**Position of the Civil Peace Service (SCP)[[1]](#footnote-1) Network following the bombings in far northern Cameroon**

***There can be no ethical or moral justification for the taking of a human life***

The repeated suicide bombings in the far northern region of Cameroon in the past few days claimed much loss of human life, and should be condemned forcefully and with determination and courage, irrespective of their source or perpetrators.

By showing solidarity and compassion towards the families of the victims, the communities of the far northern region and the people of Cameroon as a whole, the member organisations of the Civil Peace Service (CPS) network in Cameroon express their sincere condolences to those who have lost close relatives, friends or acquaintances murdered in the bombings perpetrated by invisible hands who have decided to exploit the innocence and naivety of children to orchestrate these incredibly cowardly attacks.

The gravity of such horrendous acts, the motives behind which are not yet known, is such that it definitively and simultaneously spreads fear, doubt and psychosis in the population which only wants to see living conditions improve by means of inclusive and participatory governance through which the country’s wealth would be protected in the long term and used fairly for the good of all independently of tribal or ethnic origin, or even adherence to a religion or doctrine.

Such an aspiration is therefore at odds with the criminal violence that is based exclusively and pitilessly on the pleasure of killing and seeks to achieve the destruction of human life, desolation and the exclusion and hatred of the other.

Faced with the manipulations and acts of certain human beings whose brothers and sisters we are condemned to be, beyond our ideological or racial differences and our social and cultural considerations, who devote themselves to the massacre of their fellow humans, it is more urgent than ever to remind the population of Cameroon, the nation and the international community that ***there can be no ethical or moral justification for the taking of a human life.***

On the strength of this principle and the recognition of our belonging to a common humanity, the Civil Peace Service (CPS) network invites the population to be doubly vigilant and to muster self-control to avoid treating everyone alike, exclusion and hatred of the other due to a lack of official communication. In this respect, the Civil Peace Service (CPS) Network:

1. **Recalls the importance of all the social strata becoming aware of the existence of a crisis situation and of the reality of a war against an invisible enemy**. The new situation incontrovertibly imposes special measures and new behaviour patterns we shall have to get used to. Ignoring this reality would be to fail to support our compatriots who find themselves currently in the front line, including the army whose inescapable mission to defend the national territory against multiple forms of aggressions has up till now been full of bravery and selflessness.
2. **Implores discretion and respect in speeches within and towards the population**. The contents of the messages to be communicated should be exempt of hate talk or stigmatisation in any form whatsoever. While continuing to campaign for a fairer society, and denouncing the pillars of injustice, the citizens should refrain from exacerbating the worries and frustrations of the people. For their part, the leaders are keenly awaited to reassure the people and take into account their urgent aspirations through pragmatic discourse devoid of vain commitments and propaganda.
3. **Draws everyone’s attention to the necessity of remaining attentive and calm to avoid leaving ourselves open to the slightest attitude that could shake the base and the foundations of national unity.** Citizen culture must guide the commitment of all in the struggle against terrorist acts and terrorism. Such a commitment must not be based on ethnic or religious considerations, political manoeuvring or even less so on a culture of exclusion, but on the construction of a national and sub-regional citizenship calling the leaders and countries concerned by the terrorist attacks to an inclusive relation based on participation and consultation of the population with a view to redefining the power relations. Efforts must therefore be deployed by the governments to strengthen citizen behaviour and so that the values of solidarity, civility and good citizenship foster the emergence of the feeling of belonging to a nation and a sub-region whose wealth has up till now not sufficiently served the general interest.
4. **Invites** all willing Cameroonians to contribute to the non-violent efforts to resist these unbearable provocations.
5. **Asks** thegovernment of Cameroon and all the decision-makers concerned to make their best efforts to carry out the emergency plan and other programmes with the aim of boosting economic growth in this part of the country and of the whole of Cameroon, placing particular emphasis on education and employment for young people.
6. **Challenges** the international community about its duty to show solidarity with the communities and citizens of Cameroon who have been endangered by these barbaric acts.
7. **Invites** all the civil society organisations to include peace building activities in their priorities, for we believe that “peace grows from within”.
8. **Suggests** that all faith communities, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim and Traditional should each, on their own level, launch a prayer chain or spiritual activities to support the common efforts.

The Civil Peace Service (CPS) network intends to continue to observe the changes in the analysis of the context to engage its members in prevention, education, awareness raising and training actions to promote the resilience of the population and all of us facing this shocking, disturbing reality.

Furthermore, the Civil Peace Service (CPS) network, which consists of faith communities and lay persons, comes together to pray in the diversity of our beliefs, for humanity to be recreated in those who have taken the option to ignore their own humanity and to be oblivious to human suffering.

*Written in Yaoundé, Douala, Maroua, Garoua, Batouri, Bangangté, Bertoua, Bafoussam, Foumban, Bamenda, Buea and Kumba*

*July 2015*

1. The Civil Peace Service (CPS) network in Cameroon is formed by faith-based and lay organisations working for peace in the different regions of the country on the basis of a common vision, supported by the peace workers sent by German outfits Bread for the World and AGEH. The work is done within the framework of the international Civil Peace Service programme promoted by the German Economic Cooperation Ministry (BMZ). For a full list of the organisations participating see **www.peaceworkafrica.net** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)