

## NCHRF Decries Forced Expulsion Of Belgian

By Ignatius Nji

Some government officials in the Northwest and at the central administration (DGSN, DGRE) and Belgian Embassy, have been indicted for orchestrating an act of forceful and illegal repatriation of a Belgian human rights defender, Jan Joris Cappelle.

According to a report of a finding carried out by the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedom, NCHRF, this Belgian was not only illegally expelled from Cameroon, he was arbitrary arrested, detained abusively, and faced numerous trumped up charges in an act of criminalization of his work as human rights defender.

The report alleges that he was subjected to an illegal arrest, torture and detention at 10 District Police cell in Yaounde.

The Divisional Officer of Mbengwi is allegedly to have ordered the destruction of Tudig Community Organic farm and a pilot demonstration farm owned by Jan Joris Cappelle. The crops were declared as paddock for cattle.

The NCHRF report indicts some interest groups as complicit in the gross human rights violations.

This condemnation on the abuses of the rights of the Belgian citizen who was still enjoying his legal residence permit, has drawn the attention of several international and national rights groups among which are Amnesty International, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the Yaounde based Centre for Environment and Development.

The latest publication from these human rights groups came on January 18 2019. Given that the Regent of the Fon of Tudig and two of his subjects connected in the pilot phase of the new farming methods, were also arrested and case pending in court, these Rights Groups had filed a complaint to NCHRF denouncing that, these were acts of intimidation against members of a defence group on environmental rights in the Northwest of Cameroon.

NCHRF report from enquiries carried out by the working group on civil and political rights, states the gross violation of the rights of the Belgian human rights defender and those of the Regent of Fon of Tudig, Vincent Awazi, Awazi Mathias and Humfred Manjo in violation of both national and international legal instruments on the protection of human rights.



Mr. Jan Joris Capelle, a Belgian Consultant on agriculture and best practice on how to develop Community organic farm, was invited to Cameroon by the Fon of Tudig who is based in the USA, on behalf of that Community in Momo Division.

NCHRF report states that the Belgian national was issued a one year residence permit number 1181683605 on July 21, 2015. With the collaboration of the entire community, an organic farm was set up for the community and another pilot experimental farm was set up on a purchased piece of land of about four hectares and owned by the Belgian. He was President of the Organic Farming for Gorillas Cameroon (OFFGO) Association and Human Rights Defender. This Association's formalization process is said to have suffered several delays at the office of the DO of Mbengwi for reasons which were later discovered as protecting a hidden interest group against the project in Tudig.

According to the findings of the NCHRF, the local administrative and judicial authorities produced multiple trumped up charges against human rights defender Jan Cappelle. The report identifies intentional bad behavior in their actions. The NCHRF defines the motive of the expulsion "control over land".

The charges against Jan Cappelle followed closely in reaction to a September 2015 report from traditional communities to the Governor of the North West Region about land grabbing. The Chief of Tudig village requested Jan Cappelle to assist with the writing of the report.

The NCHRF calls for the authorities involved in the human rights violations to be brought to justice. The NCHRF found out that those interest groups are made up top elite and businessmen, complicit in the gross human rights violations. The NCHRF adds that it has received numerous complaints against these interest groups who are in to land grabbing which is the immediate cause of the several conflicts in the Northwest. It therefore calls for an official investigation into all the land disputes in the region.

## Lebialem Community Communes With PM Dion Ngute

By Elias Ngalame

Some elite and traditional authorities from Lebialem in the Southwest region paid a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister, Chief Dr Dion Ngute in Yaounde last week.

Led by the minister delegate in the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Paul Tasong, the people thanked the head of state Paul Biya for "choosing one of theirs" to the top post of Prime Minister head of government.

"We, your brothers and sisters, are here today to express our very warm congratulations to you on this extra-ordinary mark of confidence bestowed on you by the Head of State, H. E. Paul Biya.....We are here to encourage you, as you take on this demanding, yet, exciting challenge in your political career. Above all, we came to honour you, as one of our eminent traditional rulers who has been anointed to work



Minister Paul Tasong Leads Lebialem Community To PM Residence

closest to us and to assure you of the big support-base you can count on in Yaounde."

In what they have termed the "Lebialem Commitment",

the elites in the name of the people of Lebialem pledged their commitment to stand by the PM and help him put an end to the sufferings brought about by the ongoing violence

in the division and the Southwest region which has forced several persons to flee their homes to the bushes.

They condemned the violence, destruction of public and private property as well as loss of human lives that has been going on in both the Northwest and Southwest regions.

The PM called on the people of Lebialem to speak with one voice if they must succeed. He urged them to like one man denounce the conflict in the two English speaking regions and to call on their siblings in the bushes to drop their arms and return home to normal life.

He assured his doors shall remain open to all and sundry.

It should be recalled that the visit by Lebialem people was preceded by visits days earlier, by indigenes of the different divisions that make up the SW region.

## CSPH Boss Wins Oscar Award For Excellence

By Elias Ngalame

Another feather has been added to the cap of CSPH Director General Johnson Okie Ndoh.

He bagged the Oscar Award for Management Excellence offered by Paris-based International Council of African Managers, CIMA. The official handing of the award by CIMA President Senegalese-born Sidi Abd Allah Sy took place in Yaounde.

Accordingly Mr. Okie is the 7th Cameroonian, and the 1st Anglophone to have won the prestigious Award, in 33 years of CIMA's existence, Eden gathered.

Other Cameroonians who had also won the CIMA Oscar Award include Finance Minister, Louis Paul Motaze; Tradex General Manager, Perriel Jean Nyodog; DG of the Douala Ports Authority, CyriusNg'o'o; DG of Standard Chartered Bank, Mathieu Mandeng, Francis Nana Djomou and Joseph Celestin Tinjou of Afriland First Bank.

The handing over ceremony at the premises of the CSPH head office in Yaounde took place together with New Year wishes to the General Manager.

Handing over the award, CIMA President, SidiAbd Allah Sy, said the organization's Supervisory Committee found Okie Johnson worthy for the Oscar Award because of his exceptional patriotism, his high-level performance as GM of CSPH and above all, his commitment to nation building and contribution towards the emergence of Cameroon by 2035.

Mr. Okie was described

as an "exceptional and astute manager". The laureate

is a fervent christian and National President of the Catholic Men's Association of Cameroon, CMA. He was enjoined to remain assiduous and committed to his duties for even more better results.

Sidi used the occasion to extol President Biya, noting that it was upon his advice that CIMA was created in 1986, at the Mont Febe Hotel in Yaounde.

Mr. Okie for his part expressed his joy after receiving the Award. He thanked CIMA for electing him for the international honor and distinction promising to do his utmost to keep the bar high.

He dedicated the award to the Head of State, President Paul Biya, noting the challenge with hard work even more better days were ahead.

"I never knew that the little I have been contributing to my country would be recognized internationally....This Award gives me the impression that as Cameroonians, we are capable of bringing down mountains; we are capable of building a strong and efficient nation, a nation that is built by us and not by foreigners".

"It is now clear to me that as managers, when we put the interest of the nation first, we are capable of contributing and giving smiles to the people," Okie said.

Making good decisions and at the right time is a very important vector in management. When you

are in a situation where you are the only one to take a vital decision, you have only yourself and your God to count on. When you put the interest of the nation first, God will always inspire you to take the right decisions," noted Okie, who recalled how he had to take the hard decision to bail out Sonara and Cameroon from the claws of the IMF. Okie noted how his one decision has saved the image and credibility of Cameroon vis-a-vis the IMF.

Present at the ceremony to hand the award were the Minister of Trade, Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, who doubles as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of CSPH, the Minister of State Property and Land Tenure, Henri Eyebe Ayissi; the Board Chairman of Sonara, Mrs Ndoh Bertha Bakata and the DG of SCDP, Mrs Mompio, who only weeks ago, was the Assistant DG

President Biya and some other African Heads of State, CIMA organizes the Oscar Award for African Managers annually.

CIMA is "a platform for reflection and partnerships for participation in building a strong and winning Africa". It brings together economic leaders, to harness resources and improve the effectiveness of public policies at the national, regional and continental levels towards supporting Africa's growth.

It organizes economic and business forums to reinforce the image of a Winning Africa.

CIMA organizes a gala annually, during which Awards are presented to business leaders who distinguish themselves in various areas of management.

After the Oscar Award workers of CSPH took turns to wish their GM a happy New Year. It was occasion for the Technical Adviser No 2 of CSPH, Mrs



CSPH Boss Johnson Okie Brandishes Award

of CSPH.

Created on 13 March 1986, at the initiative of

EvouMekou, to present a balance-sheet of the company's activities in 2018.