

## CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTEGRATION IN CAMEROON: THE ROLE OF STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS

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### ABSTRACT

Cameroon can be considered as a valuable case in the context of analysis of threats to national security. The evolving internal socio-political context coupled with increasing incidence of insecurity by private actors who possess means of violence point to the multiple crisis in the country. The aim of this paper is to address the political, economic and social problems that impends and challenges the national security and the form of the state. The question therefore is: what is the impact of non-state actors in Cameroon state building and national security? The following hypothesis guided the study; the role of non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security of Cameroon and, the national integration as a stake to national unity to the current conflict situation in Cameroon. Theoretically, we draw from the functionalist ideal of national integration theory since it focuses on the heterogeneous nature of a society and the need to turn it into a homogeneous society. Empirically, we use a mixed multi-method approach with both quantitative and qualitative methods and Multistage sampling techniques. The period of analysis includes eight months, from February to October 2022. The paper observed that the threat of violence extremism and radicalization, nation building and national integration has direct impact on the Cameroon defense policy. The paper recommended that effective nation building should be by empowering the population with a sense of shared purposes, united and resilient in facing common threats to the nation. This can be done through the use of Political power to influence decisions, the exercise of diplomacy to have partners. Also, to boost the economic power in order to facilitate cooperation, and the use of military force to maintain rules of law.

**Keywords:** Nation-Building and National Security, violent non-state actors and Threat.

### INTRODUCTION

There are many security challenges faced by African state in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, coupled with wide-ranging threats which imperil many African nations. The sovereign state has been the primary political actors in the state system since the Westphalia treaty of 1648. Therefore, all governments are concerned with maintaining domestic tranquility, peace and national defense. For long, the state has been considered as a unit that helped guard people, grew to be an entity that is making humans unsecured. (Buzan, 1983). The disappearance of governmental authority occurred in many African countries, where terrorist armed factions representing few groups are threatening the violence monopoly of the state. In the context of the changing security environment issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Cameroon can be considered as a valuable case in the context of analysis of threats to national security. At present, Cameroon is in an exceptional situation. For a long time, the country had been a stable anchor in an unstable region, currently, it is dominated by some few areas of conflict. Private actors such as violent non-state actors who possess means of violence point to the multiple crises in the country.

Fundamental concepts as national security threat, non-state actors or violent non-state actors (VNSA), and national integration must all be deeply situated in the historical, cultural, and political context of the state of Cameroon. This will enable analytical understanding of the problems and threats currently playing out. Wolfer argues that the numerous elements such as national characters, preferences, and prejudices shape overall understanding out of the concept of security (Wolfers, 1952). The concept of

security is evolving and it is one of the subject matter in International Relations. National security is the public policy conducted by States to prevent, defend and manage interests or threats. The national defense policy provides for civil and military instruments whose objective is to defend vital, strategic and power interests at all times, in all places and regardless of the circumstances. A national security doctrine encompasses the totality of the country's military, diplomatic, economic and social policies that will promote and protect a country's national security interests.

With the change in the geopolitical environment, contemporary theories have given their definition of security which moves away from the traditional state-centric concept of security.

A state can be seen here as a territorial entity controlled by a government and inhabited by a population (Smit, 2008). The state exercises sovereignty over its territory by enforcing laws, collecting taxes and answers to no higher authority. This sovereignty is acknowledged by other states through diplomatic relations usually by membership in the United Nations. National government maybe the most important actors in international relations, but they are strongly influenced by a variety of non-state actors. These non-state actors are also called transnational actors when they operate across international borders (Goldstein & Jon, 2012). State and non-state actors according to Ryo Osiba (Kan, 2017) have three main features: They should have autonomous capacity to determine their own purposes and interests; They should also have the capability to mobilize human and material resources to achieve these purposes and interests; Their actions should be significant enough to influence the state-to-state relations or the behavior of other non-state actors in the global system (Kan, 2017).

