

MedicinesforHumanity



Reaching The World's
Most Vulnerable Children

October 10, 2018

The Honorable Ron Kind
205 Fifth Avenue S., Suite 400
La Crosse, WI 54601

Attn: Ben Hutterer

Dear Representative Kind:

Thank you for the important work you do as a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. As per the June 15, 2018 briefing on *Human Rights in Cameroon*, you are surely aware of the concern that international human rights observers have regarding the increasing violence in the North-West and South-West regions of the country. The reports from these agencies are deeply disturbing as more information is made available regarding what is commonly called the *Anglophone Crisis*. The U.S. government is morally obligated to intervene for several reasons, including:

- Cameroon has played an historically stabilizing role in the West-Central region of Africa.
- Cameroonians residing in the U.S. have substantially enhanced the development of both countries, financially, culturally and professionally.
- Social conditions are worsening as a consequence of the deteriorating relations between the Francophone and Anglophone regions, resulting in death, torture, refugees, internally displaced persons, injury and human rights abuse of citizens.
- Basic services in these areas are increasingly compromised or non-existent, including education, health care, communication and transportation.
- International observers monitoring the crisis project increasingly dangerous levels of conflict given the current trending conditions and the upcoming presidential election on October 7, 2018.

Medicines for Humanity (MFH) is an international non-profit based in Rockland, MA whose mission is to save the lives of vulnerable children and their mothers around the world. We have worked with on-the-ground partners in Cameroon for 12 years supporting maternal and child health systems. Our commitment is to serving those with the greatest need, and we currently have 24 projects in the country, 19 of which are located in the crisis areas in the North West and South West. People in these regions are being unfairly persecuted – thousands are fleeing their homes to seek safety in nearby forests. The recent decision by the government to regulate travel out of Anglophone areas means that people are even more constrained and live in fear of what the future might bring. There is a tremendous need for humanity and kindness in this situation, and we urge you to support any and all resolutions calling for a de-escalation in violence and multi-stakeholder efforts toward lasting peace. Time is of the essence as the conflict worsens by the day. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Brawley, MPH
Executive Director