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Statement following the 16 September 2021 massacre in Ngog - Etunja and the urgent need for a patriotic public debate on the proposals for ending the civil war in the North West and South West Regions made by the CRM and its Allies on 19 May 2019

Unbearable images of soldiers shot in armoured vehicles, stripped naked and exposed are currently making the rounds on social media. These horrific images are accompanied by comments and elements that suggest that this is a scene of civil war in one of the English-speaking regions of our country.

Without prejudice, on behalf of the militants and sympathisers of the CRM, on behalf of the National Resistance and on my own behalf, I offer the families of the victims our deepest condolences. And if by some miracle there were survivors or injured, I wish them a speedy recovery.

These events follow the bloody weekend of 10-12 September 2021 during which more than twenty Cameroonians, including civilians and soldiers, were killed.

There is no need to recall here all the dead, civilians and soldiers, killed in this unnecessary internal armed conflict. What suffering for the poor populations of the two English-speaking regions of our country! What losses for the Nation!

From the beginning of the Anglophone crisis, I publicly advised the government to avoid engaging in war against its own people. Indeed, the problem posed by our Anglophone compatriots was and remains legitimate. This legitimate problem needed a political response. But because of the arrogance, the feeling of omnipotence of the regime, the narrow selfish interests of certain circles and the triumph of extremists within the ruling circles of the country, the war was declared with disconcerting lightness. The authorities made a mistake in this matter. However, no one could reproach the regime if it were to get its act together in the national interest. For the hour is grave. It is our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, our parents, who are killing each other. It is obvious that the Great National Dialogue was a failure. Could it have been otherwise?

Now that no one in our country or among the government's foreign partners can believe that violence and war can bring peace and stability to the NOSO, the Nation must stand together to get out of this war room. In this perspective, I will present again, in the near future, the updated proposals that I made, on 19 May 2019, with the allies of the CRM in the 2018 presidential campaign, from the bottom of the Yaoundé Main Prison, where we were imprisoned following the Peace Marches of 26 January 2019.

Nobody will partition Cameroon. No one! We have the resources and intelligence to bring peace and harmony to this beautiful country, which is the guarantee of lasting security and stability. All we need to do is to recognise our mistakes and call on our fraternity, our patriotism and our collective genius.

In this spirit, it is high time to stop the bloodshed and the repeated macabre spectacle that is plunging families and the nation into mourning, and to mobilise all the energies and resources of our country towards shared progress and the international influence it deserves.

18 September 2021

The National President

Maurice KAMTO

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