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**UN Human Rights Council  
39<sup>th</sup> session, 10 – 28 September 2018**

**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**CAMEROON**

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes Cameroon's acceptance of recommendations to end arbitrary arrest,<sup>1</sup> and to improve prison conditions and prevent torture in detention.<sup>2</sup> In acting on these recommendations, we call on the government to close down secret and illegal detention facilities, to grant access for independent monitors to all places of detention, and to provide detainees with access to their families and lawyers, and adequate medical care, food and water.

Since the beginning of the conflict in the Far North region of Cameroon in 2013, Amnesty International has documented systematic human rights abuses by Boko Haram and human rights violations by the security forces, including arbitrary arrests, incommunicado detention, torture, death in custody, enforced disappearances, unlawful killings and extrajudicial executions.

We welcome Cameroon's commitment to investigate allegations of excessive use of force by the security forces.<sup>3</sup> We are concerned, however, by the lack of accountability for crimes committed by the security forces in the fight against Boko Haram and in the North and South West regions of the country, and call on the government to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice in fair trials and victims compensated.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Cameroon, A/HRC/39/15, recommendations 121.116 (Slovakia) and 121.117 (Botswana).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/39/15, recommendations 121.105 (Italy) and 121.106 (Morocco).

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/39/15, recommendations 121.112-121.116 (Poland, Australia, Belgium, Switzerland, Slovakia).

We regret that Cameroon rejected all the recommendations to abolish the death penalty,<sup>4</sup> to decriminalize same-sex relations,<sup>5</sup> to repeal the anti-terrorism law,<sup>6</sup> and to ensure civilians are not tried in military courts.<sup>7</sup>

Since 2015, hundreds of people accused of supporting the armed group Boko Haram have been sentenced to death in military courts, including under the deeply flawed anti-terrorism law, which was passed in December 2014.<sup>8</sup>

LGBTI persons continue to face discrimination, intimidation and harassment in Cameroon.

Mr President,

Amnesty International notes with great concern, since late 2016, reports of beatings and killings by the security forces, including of peaceful protestors in the Anglophone regions of the country. We call on Cameroon to investigate these human rights violations, as agreed to during the review.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, we call for the immediate release of opposition party leader Aboubakary Siddiki.

Thank you, Mr. President,

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<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/39/15, recommendations 121.1-121.9 (Italy, Uruguay, Rwanda, Brazil, Togo, Chile, France, Spain, Czechia), 121.92 (Australia), 121.96-121.98 (Canada, Namibia, Ukraine).

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/39/15, recommendations 121.74 (France), 121.75 (Germany), 121.76 (Ireland), 121.77 (Spain), 121.78 (Mexico), 121.79 (Uruguay), 121.80 (Australia), 121.81 (Switzerland), 121.82 (USA), 121.83 (Netherlands), 121.84 (Argentina)

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/39/15, recommendations 121.91-121.96 (Poland, Australia, Switzerland, France, Haiti, Canada).

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/39/15, recommendation 121.108 (Poland).

<sup>8</sup> Law N° 2014/028 of 23 December 2014 on Terrorism, <http://princekmer.skyrock.com/3240467049-Loi-N-2014-028-du-23-decembre-2014-portant-repression-des-actes-de.html>

<sup>9</sup> A/HRC/39/15, recommendation 121.113 (Australia).