

Repatriation of Belgian Consultant:

Working Group Publishes Damning Report

Slices and Dices Entire Palava

The working group on civil and political rights has published its report on the case of the repatriation of Jan Joris CAPPELLE, a Belgian consultant; as well as on the violations of the rights of members of the OFFGO association.

The eight paged document illuminates extensively on the brouhaha that led to the expulsion of the Belgian, as well as the violation of the rights of members of the organization called, organic Farming for Gorillas Cameroon (OFFGO).

Highlights of this succinct, lucid and comprehensive report include the underlining of the lacunae involved in the administrative procedures that led to the "forced" repatriation of Mr Jan Joris CAPELLE, on May 13, 2016, the observation of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms as well as recommendations made by the Working Group itself.

According to the Working Group, the administrative document on the said repatriation, may not even have existed for the fact that the General Delegation of National Security "failed to hand such document" to the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms.

The group goes further to state that, "it is not within the competence of the Director General for External Research to recommend such repatriation, as such responsibility falls within the sole competence of the Prime Minister to expel any foreigner from Cameroon."

The report also challenges the reasons advanced for the repatriation and maintains that, they do not tally with provisions of law no. 1997/012 of 10 January 1997 laying down the conditions of entry, stay and exit of foreigners in Cameroon.

In its conclusion, the Working Group on Civil and Political Rights opines that the land dispute in a community in Mbengwi subdivision called Tudig, was the direct cause of the repatriation of the Belgian consultant.

It also concludes that the expulsion of Jan Joris, was jointly "orchestrated" by the Divisional Officer of Mbengwi at the time, the Regional Delegation of Criminal Police of the Northwest, the Border Police Division of the DGSN and to an extent, the DGRE.

The report of the Working Group also features recommendations to the Chairman of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms amongst which is the transmission of its report to competent authorities such as the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister as well as Mr Jan Jo which transmission the Group says, is aimed at enabling the return of Mr Jan Joris so as to enable hi pursue a proper legal proceeding with a view to resolving the hullabaloo that encompasses his "for repatriation.

By Neba Jerome