



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520
Bureau of Democracy, Human
Rights and Labor Affairs

July 2, 1998

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
Forensic Document Laboratory
800 West Park Drive
Suite 325
McLean, Virginia 22102

Attn: Mr. William McCarthy
Senior Document Analyst

Subject: Verification of claims of membership in Cameroon's
Social Democratic Front

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

Enclosed please find a 24-page document entitled "Abuse of membership of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) by asylum seekers," which was sent to the American Ambassador to Cameroon on May 30 by the Secretary General of Cameroon's Social Democratic Front (SDF), the largest and most active opposition party in Cameroon.

The leadership of the SDF appears to have prepared and submitted this document to various embassies in Cameroon at its own initiative, evidently believing that many Cameroonians have been granted asylum in the United States and European countries based on spurious claims of membership in the SDF and of persecution in connection with SDF membership. The American Embassy in Cameroon and this office believe that this document may enable your laboratory to help INS asylum offices and the Executive Office for Immigration Review in their adjudication of the growing volume of asylum claims by Cameroonians claiming to fear persecution by the Government of Cameroon because of their membership in or activities in support of the SDF.

We have sent a copy of the enclosed SDF document to the Director of the INS Central Asylum Office, and have urged him to consider sending copies of the enclosed SDF document to INS Asylum Offices and INS District Counsel offices nationwide.

Sincerely,

William M. Bartlett, Director
Office of Asylum Affairs

Enclosure: "Abuse of membership in the Social Democratic Front (SDF) by asylum seekers," with 30 May 1998 covering letter to the US Ambassador from SDF Secretary General T. Asonganyi

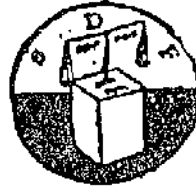
Cc: (1) Mr. Jeff Weiss, Director
INS Central Asylum Office, Washington, D.C.

(2) The Honorable
Ambassador Charles H. Twining
American Embassy Cameroon
c/o Office of Central African Affairs
Bureau of African Affairs
U.S. Department of State

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
DEMOCRACY-JUSTICE-DEVELOPMENT
(POLITICAL PARTY)

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT
P. O. BOX 89 OR 490 BAMENDA
MEZAM DIVISION, NORTH WEST PROVINCE
Tel. (237) 36-39-49



S D F

REPUBLIQUE OF CAMEROUN

FRONT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
DEMOCRATIE-JUSTICE-DEVELOPPEME
(PARTI POLITIQUE)

SECRETARIAT NATIONAL
B. P. 89 OU 490 BAMENDA
DEPARTEMENT DU MEZAM, PROVINCE
NORD-OUEST
Fax. (237) 36-29-91

Ref. _____/SDF.NS/_____

Yaounde, 30 May 1998.

To: His Excellency The US Ambassador,
US Embassy,
Yaounde.

Subject: Abuse of membership of the SDF by asylum seekers.

Your Excellency,

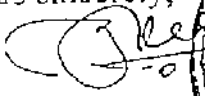
Please, find enclosed, a copy of a document we have written to guide your services on the subject of political asylum. We do hope that we will be able to send you a comprehensive list of persons who have been arrested, tortured, locked up or suffered any other injustices because of their activities in the SDF since 1990. We are confident that you will not hesitate to help us to achieve this.

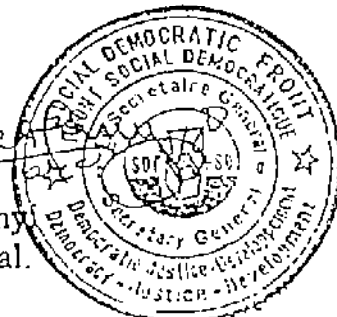
We also enclose samples of the membership cards that we have issued in the past. These will no doubt help you to easily identify some of the false cards that are shown around as proof of membership of the SDF.

While hoping that this document will be of use, we wish to assure you that we remain at your disposal should you want to verify some information on these issues.

Please, accept our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,


Prof. T. Asongany
Secretary General.



encl : as indicated.

ABUSE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (SDF) BY ASYLUM SEEKERS

For some time now, many embassies in Yaounde and immigration officers in various countries around the world have been asking information from the SDF on the validity of some information supplied by some Cameroonians seeking political asylum in the countries. These persons usually claim that they are seeking political asylum because their activities as members of the SDF has led to their suffering political persecution in Cameroon.

From 1991, the SDF started to computerise SDF membership and incidents of arrest, torture, detention in police cells and imprisonment of SDF members for their political activities, but this project was unfortunately nipped in the bud by the political police of the regime who broke into the offices of the SDF in Bamenda in October 1992. These intruders arrested the SDF staff and officials who were in the office and seized computer hard and soft ware, printers and other accessories and caused considerable destruction in the process. In spite of the legal action we instituted, we have never recovered the equipment.

Since then, the SDF has been permanently on its feet, fighting so many injustices, and has so far not had time to start the process of computerisation again. This means that most of the information asked from the SDF about assylum seekers is usually got through on-the-spot checking in the various structures of the Party. Physical displacement of SDF staff is usually inevitable. This is because most structures are not connected to modern communication facilities; most of those that are priviledged to be connected to telephones have very unreliable systems.

