
- December 21, 2022: The special criminal court sentenced Amadou Vamouké to 12 years in prison and 47 million FCFA (US\$76,000) in fines for alleged embezzlement.⁸¹

Incommunicado holding, lengthy pre-trial and arbitrary detention of journalists

2018

- April 10, 2018: Ahmed Abba, who had been arrested on July 30, 2015 in Maroua and charged under Cameroon's Law N°2014/028 on Repression of Acts of Terrorism, was convicted by a military tribunal of "non-denunciation of terrorism" and "laundering of the proceeds of terrorist acts" and sentenced to 10 years in prison.⁸² Abba was reportedly detained incommunicado for at least three months after his arrest, and was beaten with machetes and sticks by members of the intelligence agency.⁸³
 - Akumbom McCarthy had his first military hearing on April 10, 2018, and was then detained for seven months without trial before being charged on September 3, 2018 with attempted secession, illegal monitoring of military activity in Bamenda, and propagating false information.⁸⁴
- May 18, 2018: Wawa Jackson Nfor first attended a hearing on May 18, 2018 and was formally arraigned and pleaded not guilty on August 20, 2018, but his trial was repeatedly delayed until

his release on February 20, 2021.⁸⁵

- May 25, 2018: Tsi Conrad was sentenced by a military tribunal after his trial was adjourned at least 16 times and dragged on for more than a year.⁸⁶
- September 3, 2018: Akumbom McCarthy was detained for seven months without trial before being charged with attempted secession, illegal monitoring of military activity in Bamenda, and propagating false information.⁸⁷ McCarthy was released on December 4, 2018 without being sentenced.

2019

- June 3, 2019: Paul Chouta was first brought to court on June 3, 2019 and returned on June 10, 2019, when he was formally charged with defamation and false news, but his trial was repeatedly delayed and/or restarted between June 2019 and his eventual release in May 2021.⁸⁸ Chouta was detained in Kondengui Central Prison for nearly two years, from the time of his arrest and the conclusion of his trial.⁸⁹
- July 2019: Following a protest by inmates at the Kondengui Central Prison over prison conditions, Mancho Bibixy, Tsi Conrad, and several other prisoners were transferred to the Special Operations Group in Yaoundé and later to the State Secretariat for Defense, where they were held incommunicado for weeks and reportedly beaten.⁹⁰
- August 6, 2019: Following Samuel Wazizi's August 2, 2019 arrest, his lawyer was informed on August 6, 2019 that Wazizi would be transferred to the judicial police, the competent authority to investigate, but was instead transferred on August 7, 2019 to the military's 21st Motorized Infantry Battalion in Buea, where he was held incommunicado. Wazizi may have been transferred to the State Defense Secretariat in Yaoundé, but that was unconfirmed.⁹¹

Prosecution of journalists in military court

2018

- April 10, 2018: Akumbom McCarthy was detained by judicial police in Bamenda for three weeks before appearing before a military tribunal on charges of attempted secession and disseminating secessionist propaganda on air; the military tribunal ruled that McCarthy be detained in Bamenda Central Prison for a renewable six-month period while police investigated the allegations.⁹²
- May 10, 2018: Ahmed Abba was convicted by a military tribunal of "non-denunciation of terrorism" and "laundering of the proceeds of terrorist acts" and sentenced to 10 years in prison.⁹³
- May 25, 2018: Mancho Bibixy was sentenced by a military court in Yaoundé to 15 years in prison on anti-state and false news charges: terrorism, secession, hostility to the fatherland, spreading false information, revolution, insurrection, rebellion, and contempt for civil servants.⁹⁴ Bibixy's appeal before a military tribunal faced delays.⁹⁵

- Tsi Conrad was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a military court in Yaoundé for terrorism, secession, hostility against the state, contempt for civil authority, rebellion, and spreading false news, including by electronic means.⁹⁶
- Thomas Awah was sentenced to 11 years in prison for terrorism, hostility to the fatherland, secession, revolution, insurrection, spreading false news, and contempt for civil authority.⁹⁷
- November 7, 2018: Mimi Mefo was questioned for several hours, charged with “publishing and propagating information that infringes on the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cameroon,” arrested, taken to the central New Bell prison in Douala, and scheduled to appear before a military tribunal on November 12, 2018.⁹⁸
- November 15, 2018: Michel Biem Tong was reportedly not granted access to a lawyer, but was charged by a military tribunal with apologizing for terrorism, fake declarations, and outrage to the head of state.⁹⁹

2019

- August 6, 2019: Following Samuel Wazizi’s August 2, 2019 arrest, his lawyer was informed on August 6, 2019 that Wazizi would be transferred to the judicial police, the competent authority to investigate, but was instead transferred on August 7, 2019 to the military’s 21st Motorized Infantry Battalion in Buea, where he was held incommunicado. Wazizi may have been transferred to the State Defense Secretariat in Yaoundé, but that was unconfirmed.¹⁰⁰