On foreign policy, there is no doubt that every nation implements policies to guide its external relations while protecting, promoting and defending its vital national interest. This is a reality especially in terms of defending its territorial integrity and promoting economic, military, strategic and diplomatic interests as well as whatever else the state of Cameroon considers as being of vital national interest. In political science, sovereignty is usually defined as the most essential attribute of the state in the form of its complete self-sufficiency. That is, its supremacy in domestic policy and independence in the foreign one (Jary et al. 1999, P. 162–163). The Cameroon state as an object to be secured or as a security actor on the international scene, faces threat and challenges impacting the national security. It's vital for Cameroon government to put national security and emergency response efforts in place, allowing them to identify and thwart any natural or human-made disruptions to peace, safety and stability. The situation in Cameroon remains something of a mixed picture, the state of Cameroon continues to face challenges that risk derailing its political processes thereby worsening security conditions. Cameroon a "microcosm of Africa" is a country in Central Africa in which the most diverse cultures, forms of life, religions and languages meet among its 25 million inhabitants. Cameroon has diverse panoramic landscape characterize with mountains, coasts and the desert.

Our objective in this paper is to examine current challenges for Cameroon national security and state authority, where new threats and political instability have reached unprecedented levels in the last 5 years. And to equally address the political, economic and social problems that threatens and challenges the national security and the form of the state. In Cameroon, the crisis emanating from Boko Haram splinter groups and displaced persons fleeing neighbouring countries (Central African Republic, the Republic of Chad and the Federal Republic of Nigeria) has only grown. There is equally the situation in the country's north-west and south-west regions with separatist violence of particular concern as violence flares. US diplomat Henry Kissinger once said: "civil conflicts are viewed internationally through prisms of democratic or sectarian concerns." (Swanstrom & Niklas, 2010)

The aim of every modern state is to build a strong and virile nation capable of engendering development and able to compete effectively in the community of nations. However, there is every reason to suggest that several years after colonial rule many African states have remained weak and lacking in legitimacy, service delivery and overall relevance. This is even as conflicts, underdevelopment and climate change have continued to undermine the people's well-being and degrade the human condition, resulting in the fact that the prototype state in Africa is insecure, fragile and dysfunctional (Giorgis, 2010). It is not surprising, therefore, that leaders of African states have largely adopted different forms of nation-

building policies essentially to address internal challenges and unite their people towards achieving development (Giorgis, 2010).

It should be noted that the boundaries between the categories of political rebellion, violent jihad, and criminal activity are murky and porous throughout the state of Cameroon. The leaders of various insurgent groups operating in the state of Cameroon have shown “flexian” tendencies, using fluid alliances and controlled political violence to pursue their aims. Thus, in analyzing different types of violent non-state actors in Cameroon we realize that they have financial support. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Nine out of ten regions of Cameroon continue to be impacted by three complexes, protracted, humanitarian crises caused by continuous violence in the Lake Chad basin, insecurity in the North-West and South-West regions, and the presence of over 325,000 refugees from Central African Republic (CAR) in the eastern regions. (Cameroon Humanitarian Bulletin N°32, May 2022). For many years now that Cameroon’s governance and security problems have attracted little outside attention.

Presently, the state of Cameroon faces violence in the Far North, where Boko Haram continues to mount small-scale attacks and, in the Northwest, and Southwest, where an incipient Anglophone insurgency emerged in 2017. In addition to this insecurity context, there is a refugee crisis in the East and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon. To which 236,000 people from the Central African Republic have fled militia battles.

For most of the post-independence period, the real issue with the state of Cameroon has been how to foster internal unity and cohesion towards achieving sustainable development. Cameroon formerly known as a stable state is currently in a difficult situation of increasing conflict and political uncertainty coupled with economic stagnation. The country is facing constant Boko Haram threat and recurrent conflicts of interest between the English-speaking and French-speaking sections of the population. **The question therefore is: what is the impact of non-state actors in Cameroon state building and national security?**

Actors involved in international relations contribute to the complexity of competing explanations and theories. The state level of analysis concerns the aggregations of individual within states. **The following hypothesis guided the study; the role of non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security of Cameroon and on the other hand, the national integration as a stake to national unity to the current conflict situation in Cameroon.**

States are common unit of analysis in theories of International Relations. Theories in International Relations do not deny the existence of other political units (Waltz, 1979, P. 93) Kenneth Waltz writes “States are not and never have been the only international actors”. A number of theories of national integration exist (the functionalist, federalist, and cybernetic theories). In most cases, countries try to implement the three theories of national integration for best results. **The importance of non-state actors and the extent of transnational activities are obvious.** In order to best elucidate the activities of non-state actors as a challenge to state building and national security in Cameroon, **the functionalist ideal of national integration model theory will be used since it focuses on the heterogeneous nature of a society and the need to turn it into a homogeneous society.**

### 1.1 Research Methodology

#### 1.2 Research Design

This study used explanatory design to investigate the degree of association between two variables. As affirmed by Creswell (Creswell, 2012), explanatory design is a correlational design in which the researcher is interested in the extent to which two variables (or more) co-vary, in order to reach the goals of this study.

#### 1.3 Research Area

This paper benefits from an exploratory field visit to the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). A structure meant to provide a framework for the reception and social reintegration of ex- Boko Haram militants and members of armed groups operating in the

North West and South West regions of the country. Lake Chad basin, Northwest, and Southwest regions, where an incipient Anglophone insurgency emerged in 2017, the refugee crisis in the East and Adamaoua regions of Cameroon. Conducted between February and October 2022.

#### **1.4 Population**

The target population for the study will encompass 20 ex- Boko Haram militants and members of armed groups operating in the North West and South West regions of the country where qualitative interviews with DDR leaders, civil society, religious groups, ex terrorist fighters were conducted, and equally officials of local humanitarian non-governmental organisation operating as organizations with sufficient power to influence and cause a change, in spite not being state actors, totaling 106, In addition to the review of scholarly literature.

#### **1.5 Sample and Sampling Techniques**

Multistage sampling techniques will be used in this study. Stage 1 will be a stratified sampling technique in which each of the regions concern will be represented in the study. Stage 2 will be based on simple random sampling technique in which the sample of non-state actors such as armed groups, terrorists, civil society, religious groups or corporations, that is, ex- Boko Haram militants and members of armed groups operating in the North West and South West regions with recurrent conflicts of interest between the English-speaking and French-speaking sections of the population. will be obtained in each case through balloting system.

#### **1.6 Research Instruments**

Three instruments for data collection will be use in this research: the questionnaire, interview and observation checklist. The researcher chooses to use these instruments because they could be carefully designed and used for the collection of data in accordance with specifications of the research questions and hypotheses.

#### **1.7 Reliability of the Instrument**

The reliability of the instrument will be determined by pilot testing the instrument (questionnaire) checklist and observation guide. The population size of the pilot study is considered adequate for the pilot test based on the suggestion of Hertzog (ertzog, 2008) who recommends 10% of the sample required for a full study. The result to be obtained from the pilot study will be analyzed using Cronbach alpha formula with the help of the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23.

#### **1.8 Method of Data Collection**

The researcher visits the selected exploratory field. During the visits researcher met with the ex-members of armed groups operating in the North West and South West regions of the country were qualitative interviews with DDR leaders, civil society, religious groups, ex terrorist fighters. The researcher and research assistance administer the instrument to the respondents and allowed the respondent to answer the instrument for a period of one week. The researcher and research assistance retrieve the instruments after one week. The researcher sorts out and tally the responses for further justification and analyses.

#### **1.9 Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected will be analyzed using mean, standard and bar charts while regulation will be used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 23 software will be used in the analysis.

Strong states are characterized by high levels of legitimacy and authority, adequate levels of provision of collective goods, sound economic management, the primacy of the collective, and a high degree of inclusiveness. According to realist approach, states cannot trust others but themselves in terms of

security issues. States are the sole actors that can play influential role in providing security without relying on other states. In fact, states do not rely on other states because in the security issue, they do not trust each other. (Krasner, 1976) Weak states lack legitimacy and capability, and are often not inclusive or provide public goods. In most cases, weaknesses along the various dimensions are mutually reinforcing while in fewer cases, weakness in one area can be offset by strengths elsewhere. (<https://www.academia.edu/33022132/Non-Traditional-Security-Issues-of-the-Western-Balkans-Actors-Causes-and-Implications>) When there are multiple dimensions along which the state is weak, the prospects for the rise of VNSAs are considerably increased. Nine out of ten regions of Cameroon continue to be impacted by three complexes, protracted, humanitarian crises caused by continuous violence in the Lake Chad basin. There is, insecurity in the North-West and South-West regions, and the presence of over 325,000 refugees from CAR in the eastern regions. In the following paragraphs, after analyzing the territorial integrity of Cameroon, we hope to transcend the role of non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security of Cameroon (I) and on the other, national integration as a stake to national unity to the current conflict situation in Cameroon (ii).

