



AFRICA UNION SEPTEMBER AMNESTY MONTH 2020 (SEPTAAM2020) CAMEROON AT THE FRONTLINE OF SEPTAAM2020

The Africa Union Amnesty Month celebrated on every September since 2017 is part of the AU Silencing the Gun by 2020 flagship program of Agenda 2063. The Amnesty month is a proposal of the civil society through the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) in the AU Master Road Map on Silencing the Guns adopted in 2016 and endorsed by the AU General Assembly in June 2017.

As part of the African Union initiative "Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020", the United Nations, together with the African Union, are supporting a number of African countries in this year's initiative through the Month of Amnesty in Africa September 2020 (SeptAAM2020), a one-year project jointly supported by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) which has started in March 2020. Countries involve in the pilot phase of the project are: Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Central Africa Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Kenya. The project aims to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and effectively reduce armed violence in Africa.

The activities planned in the participating countries aim to contribute to:

- A reduction in the illicit possession of SALW and their ammunition
- Decreased levels of armed violence
- Sensitization of civilians, in particular through confidence-building measures
- Raise awareness among civilians, through the media, of the harmful consequences of the illegal possession of SALW.

In Cameroon, the following activities are being implemented with the facilitation of the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) from September to December 2020.

1. Official launch of the Amnesty Month under the Patronage of the Prime Minister, Head of Government with the participation of Government Ministers, Head of Institutions and the Diplomatic Corps.
2. Voluntary handing over of illegal weapons in the 10 Regions of Cameroon followed by public Weapons destruction ceremony
3. Training on community based policing on weapons and ammunition collection and trust building measures.
4. Training on Physical Security and Stock Pile Management (PSSM) including marking and record keeping of weapons.
5. Production and broadcasting of TV and Radio spots and talk shows on the Amnesty Month voluntary surrendering of weapons for destruction.

6. Sensitization of traditional leaders and blacksmiths on the 2016 weapons regulation law in line with the production and use of artisanal weapons.
7. Sensitization of women leaders on the role of women in the fight against SALW and arms collection.
8. Organization of caravans with the participation of artists on voluntary handing of illicit weapons.
9. Training on community based policing on weapons and ammunition collection and trust building measures.
10. Training on Physical Security and Stock Pile Management (PSSM) including marking and record keeping of weapons.
11. Conduct of a baseline and end-line survey, monitoring and reporting on the entire project