2020

- May 15, 2020: Freelance journalist Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka was arrested and allegedly held in arbitrary detention, without access to his family or lawyer. The Cameroonian government claims he was suspected of being the coordinator of the operation of several *WhatsApp* pro-secessionist groups including one (BUI WARRIORS Group).¹⁰¹
- June 12, 2020: Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka was transferred to Kondengui Central Prison where he remained while his case before a military tribunal was pending and subject to repeated postponements.¹⁰² Since his transfer he has been denied access to counsel for most of 2021.
- August 17, 2020: Six armed men in plainclothes arrested Mbombog Mbog Matip, director of the privately owned CliMat Social newspaper who also posts political commentary on Facebook. Matip was held at the State Secretariat for Defense (SED) until September 7, 2020, when he was brought before a military court judge who charged him with “propagation of false news,” and ordered he be detained until March 7, 2021.¹⁰³

2021

- August 19, 2021: A military appeals tribunal overturned Mancho Bibixy’s conviction on charges of terrorism and rebellion but upheld other charges and maintained the original 15-year sentence, but reduced certain fines. As of October 2022, a written judgment from the lower court had yet to be given to the defendants or their lawyer.¹⁰⁴

- After repeated delays, a military appeals tribunal overturned Thomas Awah's convictions for terrorism and rebellion charges but upheld the others, maintaining the original 11-year sentence but dropping certain fines.¹⁰⁵
- Tsi Conrad was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a military court in Yaoundé for terrorism, secession, hostility against the state, contempt for civil authority, rebellion, and spreading false news, including by electronic means.¹⁰⁶

Denial to a right of fair trial and appeals process

2018

- May 18, 2018: Wawa Jackson Nfor first attended a hearing on May 18, 2018 and was formally arraigned and pleaded not guilty on August 20, 2018, but his trial was repeatedly delayed until his release on February 20, 2021.¹⁰⁷

2019

- June 3, 2019: Paul Chouta was first brought to court on June 3, 2019 and returned on June 10, 2019, when he was formally charged, but his trial was repeatedly delayed and/or restarted between June 2019 and his release in May 2021.¹⁰⁸ Chouta was detained in Kondengui Central Prison for nearly two years, from the time of his arrest and the conclusion of his trial.¹⁰⁹
- August 3, 2019: Samuel Wazizi's lawyer filed a habeas corpus petition. He received no response for three months, until the court dismissed it on a technicality.¹¹⁰
- November 7, 2019: Samuel Wazizi's lawyer immediately filed a second habeas corpus petition. The hearing of this petition was repeatedly adjourned, primarily due to a failure by the court registry to serve the respondents in the matter.¹¹¹
- December 30, 2019: Adalbert Hiol appealed his December 27, 2019 conviction and 18-month sentence, but the appeal was delayed because of COVID.¹¹²

2020

- April 30, 2020: The presiding judge eventually heard Samuel Wazizi's matter on the merits, but the respondents failed to attend the proceedings, despite having appeared and heard the court schedule the hearing earlier in the week.¹¹³

Criminal defamation legislation

2019

- May 28, 2019: Paul Chouta was arrested in Yaoundé on May 28, 2019 by plainclothes officers following a defamation complaint from French-Cameroonian writer Calixthe Beyala.¹¹⁴
- November 7, 2019: Adalbert Hiol was detained after he responded to a summons on charges of false news, defamation, and insult stemming from an April 2, 2019 defamation complaint filed

by Louis Richard Njock, the director of a regional hospital in Edea, regarding 2017 and 2018 articles by Hiol regarding Njock's management of the hospital.¹¹⁵ Hiol was found guilty of those charges on December 27, 2019 and sentenced to 18 months in prison.¹¹⁶

2020

- January 17, 2020: Martinez Zogo was arrested by judicial police officers in Yaoundé and charged with criminal defamation following a complaint filed by Sylvie Biye Essono, the ex-wife of a government official.¹¹⁷

2022

- February 22, 2022: The national gendarmerie arrested Malcom Barnabe Paho, director of the newspaper Midi Libre Hebdo; opened a criminal defamation case against him; and detained him for two days in the capital Yaoundé, following a complaint filed by Boba Denis, a pastor who heads the Africa Life World Mission church, an international religious organization.¹¹⁸

Invocation of anti-terror law and anti-state charges against journalists

2018

- April 10, 2018: Ahmed Abba was convicted by a military tribunal of “non-denunciation of terrorism” and “laundering of the proceeds of terrorist acts” and sentenced to 10 years in prison.¹¹⁹
- April 10, 2018: Akumbom McCarthy was charged with attempted secession and disseminating secessionist propaganda on air, and a military tribunal ruled that McCarthy be detained in Bamenda Central Prison for a renewable six-month period while police investigate the allegations.¹²⁰ McCarthy was then detained for 7 months without trial before being charged on September 3, 2018 with attempted secession, illegal monitoring of military activity in Bamenda, and propagating false information.¹²¹
- May 25, 2018: Mancho Bibixy was sentenced by a military court in Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital, to 15 years in prison on anti-state and false news charges: specifically terrorism, secession, hostility to the fatherland, spreading false information, revolution, insurrection, rebellion, and contempt for civil servants.¹²²
 - Tsi Conrad was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a military court in Yaoundé for terrorism, secession, hostility against the state, contempt for civil authority, rebellion, and spreading false news, including by electronic means.¹²³
 - Thomas Awah was sentenced to 11 years in prison for terrorism, hostility to the fatherland, secession, revolution, insurrection, spreading false news, and contempt for civil authority.¹²⁴
- November 15, 2018: Michel Biem Tong was reportedly not granted access to a lawyer, but was charged by a military tribunal with apologizing for terrorism, fake declarations, and outrage to

