



## Cameroon - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 7 September 2010

### Up to date information on the treatment of those involved in student riots in Cameroon in November 2006

A November 2006 *Committee to Protect Journalists* article notes:

“Police in the southwestern town of Buea dragged Ezieh, publisher of the private English-language weekly, from his home and subjected him to a brutal beating. Local journalists linked the attack to his newspaper's critical coverage of the police response to student protests at Buea University.

Ezieh told CPJ that he was carried by four police officers to the nearby campus of Buea University and beaten unconscious by about a dozen officers. The officers shouted threats linked to his reporting, he said. Earlier in November, Ezieh's paper had published an article criticizing police reaction to the student protests, according to local journalists. Police had killed two students during riots over alleged admission irregularities, according to local and international news reports.” (Committee to Protect Journalists (27 November 2006) *Journalist beaten unconscious by Police*)

Section IV.B of a June 2010 *International Crisis Group* report under the heading ‘State Violence’, refers to university demonstrations in Buea at the end of 2006, as follows:

“This violence often results in deaths. In April 2005, two students were killed by police in Buea (South-West region) during a national university demonstration. At the end of 2006 there were two additional casualties when police fired on another university demonstration in the same town.” (International Crisis Group (24 June 2010) *Cameroon: The Dangers of Fracturing Regime*, p.14)

Chapter 9 of a January 2009 *Amnesty International* report on Cameroon, under the heading ‘Extrajudicial executions and excessive use of lethal force’, notes:

“Members of the Cameroonian security forces have often used excessive lethal force to quell student protests. For example, at least two Buea university students, Ivo Obia Ngemba and Moma Bennet, were shot dead on 29 November 2006 by the security forces during violent demonstrations over alleged corruption and discrimination against anglophone students. According to a Cameroonian student organization, there was no formal investigation into the killings and no members of the security forces are known to have been brought to justice in connection with them.” (Amnesty International (29 January 2009) *Cameroon: Impunity underpins persistent abuse*)

Under the heading ‘Students killed’, the May 2008 *Amnesty International* annual human rights report states:

“No progress was made in bringing to justice those responsible for the killing of Ivo Obia Ngemba and Moma Bennet who were shot by police during a peaceful protest on the campus of the University of Buea in November 2006.” (Amnesty International (28 May 2008) *Amnesty International Report 2008 – Cameroon*)

Under the heading ‘Student unrest culminates in deaths’, the May 2007 *Amnesty International* report adds:

“At least two Buea university students were shot dead on 29 November by the security forces during violent demonstrations over alleged corruption and discrimination against Anglophone students. The authorities did not hold any formal investigation into the killings.” (Amnesty International (23 May 2007) *Amnesty International Report 2007 – Cameroon*)k)

Section 2b of the March 2006 *United States Department of State Country Report on Human rights Practices for Cameroon*, under the heading ‘Freedom of Assembly’, notes:

“On November 29, the Buea antiriot police shot and killed two students, Ufeanei Ivo Abiandong and Bennett Moma Kenyufon, while dispersing a demonstration at the University of Buea. The students were protesting those admitted to the faculty of medicine because the protesters believed the minister of higher education had tampered with the names on the admission's list. An investigation was ongoing at year's end.” (United States Department of State (6 March 2007) *Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2006 – Cameroon*)

#### **References:**

Amnesty International (29 January 2009) *Cameroon: Impunity underpins persistent abuse*

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

**Sources consulted:**

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Committee to Protect Journalists

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Human Rights Watch

International Crisis Group

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

IRIN News

Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

United Kingdom: Home Office

UNHCR Refworld

UN News Service

United States Department of State