



STATEMENT ON A MURKY PROJECT HATCHED BY BLACK CABINETS AND CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE STATE SECURITY SERVICES AGAINST CAMEROONIAN CITIZENS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

1. Over the past few days, persistent rumours have been circulating about a plot being hatched in the corridors of power against citizens and political parties in our country. These reports/rumours coincide with a macabre security situation marked in particular by the recent heinous murders of journalists, one of whom, Martinez ZOGO, was crushed by the DGRE, and the other, Father OLA BEBE, was executed by unknown assailants.

2. In addition to these murders, there was the kidnapping and savage torture of the whistleblower Paul TCHOUTA, and the exercise of state terror on Me Fabien KENGNE kidnapped by agents of the Military Security (SEMIL), the barbaric torture of the PEACEFUL MARCHERS of September 2020 by the National Gendarmerie, the National Police, the DGRE.

3. From the outset, the Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) wishes to reiterate that despite all the destabilisation manoeuvres, the violence orchestrated by the current regime and the plundering of its electoral victories since 2013, it remains committed to peaceful change through the ballot box, and that it has always expressed itself within the framework set by national legislation and the international instruments to which Cameroon has freely subscribed as a sovereign State. Despite the autism of the government in the face of the many initiatives taken by our party to resolve the serious crises that are paralysing our country and posing serious threats to its security, unity and stability, the CRM insists on the respect for the institutions of the Republic, of which it has made one of its credos since its creation. It therefore invites the men and women who serve in the army to remain republican, and therefore to stand by the people in all circumstances.

4. In the news and rumours circulating, the CRM has learnt that an operation to physically eliminate its National President and some of its officials as political hostages (in accordance with Opinion N°63/2022 of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) of 04

November 2022) is already being planned by certain intelligence services and other special services of the State.

5. This fateful plan is nothing new. A year after the creation of the CRM, in 2012, the regime's extremists had already planned an operation to physically eliminate the same National President of our party and one of his main collaborators. Informed of this macabre plan by republican elements of these Services, at the time we sent a letter of protest to the President of the Republic with proof, including the names and ranks of the members of the commando in charge of the dirty work, their modus operandi, all against discharge and even a copy to the head of the commando as well as to certain diplomatic representations, including those of the United States and France. But, more than ten years later, this correspondence has remained curiously unanswered. And despite our written request, no legal proceedings have ever been opened in this case.

6- In October 2018, in the aftermath of the presidential election that we legitimately claimed victory in, a commando of mercenaries claiming to be of Central African origin approached leaders of our party, ostensibly to place themselves at our disposal with a view to staging a coup d'état that would bring us to power. We informed various state security services, including the DGRE, SEMIL and the DGSN. Sometime later, the latter sent supposed congratulations from the Head of State for our patriotic and republican attitude. But to date, despite the police hearings of some of our party's officials and their notification as witnesses for the Public Prosecutor's Office by the Yaoundé Military Court, no trial has been opened against those concerned, nor has any communication been made to Cameroonians about this peculiar case. It has therefore become clear that this was a trap laid by the authorities to implicate us in an alleged coup d'état and thus provide themselves with a plausible means of eliminating us.

7. The determination to compromise the National President of the CRM continued with the shameless publication on the front page of the government newspaper Cameroon Tribune of the gross lie that we support and finance the English-speaking secessionists. Despite our strong protests, the newspaper never thought it necessary to make amends.

8. Then, they tried to implicate us in a curious and sordid affair involving the purchase of arms, for which I had allegedly given €2,500 to the person appointed for this purpose, an affair for which it was reported that at least one person had been sentenced in 2019 to 5 years' imprisonment. Although we were not aware of this case, which only came to our attention recently, we were the intended target, since they wanted the protagonists to lie at all costs that they knew the CRM National President and that they had acted at his request.

9. As if that was not enough, a member of the Defence and Security Forces has on at least two occasions published videos in which he shamelessly lies that the CRM National asked him to

smuggle weapons across the border into the Central African Republic in order to take power.

10. Likewise, the regime's agents are constantly using torture to put pressure on our party's militants and supporters who have been illegally arrested during the Peaceful Marches, or on citizens carrying out their own protest initiatives against the excesses of the ruling power, so that they declare that the CRM National President is paying them to act.

11. While on his way to Tokombere in the Far North to escort the party's 1st Vice-President, Mr Mamadou Mota, from prison, an attempt was made on the life of the National President on 13 March 2020, at the entrance to the town of Garoua, by two gendarmes on motorbikes and in civilian clothes. One of them was arrested by members of the CRM President's motorcade security and taken to the Governor of the North Region, where he was formally identified. A complaint was then lodged against him on 17 March 2020 under No. 1623 by the party president's lawyers; not only has no action been taken on this complaint to date, but contrary to all expectations, seven CRM members who accompanied the gendarme to the Governor's house are being prosecuted for carrying illegal weapons and kidnapping a civil servant.