From the exchanges between us and various Embassies and immigration officers of various countries and the little research we have done so far, we note that most of the persons that are usually the subject of these enquiries have very fertile minds. If vigorous action is not taken, it will soon be impossible to distinguish those with a well founded fear of persecution from those who just want to exploit blatant loopholes.

Most asylum seekers flee violence, disorder and poverty in their countries. If we do not act vigorously, the flurry of documents being sent around will confuse us and we will soon be unable to distinguish those who are escaping from real need from those who use their fertile minds to concoct documents to attract sympathy.

And with time, this abuse of SDF status will no doubt tarnish the image of the SDF!

Therefore, in order to treat the problem of misusing SDF documents, real or false, we have decided to assemble comprehensive information on all those arrested, tortured and locked up in police cells or imprisoned because of their political activities, especially in the SDF, from 1990 till date. To achieve this, all structures of the SDF will be visited to collect this information through interviews and exploitation of party documents. This will allow us to get the names, date of arrest, torture, imprisonment, (for how long, where, why), present activities, etc of persons who have suffered any of these. This information will be used to prepare a reference document that authorities concerned with treating files from asylum seekers can use to easily separate the truth from lies.

The essence of this document is not to deny that the absence of the Rule of Law, the generally oppressive political environment caused by bad governance, daily abuse of Human Rights and Freedoms, a failed and chaotic education system and the total absence of a legal framework for economic operators in a country where judges seek the opinion of the executive before they pass judgements, all compound to force thousands of Cameroonians to seek refuge somewhere else. Rather, the thrust of this document is to deal with the problem of using false SDF membership status to escape from this oppressive environment.

As a preliminary, preventive measure, we present here a study done for the SDF by an NGO, the **SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT MOULD (SAM)**. This brings out some of the tricks used by « clever » Cameroonians seeking assylum to link their fate to the SDF. It is hoped that this information will at least aid those who work in this area to remain alert and to easily detect false information.

1. EMBLEM OF THE SDF:

The emblem of the SDF is a scale placed on a ballot box with a background of green tropical landscape.

This emblem appears on the headed paper of the Party, on the official stamps and official documents of the Party (Party cards, the Constitution, the Manifesto, etc.).

It appears that some assylum seekers or their associates have scanned this emblem into their computers and use it to produced headed papers which they use to fabricate false recommendations and other documents said to be from the SDF. These impostors also carve their own stamps bearing the Party emblem!

2.ORGANS/STRUCTURES OF THE PARTY:

The SDF has five structures, namely:

English	French
The Ward	La Cellule
The Electoral District	La Circonscription Electorale
The Divisional Coordination	La Coordination Départementale
The Province	La Province
The National	Les Nationaux

It is important to note that these structures are different from those of the CPDM which are:

The Cell	Comité de Base
The sub-Section	La sous-Section
The Section	La Section
The Central Committee	Le Comité Central

Those who are NOT members of the SDF usually confuse these and claim that they are in an SDF Cell (instead of Ward!) or an SDF Comité de Base (instead of Cellule!) as the following letter concocted from Douzala shows.

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
DEMOCRACY JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT
(POLITICAL PARTY)
Provincial Committee of Littoral
Districts



SDF

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
FRONT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIQUE
DE DEMOCRATIE JUSTICE DEVELOPPEMENT
(PARTI POLITIQUE)
Comité Provincial du Littoral
Districts

A l'attention de Maître
Luc Cambier-Avocat
Rue J.B Meunier 22
1180 Bruxelles
Belgique

N/Ref : 20/SDF/LTD/SG
V/Ref : . . .

Objet : Réponse à votre fax

Cher Maître,

En date du 05/01/1996, le Secrétariat à l'organisation de notre parti a reçu par l'intermédiaire de son 2e secrétaire adjoint M. Moukate Germain, votre fax, nous informant de la situation des camarades militants :

Situation relative à leur demande d'asile politique en Belgique qui vous le dites, a été déboutée par l'autorité compétente en la matière. Vous nous demandez à cet effet, quelques preuves pouvant vous aider à lever cette décision de refus de reconnaissance de nos camarades... vos clients et entre et autres une liste des membres du parti victimes des tortures, sévices et disparition vis-à-vis du régime dictatorial de M. Biya.

En effet il est de notre devoir, au nom du droit de protection de nos militants, du souci de justice, de liberté et de démocratie de vous faire savoir ce qui suit.

D'après investigation d'une délégation du bureau provincial du littoral du SDF, auprès de ses différents comités de base, il ressort que les camarades militants dont les noms suivent, sont :

- Portés disparus
- Décédés de suite de tortures
- En exil pour des craintes fondées de persécution
- En prison,

et ceux-ci sont classés dans le fichier: « Membres de SDF, martyrs de la liberté année 93 pour le littoral. »

GREVE GENERALE DE FIN AOUT 93

1)- Portés disparus

- Jean Baptiste Kouka (comité de base de new-bell centre)
- Guillaume Mapé (comité de base de youpoué)
- Aurelien Mboulou (comité de base de new-bell bassa)
- Geneviève Kuissi (comité de base bonamoussadi)
- Guy Loko (comité de base de ngodi-akwa)
- Claude Lombo (comité de base de bali)

