

MICHAEL F. BENNET  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC:  
261 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5852

COLORADO:  
CESAR E. CHAVEZ BUILDING  
1244 SPEER BOULEVARD  
DENVER, CO 80204  
(303) 465-7600  
<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>

November 23, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

I write to express concern over the recent deportations of Cameroonian asylum seekers from the United States, and I urge you to halt deportations of Cameroonians in light of the ongoing human rights abuses in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

In October, the United States repatriated fifty-seven asylum seekers back to Cameroon. The U.S. deported another thirty-seven Cameroonians on November 10, 2020. Many of the asylum seekers have testified to torture, detention, or witnessing the harm or killings of relatives.

In recent years, conflict between Cameroon's French-speaking government and its Anglophone minority group has worsened. The minority group has experienced extreme hardship and human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, arbitrary and unlawful detention, and torture. More than 700,000 Cameroonians have been displaced due to the conflict and since 2016, over 3,000 people have been killed. Because of these especially turbulent and unsafe conditions, in fiscal year 2019, Cameroonian asylum seekers won eighty percent of their cases, compared to twenty-nine percent for all nationalities.

Given the severity of the violence these individuals face upon return to Cameroon and the historic success of asylum claims, I urge you to immediately cease the deportation and repatriation of Cameroonian asylum seekers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a stylized "B".

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator