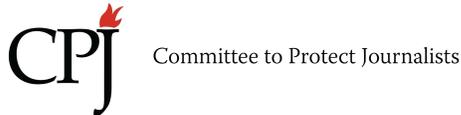


Annex 3
Committee to Protect Journalists Memo on
Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists in Cameroon

March 6, 2023

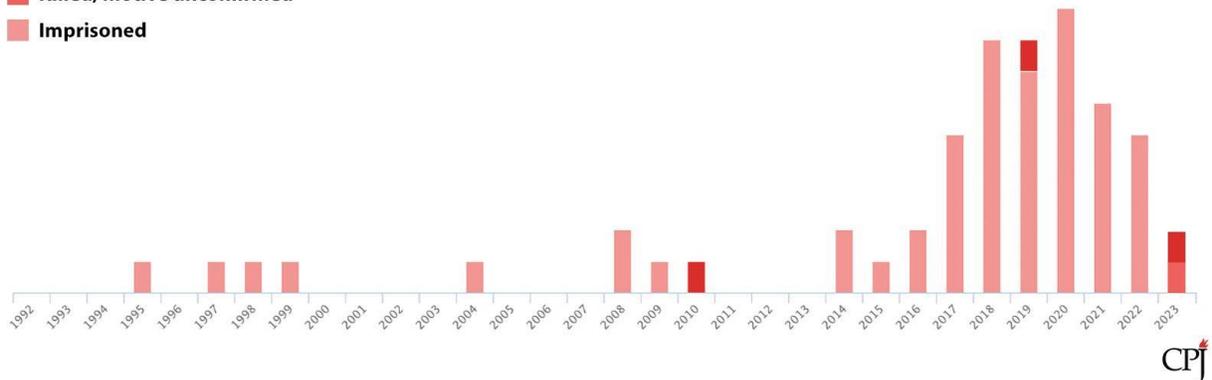


Press Freedom and Safety of Journalists in Cameroon

26 Journalists Attacked in Cameroon

between 1992 and 2023

- Killed, motive confirmed
- Killed, motive unconfirmed
- Imprisoned



Background: Press freedom and journalists' safety in Cameroon has been in decline for more than a decade. Journalists are routinely detained, attacked, censored, and imprisoned on anti-state, criminal defamation, false news, and/or retaliatory charges, as [documented](#) by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Several journalists have been forced into exile, two journalists have died in government custody under suspicious circumstances since 2010, and, most recently, prominent journalist [Martinez Zogo](#) was murdered in January 2023. In addition, CPJ continues to investigate the deaths of two other journalists to determine whether those were connected to their journalism.

Imprisonment of Journalists

- Cameroon has appeared consistently on CPJ's [annual prison census](#) since 2014, and it is among the worst jailers of journalists in Africa, behind Egypt and Eritrea, with the third highest number of journalists in jail as of December 1, 2022.
- After Egypt and Eritrea, Cameroon also jails journalists the longest, dating back to

mid-2016 and early 2017, including using lengthy pre-trial and arbitrary detention, where journalists have been held incommunicado, and convictions by military courts, among other serious violations of fair trial and due process rights.

- Four of the imprisoned journalists - [Tsi Conrad](#), [Mancho Bibixy](#), [Thomas Awah](#), and [Kingsley Njoka](#) - are in jail on anti-state charges in connection to the ongoing Anglophone conflict that has pitted separatists in the English-speaking regions of Cameroon against the forces of the majority French-speaking government.
- Conrad, Bibixy, and Awah have appealed their convictions by a military tribunal, but this process has stalled, ostensibly due to administrative delays.
- Njoka was held in pre-trial detention for more than two years and appeared before a military court late last year. In January 2023, a judge presiding over his case ruled that a new panel must be constituted, requiring Njoka's case to start over while he remains in detention.
- [Amadou Vamoulke](#), a 73-year-old journalist who is in poor health, was sentenced to [12 years in prison](#) in December 2022. CPJ believes Vamoulke was targeted for his independent management of the state broadcaster, Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV).

Killing of Journalists

- [Martinez Zogo](#) was abducted, tortured, and brutally murdered in January 2023.
- [Samuel Wazizi](#) was held incommunicado and died in government custody in August 2019, a fact that was only announced by the Cameroonian government in June 2020.
- [Bibi Ngota](#) died in government custody in 2010 from “abandonment, improper care” and the authorities’ “failure to render assistance,” according to a medical report. An opaque government inquiry absolved authorities of any responsibility, and claimed the journalist had died of HIV complications, a claim disputed by his widow.
- [Jean-Jacques Ola Bebe](#) was found murdered on February 2 in Yaounde. CPJ continues to investigate whether the motive for his killing is related to his journalism.
- [Jules Koum Koum](#), an investigative journalist, died in a car accident on November 4, 2011. CPJ is investigating whether Koum’s death is related to his journalism amid heightened speculation that he was [murdered](#) for his reporting on corruption following the [recent conviction](#) of a former defense minister, whom he had exposed at the time.

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6 March 2023