2)- Décédés de suite de tortures

- Thierry Dooh (comité de base de bonamouang)
- Emmanuel Elaka (comité de base de la cité des palmiers)
- Gaspard Dissoh (comité de base de bonadibong)
- Dieudonné Dika (comité de base de bépanda)
- Aristide Mbem (comité de base de cité sic)
- Blaise Magnany (comité de base de maképè)
- Emilo Kouekam (comité de base de ndogbong)
- Eric Passy (comité de base de deïdo)

3)- En exil pour craintes fondées de persécution

- Louis Mangoua (comité de base de ndokoti)
- Parfait Mamingo (comité de base de bonabéri)
- Charles Bernard Ewane (comité de base de jeméa-bali 1)
- Amina Chétou (comité de base de nkomba)
- Aicha Mouto (comité de base de nkomondo)
- Jean Francis Njoh-Njoh (comité de base de ngodi-akwa)
- Viviane Wango (comité de base de bonapriso)
- Abuberk Njifoutahouo (comité de base de new-bell kassalafam)
- Bernadette Ngondedi (comité de base de njoknabi)
- Serge Penbibou (comité de base new-bell)
- Luc Folefack (comité de base mabanda)

4)- En prison

- Jules Mouen (comité de base de akwa)
- Pascal Kouankan (comité de base de madagascar)
- Elise Ngo Ngué (comité de base de la cité sic)
- Jean Georges Ndembi (comité de base de koumassi)

Ayant fait une sélection des militants qui n'ont été concernés que par la grève de fin Août 1993 dans la ville de Douala, cette liste est loin d'être exhaustive.

Quant à la situation actuelle de nos militants par rapport au régime de M. Biya, il est à noter qu'elle n'a jamais cessée d'être critique et plus grave encore, lorsqu'il s'agit d'un événement politique de grande envergure, comme ce fut particulièrement le cas pour ce mois de janvier; mois des élections municipales ici au Cameroun.

En réalité Maître, la situation socio-politique depuis quasiment 1990, est un véritable désastre... et honnêtement, j'ai honte de le dire. Et j'ose croire que n'eût été la maturité du peuple camerounais et les solutions mises en oeuvre par certains partis d'opposition pour protéger leurs militants en danger (cachettes, fuites, etc...) nous serons au bord d'une hécatombe. Car, être opposant au Cameroun est une véritable galère... Notre pays est l'illustration éloquent de l'échec de la démocratisation en Afrique, tant il est démontrable que les dirigeants en place fuient tout débat, ne se complaisant qu'aux tortures, persécutions et autres actes dictatoriaux. L'image recourante de ces contestations, n'est bien sûr, que celle de nos courageux militants où qu'ils se trouvent: en prison, en exil, ou même dans leur tombe.

Power to the People

Power to the People

Fax send by : 32 2 2055312

CPRR-UBC

A4->A4 30/04/90

14:26

Pg: 4

FEB 08 '96 11:49 S D F

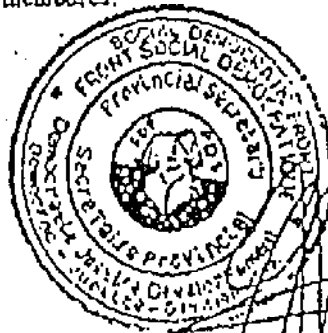
237+43 36 49

TOI

32 2 3471701 F

C'est pourquoi Maître, je vous serai gré de faire valoir le sérieux et l'immuence du danger de vos clients, nos militants, si jamais leur retour était envisagé. Car, ici au Cameroun en matière de persécution et d'arrestation, les rebondissements, les assassinats sont devenus « normale courante ».

Tout en restant à votre entière disposition, nous vous prions de croire cher Maître nos considérations les meilleures.



Fait à Douala le 08 Février 1996
Le Secrétariat provincial

Le S.G.

M. Moulema

Although the headed paper used here has the emblem of the Party, it seems to have been produced for the purpose of this letter. It bears «*Provincial Committee of the Littoral*» and «*Comité Provincial du Littoral*» instead of «*Provincial Executive Committee*» and «*Comité Exécutif Provincial*». The letter ends with «*Le Secrétaire Provincial, Le S.G., Moulema*», S.G. refers to Secrétaire Général, which is very different from «*Secrétaire Provincialité*». The letter talks about «*Comité de base*» instead of Ward and the area names (New Bell centre, Youpoué, etc.) given as the structures of the SDF have no structures of the SDF!

As you will see later in the list of the Executive Committees of the various structures, there is no «*2e secrétaire adjoint*» at the level of the Province. Secondly, these «*members*» of the SDF belong to «*comité de base*» instead of wards as we have said above. Thirdly, although Mr. Moukoury Moulema used to be the Provincial Secretary of the SDF for the Littoral, the signature on the document does not even resemble his signature; the stamp of the Provincial Secretary affixed to the document is not the stamp that Mr. Moulema had. We show here the signature and stamp of Mr. Moulema, extracted from an authentic document from SDF files.