the head of state.¹²⁵

- November 7, 2018: Mimi Mefo was questioned for several hours, charged with “publishing and propagating information that infringes on the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cameroon,” arrested, taken to the central New Bell prison in Douala, and scheduled to appear before a military tribunal on November 12, 2018.¹²⁶

2019

- June 3, 2019: Paul Chouta was first brought to court on June 3, 2019 and returned on June 10, 2019, when he was formally charged with defamation and false news.¹²⁷
- August 2, 2019: Samuel Wazizi was accused of “collaborating with separatists” and “spreading separatist information,” and denied bail because his case related to potential charges under Law N°2014/028 on Repression of Acts of Terrorism, but no criminal charges were ever filed.¹²⁸
- August 17, 2019: Colonel Serge Cyrille Atonfack alleged several months later that Wazizi was active in one of the several separatist groups operating in the South-West region and had been arrested under Law N°2014/028 on Repression of Acts of Terrorism, though due process was not followed, no criminal charges were ever filed, and no evidence was brought to court.¹²⁹

2020

- May 15, 2020: Freelance journalist Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka arrested and allegedly held in arbitrary detention, which the Government of Cameroon contests stating instead that he was suspected of being the coordinator of the operation of several *WhatsApp* pro-secessionist groups including one (BUI WARRIORS Group).¹³⁰
- June 12, 2020: Kingsley Fomunyuy Njoka was transferred to Kondengui Central Prison where he remained while his case before a military tribunal was pending and subject to repeated postponements.¹³¹ Since his transfer he has been denied access to counsel for most of 2021.
- August 17, 2020: Six armed men in plainclothes arrested Mbombog Mbog Matip, director of the privately owned *CliMat Social* newspaper who also posts political commentary on Facebook. Matip was held at the State Secretariat for Defense (SED) until September 7.¹³²
- September 7, 2020: When Mbombog Matip was brought before a military court judge, Misse Njone Jacques Baudouin, who charged him with “propagation of false news,” and ordered he be detained until March 7, 2021.¹³³

2021

- August 19, 2021: After repeated delays, a military appeals tribunal overturned Awah’s convictions for terrorism and rebellion charges but upheld the others, maintaining the original 11-year sentence but dropping certain fines.¹³⁴

Suspension of broadcasts and broadcast permissions, internet shutdown, and blocked access to social media, communication platforms, and journalism offices and studios

2018

- October 2017 - February 2018: The government ordered Internet service providers to shut down the Internet in the Anglophone areas and blocked social media networks in French-speaking regions. Internet services were cut off again for about 136 days, with negative impact on economic activity in the regions.¹³⁵

2021

- 2021: Anecdotal reports indicated that the government monitored private online communications without appropriate legal authority.¹³⁶
- April 19, 2021: Pro-government private television channel Vision 4 produced a report on J. Remy Ngonu, a Cameroonian journalist who lived in France and participated in the Radio Foot International program on Radio France International. In the report Raoul Christophe Bia questioned Remy Ngonu's sexual orientation. Using photoshopped pictures as evidence, Christophe Bia explicitly compared Ngonu to an animal. On September 16, Vision 4 television channel again featured the derogatory imagery in another report. Some observers believed the questioning of Ngonu's sexual orientation and the photoshopped images were in response to Ngonu's criticism of the government.¹³⁷
- July 5, 2021: At a meeting for its 28th Extraordinary Session, the National Communication Council sanctioned three journalists for what they deemed to be unprofessional conduct. The sanctions ranged from suspensions for one to six months and a warning. Stive Jocelyn Ngo, a DBS TV journalist, received a 30-day suspension for publishing unsubstantiated and "offensive" information concerning the president of France on April 21 during the program DBS Martin. Sisonndi Barkev Bidjocka, publisher of Ris Radio, received a one-month suspension for "insufficient investigation" leading to the broadcast of unsubstantiated and "offensive" information against parliamentarian Cabral Libii. The publisher insinuated that Cabral was engaged in some malfeasance involving the procurement of public contracts for private gain related to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Nynanssi Nkouya, publisher of Confidence Magazine, received a six-month suspension for publishing a flyer containing "offensive" information concerning Senator Sylvester Nghouchinghe.¹³⁸

2022

- April 1, 2022: The National Communication Council media regulator announced that Equinox TV CEO Séverin Tchounkeu and editor-in-chief and presenter Cédric Noufele were both suspended from working as journalists for one month, and that the outlet's "Droit de Réponse" ("Right of Reply") program was barred from airing during that time.¹³⁹

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