### **I- THE ROLE OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN CREATING CHALLENGES TO INTERNAL SECURITY OF CAMEROON**

The VNSA provides an alternative form of governance that fulfills the functions normally assigned to the state. The value of VNSAs depends on the kind of capacity gaps and functional holes that they fill. These functions can include the provision of state functions, such as imposing and maintaining security and order, and can also extend to activities that might be described as paternalistic forms of social welfare. (<https://www.ukessays.com/essays/politics/non-state-actors-in-international-security-politics-essay.php>) In the far North region, the security situation remains totally unsolved, with continued attacks and incidents involving Boko Haram elements. While the number of such attacks have decreased over the last years, the situation there remains fragile and the humanitarian situation bleak, with some 227,581 people internally displaced. Numerous conflicts across Central Africa have led to instability, low levels of regional integration and cooperation, weak State institutions, corruption, poverty and disenfranchisement. Old conflicts have resurfaced in the Great Lakes region, particularly affecting Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Cameroon (UN SC14927, 8 JUNE 2022). Since the 1990s, there has been an increasing rise of tension between the Anglophone sector of the country and the government of Cameroon. The rise in tension has yielded to a series of problems which most of them have loosely referred to it as “The Anglophone Problem” (The genesis of the Anglophone problem in Cameroon can be traced right from to World War I. According to Nicodemus Awesome, ‘The Development of Autonomist Tendencies in Anglophone Cameroon, 1916-1961’ “the unequal partition of the country between France and Britain, following the defeat of Germany in West Africa in 1916 sowed the seeds of future problems’ in that this accounted for ‘the ultimate emergence, in a re-unified Cameroon, of an Anglophone minority and a French majority. This later created an Anglophone consciousness: the feeling of being ‘marginalized’, ‘exploited’, and ‘assimilated’ by the francophone dominated state, and even by the francophone population as a whole). The question many people would like to ask is; what is the Anglophone problem in Cameroon? The Anglophone problem in Cameroon has posed and is still a continuing threat to national integration, sustainable peace and unity.

#### **A- Non state actors and the State of Cameroon**

Two types of actors are receiving increased attention because of their important role, these are International Organization and transnational actors. States create and delegate critical tasks to international Organization or international institutions because there can provide essential functions such as helping states overcome problems associated with collective warfare.

It is important to know what motivate these actors, to understand their goals and to consider the ways in which they seek to achieve these goals. There are some VNSAs that are relatively small and operate in a circumscribed geographical area, while others have a wider transnational scope.

(<https://www.scribd.com/document/123640152/Violent-Non-State-Actors>) Their reach can extend from local to national and transnational. In many cases, funding is subservient to larger goals and no more than a means to an end; in other instances, the acquisition of wealth is a central goal. Examining the funding of VNSAs regularly requires looking at their relationship with the illicit economy at national, regional and world levels. (<https://www.scribd.com/document/123640152/Violent-Non-State-Actors>) As Michael Mann correctly observes in one of his works entitled “the *transformation of position and role of a state in the modern world*.” (Mann, 1997) We regularly observe a one-sided debate on the issue whether or not the state system turns into stronger or weaker (<https://www.socionauki.ru/journal/articles/127716>) Meanwhile the process appears to be quite complicated and ambiguous; in some way the positions of the state system are weakening but in other ways they become stronger (Yan 1996: 49). In many cases, the relationship is one of hostility; yet for some kinds of VNSAs the relationship is more complex with a degree of connivance between state structures and VNSAs. (Guichaoua, 2011, P. 246) Thus, in analyzing different types of violent nonstate actors in Cameroon and in the CEMAC sub region, we must remember that clear classification is usually impossible.

CHRDA urges the State and non-state actors involved in the ongoing armed conflict in the North West and South West Regions of Cameroon to allow the peaceful resumption of schools for the 2021/2022 academic year. It is regrettable that within the context of the Anglophone Crisis, the domain of education has continuously been used as a weapon of war since 2016 in these regions. (<https://www.chrda.org/chrda-calls-on-the-state-and-non-state-actors-involved-in-the-ongoing-armed-conflict-in-the-north-west-and-south-west-regions-of-cameroon-to-allow-the-peaceful-resumption-of-schools-for-the-2021-2022-academic-year/#:~:text=It%20is%20regrettable%20that%20within,West%20Regions%20of%20the%20country>) The majority of students have not gone to school for over five years. Another school year has just started. In the last academic year, some factions of the separatist movements called for school resumption. Many schools opened their doors and the academic year went smoothly. Although some unfortunate incidents were recorded including the massacre of at least eight school children of Mother Francisca International College in Kumba Sub Division by unidentified gunmen. (Centre for human right and democracy in Africa, Sept 2021)