Fax send by : 22 2 2855312 CPRA-UBC M-DAX 30/04/90 14:26 Ppt. 4
 237-43 36 49 701 22 2 3471781 P01

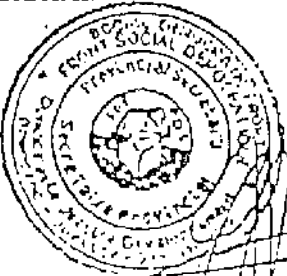
FEB 00 '96 11:49 S D F

C'est pourquoi Maître, je vous serai gré de faire valoir le sérieux et l'innocence du danger de vos clients, nos militants, si jamais leur retour était envisagé. Car, ici au Cameroun en matière de persécution et d'arrestation, les rebondissements, les assassinats sont devenus «*normale courante*».

Tout en restant à votre entière disposition, nous vous prions de croire cher Maître nos considérations les meilleures.

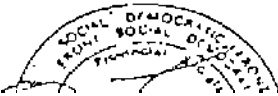
Fait à Douala le 08 Février 1996
 Le Secrétaire provincial

Le S.G.
 M. Moulema



[Handwritten signature]

forget



correct

- The cards of 1997 were printed before the information « ANNEE 1997 » and 300 frs was stamped on it (see sample enclosed).
- The cards for 1998 (see sample enclosed).

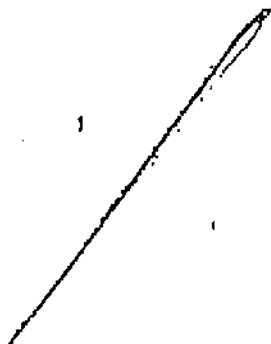
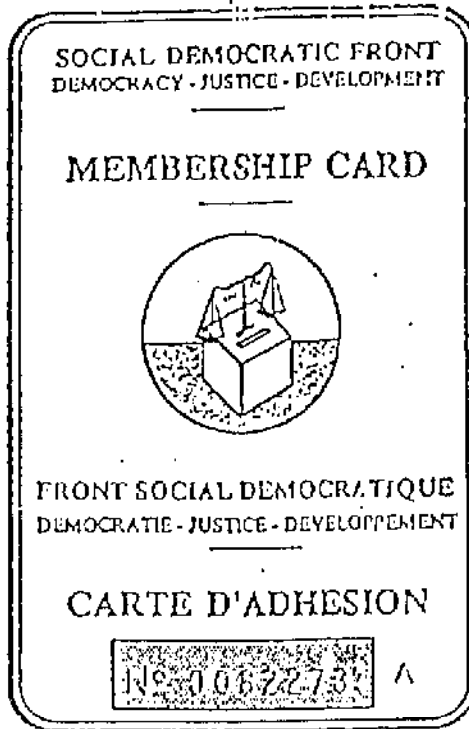
The cards of 1990 to 1995 bore the signature of the National Chairman and there were two spaces provided for the signatures of the member who buys the card and that of the treasurer of the structure from which the card was bought.

Cards produced since 1995 bear the signatures of the National Chairman and the Treasurer General and there is a space for the signature of the member who buys the card.

Some asylum seekers have authentic SDF cards. Several others have fake cards with imitated signatures of the National Chairman, wrong card numbers or wrongly filled information (see photocopy).

Normally SDF cards are sold in various structures of the Party to anybody who comes around and expresses the wish to buy one. The card is filled by the Party official and the information is recorded in a book. Of recent, it appears that some relatives of asylum seekers buy SDF cards and send to them abroad for inclusion in their asylum documents. Most of such people have never militated in the SDF, and consequently have no SDF related reasons for seeking asylum.


TRUE SDF CARD

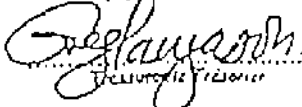


Name L/DNCA Stella
 Hun
 Residence Buea - Cameroon
 Domicile
 Profession Student
 Wives
 Comité de Base
 Division Doko Division
 Département
 Province S.W. Province
 Date 15th January 91

CONTRIBUTIONS/COTISATIONS

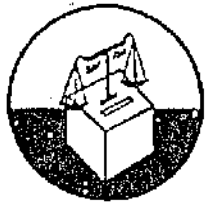
Date	Jan.	April	July	Sept.	Total
1991	1000	1000	1000	1000	4000
1992	1000	1000	1000	1000	4000
1993	1000				1000
1994					
1995					
TOTAL	3000	2000	2000	2000	9000


 National Chairman
 Président National

Stella Inyang
 Member/Acting

 Treasurer/Treasurer

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
 DEMOCRACY · JUSTICE · DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP CARD



FRONT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIQUE
 DEMOCRATIE · JUSTICE · DEVELOPPEMENT

CARTE D'ADHESION



Serial no here
 Serial A or B

Name.....
Nom
 Residence.....
Domicile
 Profession.....
 Ward.....
Comité de Base
 Division.....
Département
 Province.....
 Date..... 19.....

