

EARLY WARNING EARLY RESPONSE SITUATIONAL REPORT

A focus on the conflict incidents happening in Cameroon
following the Anglophone Conflict and Boko Haram insurgency.

15th July - 31st July 2021



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Situational Report

Presented here is a situational analysis of the last two weeks of the month of July based on data collected online and sources on the ground for the EWER data and situation on ground. This report offers a quick look at the situation in the conflict zones of Cameroon, North West, South West and Far North Region through a collection of incidents.

Latest Incidents

Pinyin, 16 July 2021

In a video circulated on social media, separatist fighters claim to have killed several military officers. The separatist fighters who were located in Pinyin brandished the head of one of the alleged military officers they had killed and beheaded. They also seized his weapons including guns and ammunition.

Njinikom, 16 July 2021

Separatist fighters discontinued a one-month lockdown that was imposed on the town of Njinikom after they forced shop owners to make compulsory payments to support the “struggle”. The payments imposed on the shop owners ranged from 5000-10000FCFA depending on the size of the shop.

Online, 17 July 2021

After the arrest of Nnamdi Kanu, the leader of the IPOB (Indegenous People of Biafra), a video was circulated online by another group, Biafra Nations League (BNL), which showed uniformed militias in the Bakassi Peninsula. In an online video, the national leader of BNL said the group was in control of the peninsula and not Cameroon. The leader of BNL, Princewill Chimezie Richards said military & paramilitary wings would attack Cameroon forces stationed in Bakassi Peninsula due to Paul Biya's support for Nigeria against Biafrans.

Geneva, 17 July 2021

Anti Biya protest dispersed with tear gas and water canons in Switzerland.

Bali-Nyonga, 18 July 2021

Separatists attack police convoy, destroying a van and reportedly killing at least 4 police officers and leaving several others injured.

Yaounde, 18 July 2021

Military officials publish a communique claiming to have killed a separatist fighter, 'General' Rambo. While any details regarding the operation are not yet public, the army revealed it also seized ammunition and weapons before setting a makeshift camp hosting the self styled 'General' and some of his fellow fighters ablaze.

Kembong, Manyu Division, 18 July 2021

Separatist fighters reportedly shot and killed a veterinary technician identified as Arrey Ojong in Kembong, a locality in Manyu Division, South West region. The man was tagged as a 'blackleg' and accused of being a military informant.

Ekondo Titi, 18 July 2021

Separatists killed and beheaded a member of a vigilante group called "Anti-Amba". The group has been working against the separatists by reporting their locations to the military, providing information relevant for their arrests and sometimes even engaging in battle with separatist fighters.

Bamenda, 19 July 2021

Separatist fighters shot and killed a police officer. Shortly after the killing of the officer, identified as Patrick Mebenga, security officers were seen harassing civilians at Mobile Nkwen, Bamenda.

Mobile-Nkwen, Bamenda, 19 July 2021

Gendarme officers were caught on camera beating up young men at Mobile Nkwen. The reason for the apparent military brutality was unknown but the video was circulated on separatist pages to incite violence against government military forces.

Guzang, 20 July 2021

Separatist fighters attack and set ablaze a camp belonging to another separatist group. In a video published online, Information from Bareta News revealed that over 12 separatist fighters had been killed in the past days in similar attacks. Other videos circulating on WhatsApp groups show other separatist fighters with machete-induced wounds.

Bafut, 21 July 2021

Separatist group, 7 Kata of Bafut, detonate an IED in the Bafut forest. Reports claim that more than 20 military officers were killed or wounded. Military officers were seen in the video moving into the bush while shooting as the IED exploded a few seconds later.

Bamenda, 22 July 2021

Separatists kidnap a boy selling at a shop in Bamenda and take him to an undisclosed location. Reports say the boy was kidnapped after the armed men could not find the store owner whom they were initially looking for. The incident resulted in a gun battle between the military and the separatists who escaped without either side recording any casualties. The separatists were reportedly looking for the shop owner who was identified as Charly from the West region

Pinyin, 23 July 2021

Military officers invade Pinyin village. According to the report, the officers got into the village at around 2AM and arrested several people. During the military raid, two women were killed for being the mothers of suspected separatist fighters. The military also burnt several houses. This recent raid on Pinyin is believed to be in retaliation to the military officer that was beheaded in the village by separatist fighters on the 16th of July 2021.

Pinyin, 23 July 2021

Residents of Pinyin village sought refuge in bushes and in nearby towns after the military raid wherein the military killed 2 women and arrested several other inhabitants. Videos circulating on social media show children, women, and men of all ages moving out of the village with a few belongings.

Limbe, 22 July 2021

A temporary shelter built for Internally displaced people is destroyed by fire, leaving several IDPs to spend a night out of a shelter. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

Muea, 22 July 2021

Separatist fighters engage in a gun battle with military officers in Muea. The gun battle forced several shop owners to close their shop and no casualties were reported.

