Douala, February 23, 2021

Press release

WILPF Cameroon condemns the killing of three Traditional chiefs in the South West Region

On the night of 13-14 February 2021, three traditional chiefs were abducted and then coldly eliminated by armed men, presumed separatists, on Saturday 13 February 2021 in the locality of Essoh-Attah, Lebialem department, South-West region. WILPF Cameroon is devastated by such actions which add to the long list of human rights abuses and violations of the conflict between Cameroonian forces and separatists in the North-Western and South-Western regions of Cameroon.

The crisis which has been raging the North-West and South-West regions since 2016 claiming lives will last five wears and has already claimed too many casualties among the belligerents, but especially among the civilian population, such as the killing of Garbu in the North-West in February 2020 and the assassination of seven (7) pupils in a school on Saturday 24 October 2020 in Kumba in the South-West.

WILPF Cameroon applauds the decision of the authorities of the South-West to open an investigation to shed full light on the assassination of these guarantors of culture in the Lebialem and to identify the perpetrators of this crime, so that they answer for their actions in accordance with the law. We call for an end to such indescribable acts of barbarism in the South West and in all the localities affected by this conflict that has lasted too long.

WILPF Cameroon is convinced that peace is still possible and calls for greater cooperation and collaboration of all national and international actors to bring an end to this conflict. As demonstrated by the Study on the Gender Conflicts Analys in Cameroon, carried out in 2019 by WILPF Cameroon and its partners, the path of an inclusive, sincere and uninhibited dialogue, the only solution capable of silencing the arms and establishing lasting peace in the North-West and South-West.

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