CONTRIBUTIONS/COTISATIONS

Date	Jan.	April	July	Sept.	Total
1991					
1992					
1993					
1994					
1995					
TOTAL					

SAMPLE

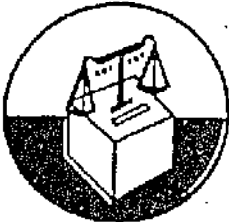
National Chairman
Président National

Member/Membre

Treasurer/Treésorier

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
 DEMOCRATIC - JUSTICE - DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP CARD
 CARTE DE MEMBRE
 N° 001876 A



FRONT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIQUE
 DEMOCRATIE - JUSTICE - DEVELOPPEMENT

DURATION DUREE : ANNEE 1997

PRICE PRIX : 2000 FF

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
 DEMOCRACY - JUSTICE - DEVELOPMENT

MEMBERSHIP CARD
 CARTE DE MEMBRE
 N° 75206 A



FRONT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIQUE
 DEMOCRATIE - JUSTICE - DEVELOPPEMENT

DURATION DUREE : BAOE TO MARCH 1998

PRICE PRIX : 3150 FF

Name : _____
 Nom

Residence : _____
 Domicile

Profession : _____

Ward : _____
 Cellule

Electoral district : _____
 Circonscription électorale

Division : _____
 Département

Province : _____

Date of membership : _____
 Date d'adhésion au parti

Date : _____

National Chairman Président National	Treasurer Trésorier	Member Membre
---	------------------------	------------------

SAMPLE

[Signatures]

Name : _____
 Nom

Residence : _____
 Domicile

Profession : _____

Ward : _____
 Cellule

Electoral district : _____
 Circonscription électorale

Division : _____
 Département

Province : _____

Date of membership : _____
 Date d'adhésion au parti

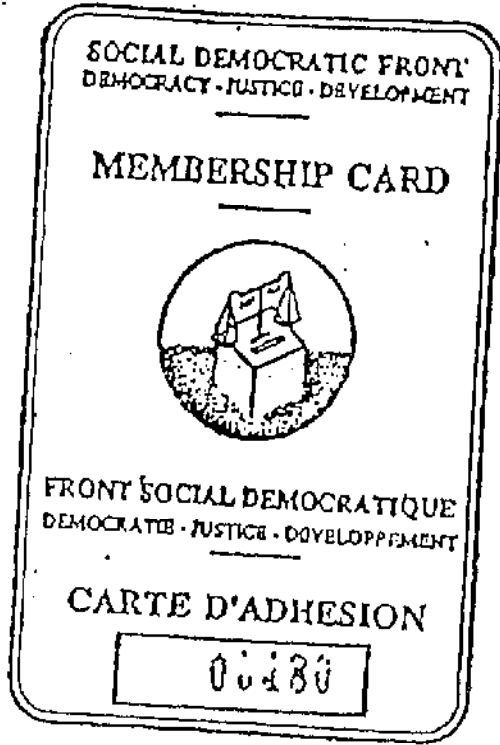
Date : _____

National chairman Président national	Treasurer Trésorier	Member Membre
---	------------------------	------------------

SAMPLE

[Signatures]

FALSE SDF CARD



Name Vivian Ntoko Ntoko
 Nom
 Residence Kamuba
 Domicile
 Profession Teacher
 Ward Kamuba Nyuki
 Comité de Base
 Division Meme Division
 Département
 Province South West Prov.
 Date May 18th 1990

CONTRIBUTIONS/COTISATIONS

Year	Jan	April	July	Sept	Total
1991	4000	5000	2000	2000	13000
1992	1000	2000	2000	1000	6000
1993	500	1000	2000	3000	6500
1994	2000	2000	3000	1000	8000
1995	5000	-	-	-	5000
TOTAL	13500	15000	10000	7000	45500

SDF [Signature]

6. IS SDF MEMBERSHIP ENOUGH TO QUALIFY FOR POLITICAL ASSYLUM?

Just being a holder of an SDF membership card should not qualify a person for political assylum. True, SDF members suffer persecution daily from administrative officials that have the police and gendarmes at their call. The CPDM regime has made maximum effort to cast the SDF and its members as the villains of the « démocratie avancée » of the so-called « new deal » politics of Mr. Biya. This is due to several reasons:

- * the forceful launching of the SDF on 26 May 1990 against the wishes of the repressive one Party regime is an act that must be punished by all means;
- * the active support by the SDF and its members of the successful ghost town operations that nearly brought the CPDM regime to its knees in 1991/92;
- * the SDF-led boycott of the Legislative Elections of 1992 against the wish of the ruling CPDM regime that signed out 500 million frs to bribe parties to participate;
- * the Presidential election of October 1992, widely thought to have been won by Mr. Fru Ndi, the SDF candidate, and the subsequent nationwide violence and resultant state of emergency;
- * the violence that resulted from the appointment of Government Delegates with full executive powers to head councils of big towns, most of which were won by the SDF;
- * the violence that surrounded the massive fraud perpetrated during the Legislative Elections of May 1997 that the SDF was expected to win with a wide margin;
- * the violent effort of the CPDM regime to block the successful SDF-led campaign for the boycott of the October 1997 Presidential Elections in Cameroon.

Because of these reasons and more, SDF members suffer deprivation and injustices, including:

- failure to advance normally in the public service;

- intemperate, punitive transfers to far off places;
- imposition of unjustifiably high taxes to kill their business;
- tempering with salaries and other benefits in order to cause suffering and embarrassment;
- various forms of discrimination to hurt them;
- harrassment by forces of law and order and the administrative authorities.