### **B-politico-social and economic challenges**

Displaced population due to intercommunity crisis in the Logone-Birni, Far North region, return to their localities although their situation remains precarious. It is important to know what drives these non-state actors, to understand their goals and to consider the ways in which they seek to achieve these goals. Not all VNSAs are created equal some are relatively small and operate in a circumscribed geographical area, while others have a wider transnational scope. There is no single structure for VNSAs: some are hierarchical and centralized; others are networked and distributed; and some can be understood as hybrids of networks and hierarchies. Moreover, organizational structures are not static; they adapt and change over time in response to opportunities and constraints in the environment and the actions of their adversaries. The politico-social and economic dimension, Cameroon has been facing challenges on the front of internal security since independence from various state and non-state actors. Politico-social and economic sphere of sovereign state has been controlled by the popular elected government. But peace and security can be disturbed by some external and non-state actors, through various means and ways. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Assistant Secretary-General for Africa in the Departments of Political and Peace building Affairs and Peace Operations, noted that while several countries of the region are on track to hold elections in 2022 and 2023, notable challenges threaten to derail those efforts. In Cameroon, the crisis emanating from Boko Haram splinter groups and displaced persons fleeing neighboring countries has only grown, with the situations in the country’s north-west and south-west regions of particular concern as violence flares.

JAMES KARIUKI (United Kingdom), underscoring that “the ongoing crises in the north-west and south-west regions of Cameroon require urgent attention, noted that the United Kingdom has given \$25 million of humanitarian aid over the last five years”. Inclusive, peaceful and credible political processes are critical for building and sustaining peace in the subregion. (Security Council SC 14927 June 2022) There is a correlation between a state's weakness and the emergence of a kind of VNSA. States with low legitimacy often cannot create or maintain the loyalty and allegiance of their populations. (<https://www.scribd.com/document/123640152/Violent-Non-State-Actors>) In these circumstances, individuals and groups typically revert to or develop alternative patterns of affiliation. This often means that family, tribe or clan becomes the main reference points for political action, often in opposition to the state. As David Ronfeldt has argued, “as a society degenerate...the more its state, market, and civil society systems falter and fall apart people sure to revert to the tribal form. It again becomes the driving form.” Given that tribalism often emphasizes exclusiveness and different codes of behavior towards outsiders, a reversion to tribalism can feed into the rise of VNSAs

The alternative governance of VNSAs often provides a better experience than the state system, because the state has a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence. This is why the idea of ungoverned spaces, which has become a widely-used term in the United States military, is often inappropriately applied. (<https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/93880/vnsas.pdf>)

The concept of ungoverned spaces assumes that because the state is absent there is no governance. Most spaces that are traditionally considered to be ungoverned are, in fact, governed spaces. Yet, this too is an inherent challenge to the state as it further undermines legitimacy and public support. In other words, VNSAs develop out of poor state governance but, in turn, further undermine governance by the state. Another important factor in understanding the rise of VNSA is globalization. Not only has globalization challenged individual state capacity to manage economic affairs, it has also provided facilitators and force multipliers for VNSAs. Global flows of arms, for example, are no longer under the exclusive control of states. Illicit arms dealers.

It will be an important problem for a long time to combine the interests of national and supranational groups, and of world organizations with different levels of complexity. Only an institutionalized solution to this huge problem will finally establish a more or less stable world order. It will take some time when there is a profound change in the elites and people's outlook, and so national problems will be considered primarily through the prism of common interests. (<https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/new-foundations-of-international-system-or-why-do-states-lose-their-sovereignty-in-the-age-of-globalization>)

## II- NATIONAL INTEGRATION AS A STAKE TO NATIONAL UNITY TO THE CURRENT CONFLICT SITUATION IN CAMEROON

The policy of national integration is not lip service as it is enshrined in the country's frame work law and disseminated through discourses with national symbols and policies to showcase its existence. Integration refers to the process of bringing together culturally and socially discrete groups into a single territorial unit and the establishment of a national identity. When used in this sense, “integration” generally presumes the existence of an ethnically plural society in which each group is characterized by its own language or other self-conscious cultural qualities. Thus, national integration refers specifically to the problem of creating a sense of territorial nationality, which overshadows or eliminates subordinate parochial loyalties. Today, Anglophone nationalist movements are fighting for the autonomy of the Anglophone regions because of a failed integration process. The national government's policy of national integration and approach to managing differences between Anglophones and Francophones still presents a great challenge to the Cameroon state.

### A/ lack of a strong sense of national identity

The lack of a strong sense of national identity resulted in a relapse to precolonial and colonial identities while political competition took an increasingly ethnic dimension and such cleavages further deepened

over time, leading to disastrous consequences for democracy on the continent. Political coercion, repression and patronage took over as the popular means to retain power. This situation has been worsened by the non-transparent process through which candidates for elective positions are selected. The results of such faulty selection processes often determine a party's competitive profile against rivals during elections, in addition to determining the loyalty of members and supporters. The degree to which party members and supporters are included in this internal selection process is therefore significant in determining a party's success in an election. As such, a lack of transparency in this regard continues to be a primary cause of internal conflict in Cameroon. On the other hand, in the absence of modifying the extreme lapses of the Cameroon national anthem, there will be a continuous threat to the consolidation of national unity, sustainable peace and National integration. This is because once the citizens of Cameroon especially from both parts of the country; the Anglophones and Francophones, start to discover these lapses, they will start agitating and finding visible avenues and grounds to pose a threat to and destabilize. Cameroon has visibly two 'distinct' national Anthems. Both versions of the anthem; English and French do not in any way mean the same thing despite the same melody and rhythm. The song was referred to as "*chant de ralliement*" translated in English to mean a rallying song. It was composed by Rene Djam Afame and its lyrics, written by Rene Djam himself and two of his fellow classmates; Samuel Minkyo Mbamba and Moise NyatteNko'o. The song existed in Foulassi School until it was adopted on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 1957 by the Legislative Assembly of the UN Trust Territory of French Cameroon, to be used as the National Anthem of *La Republique du Cameroun* upon Independence slated for January 1 1960. The process of unity and national integration has not been easy to achieve since the days of Independence and Unification in the early 1960s and through the Referendum in the 1970s. Yet as important as other national symbols like the flag, national day celebrations, laws which have been duly modified over and over again all in a guise to meet the exact picture of the unified peoples of Cameroon, (The flag of green red yellow with three vertical stripes of equal sizes adopted in the French Cameroun, was modified with the addition of 2 gold stars on the green color indicating two states that have come together as the Federal Republic of Cameroon. After the dissolution of the federation and adoption of a unitary government, the flag was again modified with a single gold star on the red and middle of the flag indicating one unitary state.) the Cameroon National anthem has to mandatorily go through the same process for the same purpose of modification and to a large extent, harmonization. The national day celebrations have been modified several times just to reflect and catch the real image of our diverse cultural heritage from May 10<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> and now to May 20<sup>th</sup> each year. If such modifications have been made on Cameroon's national symbols, what may be standing as a stumbling block to the modification of the national Anthem. If the two national anthems cannot be modified to reflect what the Cameroon people truly are, then we shall advise the complete change and re-writing of a new national Anthem for Cameroon that will truly define and reflect the true image of the peoples of the Republic of Cameroon.

### **B-Threat to national integration and nation building in Cameroon today.**

The separatist fighting movement in the south west and North West region, the Boko Haram constant attack in the far north region, political instability in the neighboring countries like Central African Republic and Chad has led to massive refugee crisis, armed rebellion and sectarian bloodshed blamed on the destabilizing legacies of economic plunder and impunity of their late notorious leaders. In North East Nigeria, the terrorist activity of Boko haram has led to forceful displacement of people and property into Cameroon. The so called "*Republic of Ambazonia.*" In NOSO. After the reunification, the anglophone part began to strive for autonomy, which has intensified since 1990. As a result, the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) was founded in 1995, advocating the separation of the English-speaking part from Cameroon and the establishment of an independent "*Republic of Ambazonia*" emerging tensions between internally displaced persons and host communities were also becoming a concern in some places. However, their situation remains precarious in the localities of return. In Logone Birni, Zimado and Guirvidig, many shelters, food stores, essential household items and other belongings



