



Immigration and  
Refugee Board of Canada

Commission de l'immigration  
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## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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4 May 2010

### CMR103448.E

Cameroon: The organizational structure of the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC); its membership cards; the method by which it vouches for the experiences of its members when it provides letters of support for members who are claiming refugee status (January 2009 - April 2010)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

*Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2009* states that the Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) is an Anglophone secessionist group in Cameroon without legal status (US 11 Mar. 2010, Sec. 1f).

In 26 March 2010 correspondence, an associate professor of government at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who has studied the Anglophone minority in Cameroon and who has been a frequent expert witness on Cameroonian political asylum cases in the United States (US), provided the following information. The organizational structure of the SCNC includes a National Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary General, Communications Secretary, Zonal Chair of the Southern Zone, Zonal Chair of the Northern Zone and Financial Secretary (Franklin & Marshall 26 Mar. 2010). The SCNC has several factions including one group led by a man who is the chairman and president of the self-declared Federal Republic of the Southern Cameroons, a second faction opposed to the independence declaration of the first faction, and a third faction co-led by the National Vice-Chairman and the National Chairman (ibid.).

Information on the membership cards of the SCNC, and the method by which the SCNC vouches for the experiences of its members, or whether the SCNC provides letters of support for members who are claiming refugee status, could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

### References

Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. 26 March 2010. Correspondence from an associate professor of government.

United States (US). 11 March 2010. Department of State. "Cameroon." *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2009*.  
<<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/af/135942.htm>> [Accessed 29 Apr. 2010]

#### Additional Sources Consulted

**Oral sources:** The African Studies Centre in Leiden, the School of International Development and Global Studies in Ottawa, the Southern Cameroons National Council in Bamenda and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in Arlington did not respond to requests for information within the time constraints of this Response.

**Internet sources, including:** AfricaFiles, Afrik.com, AllAfrica.com, Amnesty International (AI), British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Cameroon-Info, Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), *Cameroon Tribune*, L'effort Camerounais, European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), Freedom House, International Crisis Group, *Jeune Afrique*, Minority Rights Group International, Office of the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Refworld, Pambazuka News, ReliefWeb, Southern Cameroons National Council website, United Nations (UN) Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO).

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