As stated above, the absence of the Rule of Law, daily abuse of Human Rights and Freedoms and the absence of a legal framework for gainful economic activities provide a hostile environment from which thousands of Cameroonians want to escape. The problem is that these escapees, whether they are members of the SDF or not, make an effort to link their fate to their imagined or real activities in the SDF. It is the effort of these persons to fabricate documents to prove their claims and which invariably have a link to the SDF that is at issue here.

The tactics used by these persons go beyond possessing an SDF card. They usually also fabricate evidence to show that the security forces are actively looking for them to arrest and imprison them for some acts they committed as SDF members. Their tactics here include:

- publishing or causing to be published, false information about themselves in Newspapers;
- concocting false letters from the SDF claiming that if they return to Cameroon, they will be arrested and locked up.

7. FALSE PUBLICATIONS IN THE NEWSPAPERS:

To illustrate this widely used tactic, we present here three documents culled from Newspapers as follows:

- i) The Herald No. 557 of January 12-13 1998, p.5 under « News In Brief »,
- ii) The Herald No.597 of April 20-21 1998, p. 7 under « News In Brief »,
- iii) The Errand No. 013 of December 4 1997 as a front page article titled « Kumba SDF Militant On The Run: Five Arrested, Family House Destroyed »

The Herald is a well known Newspaper in Cameroon. On the contrary, The Errand seems to have been published exclusively on the request of an asylum seeker most probably Mr. Zilefack Nzongong Michel mentioned in the story). This is because since we bought this number at a newstand in Bamenda, we have never seen another issue of The Errand again! This is common practice in the ranks of assylum seekers. They pay a journalist to publish some scare story concerning them. Sometimes, a completely new title is created for the purpose. Their thinking is that far away in the immigration services abroad, nobody will know or even bother to know whether the newsspapper exists or not. Once the newspaper is published, copies are sent to the assylum seeker to use as an exhibit. As for The Herald, one cannot be sure whether these are « paid » stories or whether they are a result of false news stories posted to the newsroom.

Once the Herald stories were got in the SDF, an investigation was carried out in Nsam and Mvog-Ada, both living quarters in Yaounde where these incidents are said to have taken place. We established that both stories are false. The journalist who wrote both stories (he is in charge of the « news in brief » column) told us that he got the stories in the newsroom, so he cannot vouch for their validity.

In the case of The Errand, Mr. Ferdinand Asapngu, the SDF District Chairman for Kumba who was mentioned in the story wrote a rejoinder to the Newspaper (see copy). Although he personally took the rejoinder to Bamenda and found a locked up room with the label « The Errand » on the door, his regular visits to the place over a period of three days met with no success: the « newsroom » remained locked! He slipped the letter under the door but it has never been published since no other issue of the paper has ever been seen again.

The Herald

No. 557 Yaounde, Cameroon Monday January 12 - 13, 1998 First published in July 1992, Price 250 CFA

Human rights abuse

In a determined move to crack down on opposition supporters, security agents have embarked upon a manhunt of some SDF militants said to have led the campaign for a boycott of the October 12 presidential election. Several opposition supporters have been detained arbitrarily without trial. A frontline SDF activist, Tarpah Henry Musi, continues to languish in detention after he was arrested on trumped-up charges of ordering the pulling down of Biya's campaign banners in the Bonaberi neighbourhood in Douala.

Cher Herald

No. 597 Yaounde, Cameroon Monday April 20 - 21, 1998 First published in July 1992, Price 300 FCFA

Human rights abuse

Security forces stormed the Mvog Ada Yaounde residence of Pa Encho and interrogated him at gunpoint for over four hours, ostensibly, in connection with the whereabouts of his son, Encho King David, a frontline SDF activist arrested last year after indigenes at Nsam Efoulan rose against "settlers" who called to collect voter cards for the May 17 1997 legislative election. Encho who was arrested alongside other SDF militants was released on bail and is still at large.

The Errand

Motto: The defender of the defenseless

N° 013 of Thursday December 4, 1997

Publisher: Sara L. Stevo

200 frs.

Kumba S.D.F Militants on the Run *Five Arrested, Family House Destroyed*



The whereabouts of members of the Nzongou family in Kumba are still not known, but suspicions are rising that they are on the run for safety after unidentified gun-toting police officers clamped down on their Hausa quarters residence, on the dawn of May 27, 1997, booked them out before setting the entire house on fire. Sources said their target was Zolstack Nzongou Michael who unfortunately for them was out. Five persons were courted and whisked to an unknown destination in a police jeep. Unidentified sources said they swapped between Kumba and Lima.

Kumba police Thursday last week.

Cont'd on P.3

NATIONAL NEWS

Kumba S.D.F Militants on the Run

Cont'd from P.1
deemed having any knowledge of the area and where they refused allegations that some persons were arrested in Hausa during the night of May 27 for political reasons.

Further, a police source said people were arrested only in the presence of an existing law and order adding that all arrested were booked in court for released with the claim that followed the declaration of the legislative elections on June 6.

