



Immigration and
Refugee Board of Canada

Commission de l'immigration
et du statut de réfugié du Canada

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29 April 2005

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Cameroon: The Alliance of Progressive Forces (Alliance des forces progressistes, AFP), particularly its organization, its membership card, and the treatment of its members by government authorities (April 2005)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

No information on the current treatment of members of the Alliance of Progressive Forces (Alliance des forces progressistes, AFP) by government authorities, or on its organization or membership card, could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, Amnesty International's 2004 report indicated that government authorities had "repeatedly prevented opposition political parties and political activists," including the AFP, from holding public meetings, but it did not provide any more details. An article published on 7 October 2004 in *Le Messenger* reported that the nomination of Noucti Tchokwago, proposed by the AFP for the 11 October 2004 presidential election, was overturned by the Cameroonian Supreme Court. The article did not specify the reasons for the decision.

Classified as a leftist party (Leftist Parties of the World 28 Feb. 2005), the AFP was founded in 2002 after the Social Democratic Front (Front social démocrate, SDF) split (*ibid.*; *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 107; EIU 1 Aug. 2004). Citing the statements of its founding members, including Maidadi Saidou Yaya, Évariste Fopoussi Fotso, Samuel Tchwenko and Yves Epacka (*Afrique Express* 2 Sept. 2002; see also *Political Parties of the World* 2005, 107), *Afrique Express* indicated that the AFP's objective was to [translation] "rehabilitate politics in Cameroon by getting the population more involved in the political scene and in the fight for civil rights" (*Afrique Express* 2 Sept. 2002). However, a 14 April 2005 article in the local newspaper *The Post* reported that Évariste Fopoussi Fotso, one of the AFP's founding members, came back to the SDF in January 2005.

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 additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

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Additional Sources Consulted

Publications : *Africa Confidential* , *Africa Research Bulletin* , *L'Afrique des Grands Lacs : annuaire 2004* , *Europa World Yearbook* , *Jeune Afrique/L'Intelligent* , Resource Centre country file.

Internet sites, including : AllAfrica, Amnesty International, digitalcongo.net, European Country of Origin Information Network (Ecoi), Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Crisis Group (ICG), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), MISNA, United States Department of State.

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