were taken, destroyed, or burnt during the conflict and have not been rehabilitated/supplied since. This conflict exacerbated community needs, including access to clean water, which was already challenging. The limited access to clean water exposes people, particularly children, to disease. Over 15 per cent of children under 5, among the 343 assessed in the seven localities of returnees, had diarrhea between 1 and 20 May 2022 and only 15 per cent among them were treated. Due to the disdain and persistent neglect by the government, there are increased protests and dissatisfaction among the young anglophone population in particular. In 2005, English-speaking students protested at universities for better study conditions and against discrimination against English-speaking students. The lack of prospects for young people and their anger at inequality led to further protests in Douala, Yaoundé and other cities in western Cameroon in 2008. In 2016, peaceful protests by lawyers and teachers took place in the English-speaking part demanding more recognition of the English language and culture. In response to this, the government sent the military which brutally suppressed these protests. Since then, the government and the separatists the so-called “Amba Boys” have outbid each other in their acts of violence, which often affect the civilian population. Entire villages have already been burned down, thousands of people killed, and about 300,000 people have fled the country so far. The civilian population does not know how to behave: Those who resume teaching are attacked by the separatists.

For years now, the northeastern part of Nigeria has been ruled by the terrorism of the Boko Haram organization, which claims to be fighting in the name of religion. For many years, Cameroon has been considered a refuge for Boko Haram, where the organization was tolerated by the Cameroon authorities in the sense of an unspoken mutual non-aggression pact. Since 2013, however, the organization has extended its attacks to the Cameroon itself. In May 2014, the confrontations increased when Cameroon’s President Paul Biya formally declared war on the organization. On the border with Nigeria, attacks and military confrontations increased. At the beginning of 2015, more than 80 villagers from the Mokolo region were kidnapped and their villages completely destroyed by Boko Haram. In July of the same year, there was a suicide attack in Fotokol and within a week two more attacks took place in Maroua. The interior of the Cameroon the capital of the Cameroonian region Far-Nord thereby became a target of the attacks for the first time. By the end of 2015, at least 23 more suicide attacks had been carried out most of them by children resulting in more than 150 deaths. Although the international perception of crisis is currently focusing on the conflict in the anglophone region of Cameroon, the Islamist terrorist organization Boko Haram continues its suicide attacks in the north of the country claiming numerous civilian victims. The attacks have led and continue to lead to increasing destabilization of the northern regions. In the medium term, the activities of the terrorist organization will determine Cameroon’s domestic and security policy. This poses an enormous challenge for the state.

The use of fake news to distribute malware through social networks is a relatively new skills needed to gather information and distinguish the confirmed facts, manipulations, and propaganda. We are living in the so-called era of fake approach, but malware detection and blocking methods are almost the same as phishing attacks: recognizing and reporting an incident; security team review and solving any network problems that allowed the malware.

The attention of security experts is attracted to fake news and because they are used to distribute malware. There has been a lot of witnessing of how the Internet and the media are objects on behalf of which radical organizations attract supporters and spread propaganda as well as fake news. Among the most vulnerable ones for these risks are the democratic states. (Belova & Georgieva, 2018) Social media platforms are increasingly used by non-traditional journalists in Cameroon for production and distribution of information via Facebook and Twitter accounts.

### **Conclusion and recommendation**

Nations are socially constructed and politically contested entities, they are made and unmade, intentionally or unintentionally, endogenously or exogenously, by actions, interactions, routines, practices, discourses, and narratives. The suppliers for private actors come from a wide variety of actors. The Paper observed that the threat of violence extremism and radicalisation, nation building and national

integration has direct impact on the Cameroon defence policy. In this sense each of the political and military subjects analyzed in this article can be seen as an aspiring region-builder that is in turn affected. The paper recommended that effective nation building should be by empowering the population with a sense of shared purposes, united and resilient in facing common threats to the nation. Cameroon national security is the necessity to maintain the endurance of the state through the use of Political power to influence decisions, the exercise of diplomacy to have partners and allies, to boost the economic power in order to facilitates cooperation, and the use of military force to maintain rules of law. Both state and non-state factors from outside have created problems in our internal security framework. Hence while it is imperative to guard our borders and strengthen our diplomacy, on the other hand, we need to check the various non-state actors who come in hidden forms. Although different meanings have been attributed to the term 'security', there has been consensus on concept of security based on the definition of Wolfers. The feeling of fear is the centre point for the definition of security, while the lack of threat has been emphasized as the factor that causes the elimination of feeling of fear. But the lack of fear has been interpreted variously in main approaches of international relations. Realists believe that the security got its meaning according to anarchical self- help system in which no states trust the others in security matters.

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