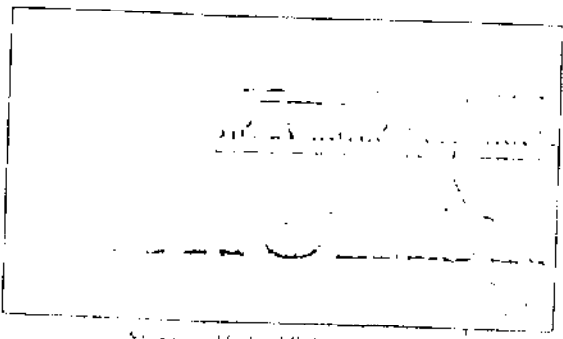
Residents in Hausa quarters said, the uniformed officers attacked in the wee hours of dawn firing grenades with to scare off neighbours. They reportedly broke into the Nzongou's family house and locked out five persons asking for Nzongou. Sources said a thorough search for "subversive documents" yielded nothing, but the officers decided to put the house on flames before taking away the five captives.

when the S.D.F party was launched in Hamoda. He estimated that the Nzongou Alexander Zolstack's father was the only member of the party in Hamoda who was reported to

making their beloved son who. Our house was attacked. The carter like the house we wanted. The Nzongou family was already scattered two persons were

more without any trace of being any. The matter was reportedly in the hands of judicial decisions legal court on the matter but been pronounced. These sources said Zolstack was suspended by the administration for using his yearly trophy "Nzongou football cup", to pull youths for the S.D.F party. A source added that Zolstack Michael had been arrested on many occasions by CPDRI henchmen who failed to buy him out.

An ardent human rights activist, Zolstack is said to have supplied on government took most seriously which while he has been human rights organizations and governments in the past records of human rights in Cameroon substantiating with horrible pictures of Anglophones in detention at the Koundoung maximum security prison in



Nzongou Michael (left) on the run

on an attempt to demonstrate. The source of the newspaper said the police had arrested

them enough. We are prepared to pay the attackers in our own way. A forthcoming

Zolstack is not paying the price alone, his brother Kwame

The Editor,
The Errand,
Dear Editor,

Asapngu

I have read with shock and disbelief a front page story in THE ERRAND, issue No. 13 of Thursday December 4, 1997 titled KUMBA SDF MILITANTS ON THE RUN in which one Zelifack Nzongong Michel reported to be an SDF militant had his family house set on fire by "gun totting police officers" and five persons arrested.


In that story your report also says he spoke to me, Asapngu Ferdinand, SDF Kumba District Chairman and that I defended the said Nzongong as one of my Hausa quarters North East ward Chairman. He said I told him Nzongong has received so many letters of threat to life and property. Further, he also quotes me as having said that the Nzongong family sacrificed a family member, Adamu Inusa, May 17, besides Pa Nzongong Maurice, Zelifak's father killed in Bamenda May, 26, 1990.

I don't deny that there has been harassment of SDF militants in Kumba but to have told the world that I am aware of an SDF militant called Nzongong whose house was burnt down by police officers is not true. About Killing on May 17, I am aware that an SDF militant called Tieso Adamu, not Adamu Inusa, was shot and wounded not Killed. Also the said Tieso Adamu is a Northwesterner has no relation with Nzongong who is hail from the Western Province. I am not aware of any Pa Nzongong Maurice who was killed in Bamenda May 26, 1990.

Mr. Editor, I can't understand why your report or your newspaper conceived such a fictitious report calculated to tarnish my image and ruin my political career. I wish to, categorically, deny everything stated in that unfortunate story in relation to the SDF in Kumba and me.

Nzongong Zelifack Michel is not an SDF militant in Kumba, talkless of his being a ward Chairperson in Kumba SDF district. Your reporter never spoke to me and therefore all the information in the story attributed to me is fictitious, and false.

Considering the gravity and the damaging effect of that report to my person and SDF as a whole, I call on you to, exceptionally, publish this rejoinder on the front page of your paper where your damaging report appeared.


ASAPNGU FERDINAND
SDF KUMBA DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

c.c:

National Chairman SDF
Secretary General SDF
The Commissioner Public Security K'ba.
The Commissioner Special Branch K'ba
The Divisional Officer K'ba Central.

8 FALSE LETTERS:

False letters are usually written with imitations of signatures of various officials of the Party. These letters invariably state that the person in question has been an active SDF member and that they will be persecuted if they dare to return to Cameroon. As discussed for the false letter from Douala said to be signed by the former Provincial Secretary, Mr. Moulema, all such letters that carry information about the persecution of SDF members should be treated with great suspicion because most are false! The two documents that follow are a letter claimed to have been signed by the National Chairman of the SDF and an attestation signed by Mr. Efokoa, Buea Electoral District Chairman. Under each document, we have attached two authentic signatures of the authorities concerned extracted from the files of the SDF. A close comparison of the false signatures with the authentic ones will show by how much these impostors usually miss their target.

