



MODERATOR OF THE 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Amanda Currie, B.A.Sc., M.Div.

Monday, July 6, 2020

The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

I write to you on behalf of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, whose 2019 General Assembly met in Waterloo, Ontario.

The General Assembly considered the conflict between anglophone and francophone Cameroonians, learning how thousands of people have lost their livelihoods and been displaced from their homes. The resulting human rights and humanitarian crisis was brought to our denomination's attention by members who have immigrated to Canada from Cameroon and whose families are still impacted by the violence.

The impacts of this conflict continue to be felt. On February 14, 2020, Human Rights Watch reported the deaths of 21 civilians in Ngarbuh that included 13 children and 1 pregnant woman. While the Cameroonian government has said it is investigating the matter and that it involved a conflict between its military and armed Fulani separatists, residents and witnesses told Human Rights Watch the attack was "to punish civilians suspected of harboring separatist fighters."¹

The Presbyterian Church in Canada condemns all conflict that harms civilians. No person should be made to feel unsafe in their own country or feel they must question whether their human and constitutional rights are valued differently than the rights of another.

We ask the Government of Canada to express dismay at the human rights abuses suffered by Cameroonian civilians. We also ask that Canada urge the Government of Cameroon to engage all involved in meaningful dialogue in the presence of a third-party mediator, such as the United Nations or the African Union, on a neutral ground in order to seek a lasting peaceful solution.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding these matters, and in the meantime, rest assured of our continuing prayers, even and especially during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Rev. Amanda Currie
Moderator
The 2019 General Assembly
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/02/25/cameroon-civilians-massacred-separatist-area>

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir