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PETITION FROM MR. GABRIEL TCHOKOL CONCERNING THE CAMEROONS UNDER BRITISH  
ADMINISTRATION AND THE CAMEROONS UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

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PETITION

Gabriel Tchokol, member of One Kamerun  
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Kumba, P.O. Box 49, Kumba

To the Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
New York

Sir,

The surviving Kamerunians cannot remain silent, and must make the world hear their cries of suffering in the face of the deplorable and ever increasing crimes of every sort against innocent and defenceless Kamerunians. It is now unhappily more than three years since Kamerun began to have its unity destroyed by the Administering Authorities responsible for the administration of Kamerun under French and English rule, in particular the cruel French Government.

Considering that when the United Nations Visiting Mission arrived on 26 November 1958 at about 11 a.m. at Douala, the many Kamerunian nationalists were surrounded by French troops, who levelled their guns at the peaceful Kamerunians who had come in peace to welcome the Visiting Mission, without the least pity or shame for acting thus on that sacred day. Considering that five persons fell at once under the blazing guns; 156 people were wounded and 600 were arrested and removed in military vehicles with the following registration numbers:

CA3029; CA3416; **CARRA129**; CA4852; CA4840; CA78080; CA3416; CA445060;  
CA415122; CA448460; CA415204; CA448312; CA448316; CA448318; CA418322.

On the same day at 6 p.m. a curfew was imposed at Douala, Bonaberi and Sousa and four trucks were used to collect the corpses and tip them into the Wouri at Douala.

Considering that five persons were arrested on the train at Penja station; they were travelling from Douala to Nkongsamba and had with them 6,000 petitions dated 27 November 1958, and this again was done by French troops.

We know one of them, Thomas Tekam.

Consequently, we wish to draw the attention of the United Nations to the following:

- (a) Attempted interference with the postal services by the British Government.
- (b) The notorious Endeley elections organized on 24 January 1959.
- (c) The secret distribution of large sums of money to get support for Mr. Endeley, £200, paid to the indigenous inhabitants of Balang (British) on 4 January 1959.

Mr. Endeley was right to say: the living will not vote for me, but dead men and stones will.

We protest vigorously against these puppet elections that have no valid basis. We call for a referendum to be organized under United Nations supervision.

We vigorously protest against the plots by the Franco-British to arrest emigrants or political refugees leaving for the Western Kamerun, some of whom were transferred to the Eastern Kamerun, while others were condemned to 2 1/2 to 3 years in prison under English rule on the pretext that they had UPC documents in their possession. We also protest strongly against the armed forces who have invaded every part of the territory of the British Zone in order to intimidate the people into supporting and voting for Endeley in the puppet elections, and against the closing of the frontiers by armed forces.

We maintain our stand with regard to asking the United Nations to send the United Nations Commission as a matter of urgency so that the Kamerunians can express themselves freely and act in accordance with their true feelings. This is all that the Kamerunians insist on.

May the year 1959 be a year in which the young Kamerunian nation will flourish abundantly.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Uuyuka, 13 January 1959.

It is regrettable to note that a man of venerable years and recognized as a former member of the British armed forces, called Manfan Najiki, an inhabitant of Ediki, British Zone, has just been sentenced to thirty months in prison on the pretext that he was wearing the UPC emblem on the sacred day when the Visiting Mission was welcomed at Kumba on 31 October 1958. We strongly protest against these measures taken by the British authorities, and against the fact that others have suffered and will continue to suffer under similar measures, thus endangering progress, and the rights and freedoms of peoples as recognized by the Trusteeship Agreement, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

French officials come into the British Zone carrying our photographs, and visit the prisons to try and arrest and execute us before independence, on the instructions of the French Government.

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