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
 SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
 DEMOCRACY-JUSTICE-DEVELOPMENT
 (POLITICAL PARTY)
 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
 NATIONAL SECRETARIAT
 OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
 P.O. BOX 89, BAMBONA
 MEZAM DIVISION, NORTH WEST PROVINCE



REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROON
 FRONT SOCIAL DEMO
 CROCRATIE-JUSTICE-DEVEL
 (PARTI POLITIQUE)
 COMITE EXECUTIF NATIONAL
 SECRETARIAT NATIONAL
 BUREAU DU PRESIDENT NATIONAL
 P.O. 89, BAMBONA
 DEPARTEMENT DU MEZAM, PROVINCE DU
 NORD-OUEST

Our Ref:
 Your Ref:

Limbe the 15th Day of July 1996

REF: TORTURE, HARRASMENT AND THE INSECURITY
SUFFERED BY OUR MEMBER OF PROPAGANDA
BUREAU ENGAGED IN PUBLICITY MR. NDUMU
ANUH ATUNGSIRI THOMAS:

We the members of the Social Democratic Front (S.D.F.) Limbe Branch do hereby condemn the ill-human treatment been done by members of the so called ruling party plain cloth policemen have taken upon themselves backed by the ruling party to maltreat members of the strong opposition party S.D.F.

With this respect we therefore appeal to the Amnesty International for immediate action and sanction against such persons. We call on the Amnesty International authorities to see into it that the said MR. NDUMU ANUH ATUNGSIRI THOMAS who is not only a partisan but also one of the pioneers of this political party of today, be immediately free from all such. Maltreatments.

However with regards to the political set up now in Cameroon, we are also asking the Amnesty International to grant political Assylum to MR. NDUMU ANUH ATUNGSIRI THOMAS any where he might be in Europe. This is to enable him get free from the total Dictatorial Powers suffered by most opposition leaders today in the country - Cameroon.

We Sir, are looking forward that you do all your best to solve this situation which has reached it's peak so that he might have his respect where ever he is and not forgetting Cameroons.

Compliance with the United Nation Declaration on human rights of which she too signed.

Thanks for co-operation.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (S.D.F.)
 NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
 JOHN ... FOU ... NDI

- CC: - Executive Chief Amnesty International - Yaounde
- Director Centre for Human Rights - Yaounde
- National Chief for Internal Security - Yaounde

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
DEMOCRACY - JUSTICE - DEVELOPMENT

FRONT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIQUE
DEMOCRATIE - JUSTICE - DEVELOPPEMENT



Ref No. SDF/LED/ES/027/94

S D F

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
BUEA ELECTORAL DISTRICT

P. O. Box 502, BUEA

Date 27/04/1994

ATTENTION

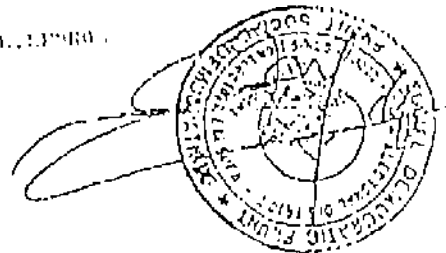
I the undersigned SIMON M. E. EFOKOA
 do hereby certify that S. J. F. EBOHIMFOR of BUEA ELECTORAL DISTRICT
 is EPHANT RENE
 a member of the S.W.A. / ORB / 84 of 23rd MARCH 1985
 of the CAMBROON APPROPRIATES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTRE (O.I.C)
 of the category of social membership/district card no. BED/ES/93/1054/1985-1996
 of the category of the control party or titre de membre / district
 is YOUTH PRESIDENT OF WARD 2 OF THE BUEA ELECTORAL DISTRICT

This attestation is issued to serve any purpose for which it may be.
 Cette attestation est délivrée pour servir à toute fin que de droit.

Done at BUEA the 27/04/1994
 Fait à BUEA le 27/04/1994

TEL: 1341 1341 COMMISSIONER
 LE COMMISSIONER BUEA E.D. 1341

VERBEN AANBEHOUD



to remain,

Yours faithfully,

S. E. EFOKOA
 COMMISSIONER



CONCLUSION:

The information given here is specially prepared for Embassies and other immigration officers who handle documents sent to them from their countries related to assylum problems of some Cameroonians. In the present dispensation where members of the SDF are persecuted in Cameroon and where the political and economic environment is generally hostile for Cameroonians as a whole, many Cameroonians are making frantic efforts to escape from the country. Unfortunately or fortunately, it looks like their best way out is to identify with the SDF, since it is well known in Cameroon that members of the SDF suffer untold persecution and injustices.

Since most of these asylum seekers claim that they have suffered arrest, torture and various forms of detention because of their activities in the SDF there is a great need for a scientific document that contains a comprehensive list of SDF members that have suffered arrest, torture and various forms of detention between 1990 and today because of their activities in the SDF. This is why we have decided to produce such a document. Because the SDF lacks the time and the resources to carry out the necessary research for the production of the document, we have commissioned an NGO, the **SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT MOULD (SAM)** to carry out the research within the structures of the SDF. This NGO carries out research on political and social issues, some of which is usually commissioned by the SDF. We recommend this NGO to those who will find this document useful.

Until the comprehensive document is produced to render the identification of genuine asylum seekers easier, the SDF remains fully disposed, as in the past, to provide necessary information about asylum seekers that link the reasons for their seeking asylum to their membership of the SDF. However, to prevent the propagation of false information likely to cause more confusion, only information from the National Secretariat of the Party (c/o The Secretary General) should be taken seriously on these issues.

Useful address:

*SDF National Secretariat,
P.O. Box 490, Bamenda; Tel. 36 39 49.
B.P. 11 115 Yaounde; Tel. 23 42 46; Fax: 23 14 53*