12. And the persecution continues with the assault, on 13 February 2023, of the spokesperson for the CRM National President, Mr Olivier Bibou Nissack, by a prisoner at the Kondingui Central Prison, Yaoundé, who was making threats against him and the CRM President. We await the outcome, as there is sure to be one, given the information and rumours we have reported. 3

13. In spite of the atmosphere of state terrorism with all that this implies in terms of contempt for the rule of law, permanent insecurity and generalised arbitrariness, characteristic of the end of an era of creeping dictatorships, the CRM recalls that the Cameroonian people will not give in to the political terror orchestrated by a few individuals nestled at the heart of the state who hope to use it to usurp power.

14. The CRM will call on Cameroonians to stand up against any attempt to illegally seize power by means other than those provided for by the Constitution of our country. In this regard, the CRM calls on the ruling party, the CPDM, to publicly dissociate itself from any unconstitutional seizure of power. It encourages all political forces and civil society to unite in an exceptional republican and patriotic spirit to defend, if necessary, the Nation against possible adventurers of all kinds.

15. The international community, which in Central Africa has often given its support to individuals and even dynasties, to the detriment of the people, must stand shoulder to shoulder with supporters of democracy, the rule of law and the legitimacy of power, so that the constitutional devolution of power and a democratic and peaceful power change in Cameroon can triumph.

16. As we have said on other occasions, the CRM is a state of mind, and what is more, the Cameroonian people after the historic presidential election of 7 October 2018 have a high level of awareness of what is at stake in the democratic struggle and the obstacles to its destiny. These people are mature and ready to deal with all eventualities. No one will impose their will on our people through terror, be it that of the Security Services or the Army. A people whose suffering has increased over 41 years of sterile power.

17. The same information/rumours, skilfully distilled so that they reach the CRM hierarchy directly, reinforce suspicions that, at the top of the State, a campaign orchestrated by the State against a backdrop of tribalism has been underway since the months leading up to the October 2018 presidential election, in an attempt – fortunately in vain – to undermine the popularity of the CRM and its main leader. This unspeakable campaign of state tribalism, which every citizen and foreign observer can see on a daily basis, particularly in the media, large and small, including the state media, is exploiting the irrational fears of Cameroonians.

18. The CRM believes in republican citizenship and fraternity and has been working since its creation to give them substance on a daily basis. Need we remind you that our Constitution states that Cameroon is a Republic, and that it therefore requires us all to respect and defend republican citizenship, which is the only viable solution to peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect, in our rich mosaic of socio-historical and cultural communities?

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19. The current regime has thought it necessary to pit ethnic groups and even tribes against each other, to exploit tribalism and even micro-tribalism, and to pit the country's main linguistic groups against each other. This is one of the most serious political errors, with more disastrous consequences than all the economic and social failures, because it affects the mental structures of the national community, at the root of what forges the soul of a people and makes nations emerge. This is an immeasurable responsibility to history, and the penalty will be even more severe because it will take a long time to repair the damage caused. There are some things you just don't play with. No, not everything is allowed, not even in politics!

20. The same information and rumours are circulating that a plan to destabilise the CRM by the regime is being implemented within our party itself. We would like to remind you once again that the CRM is a shared vision and commitment, an act of free faith in the radiant future of this marvellous country which has been disfigured, humiliated, reduced to an enclosure where we begrudge and hate each other because of leaders who are indifferent to our misfortunes, this country reduced to the rank of an unremarkable nation which has lost its pride and its dreams of greatness. All those in the ranks of our party who trade with the power, dreaming of some capacity to scuttle the CRM ship, are nothing more than political scoundrels. In fact, they are getting paid for a service that they themselves know they will never be able to provide.

21. The CRM has already survived the most twisted and cowardly blows dealt by people who, in various hushed salons around the country, had sold a capacity to cause harm that turned out in the end to be nothing more than a pipe dream. So, a warning to those in our ranks who, in exchange for money, promises of positions, and so on, have undertaken to destroy the CRM, the Breath of Hope of the Cameroonian People, from within. Since their objective will not be achieved, they will very quickly find themselves obliged to resign, or even to reimburse the money and/or benefits unduly received.

22. The CRM calls on its militants and sympathisers in the ten regions of the country, and on the Cameroonian people in the interior and in the Diaspora, to remain vigilant and mobilised and to continue, as they have been doing since January 2023, to register massively on the electoral registers, so as to be ready in 2025 or earlier to bring about peaceful change through the ballot box in our country.

I love you and will not betray you. May God bless Cameroon!

Done in Yaoundé, on 7 June 2023

The National President

Maurice KAMTO