Unknown, 26 July 2021

Military officers are seen celebrating after they successfully disarmed an IED. In the video several military officers thank God for saving their lives, threaten separatist fighters and call on those who have abandoned their duty to rejoin the ranks.

Mbouda, 23 July 2021

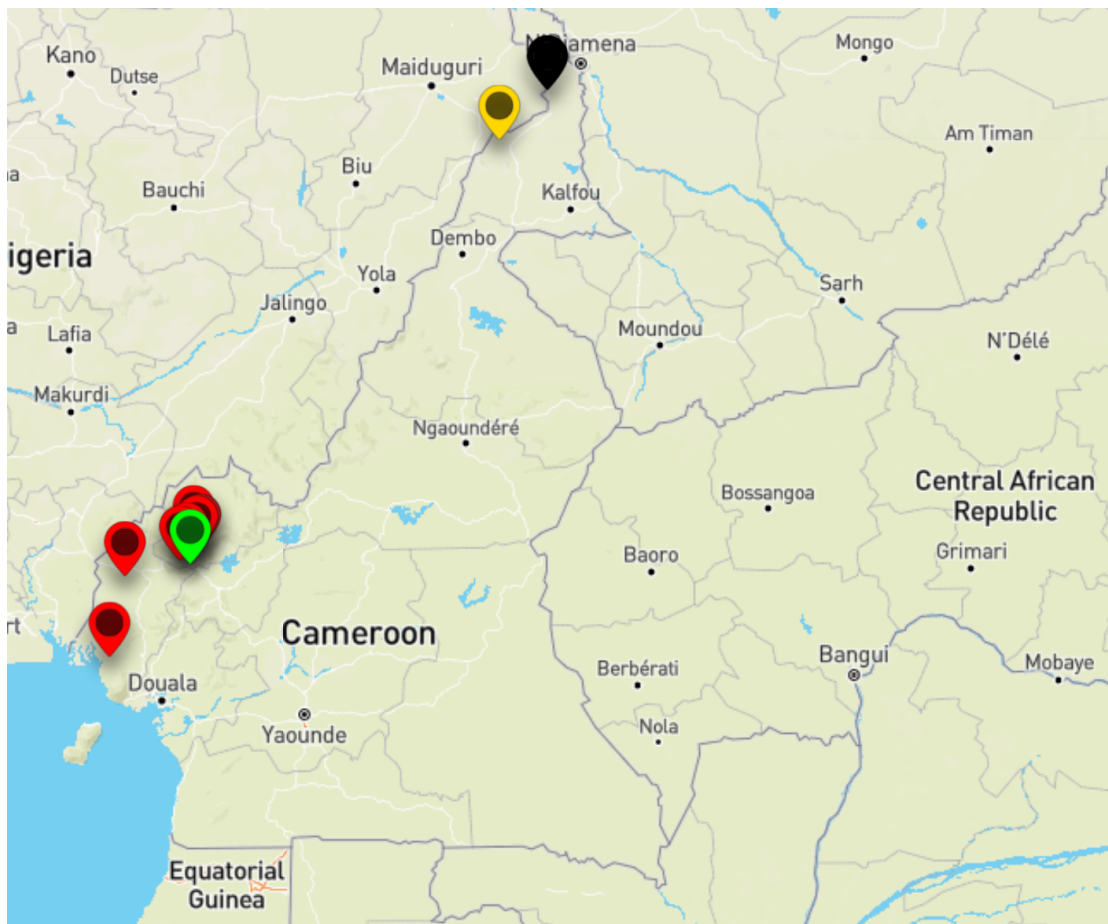
Government promises more military presence and equipment in the West region as the minister of defense paid a working visit to the region following recent separatist attacks that led to the killing of several military officers.

North West Region, 26 July 2021

Several Catholic schools in the North West region have announced the resumption of their schools despite ongoing conflict and after having been shut down for years now due to the conflict. Some of the schools have launched interview programs and have instituted radio announcements around the region.

Early Warning

In previous weeks, analysis of the incidents reported have provided the following predictive estimate of what the next weeks might look like in terms of conflict dynamics and evolution. Just like in the case of Pinyin, after most separatist attacks, the military carries out a retaliatory attack that usually results in summary executions of those suspected to be separatist collaborators. With this in mind therefore, the likelihood that the military will carry out retaliatory attacks in one or more of the following towns namely: Bamenda, Bafut, Ekondo Titi, Kembong, and Bali Nyonga, is very high. Other regions like Kumbo, Bali, Mbouda, Nkambe, and Pinyin might still be venues of military action, gun battles, IED use, and Separatist Attacks, while civil protests or riots still remain as possibilities in Geneva, Bamenda and Mbengwi. If separatist plans (Ambazonia War Draft) are to be believed, the Ngoketunja Division may be the next battle ground in the coming weeks as well as Lebialem.



A Map Snapshot of geo-tagged incidents that happened in the last two weeks of July.