

Cameroon

Cameroon is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: African System



Cameroon has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Cameroon has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the Commission, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Cameroon to the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Kevin Mgwanga Gunme et al v. Cameroon*, the ACHPR considered the arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings of individuals who advocated for the self determination of Southern Cameroon. See ACommHPR, [Kevin Mgwanga Gunme et al v. Cameroon](#), Communication No. 266/03, 45th Ordinary Session, 27 May 2009. Additionally, the ACHPR has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Cameroon.

Cameroon has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR has conducted several missions to Cameroon including promotion missions in [1998](#), [2011](#) and [2012](#), and one mission on prisons and detention conditions in [2002](#).

Cameroon has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Cameroon is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Cameroon's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of three treaty bodies.

Cameroon has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Cameroon has also ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC addressing the involvement of children in armed conflict. Cameroon has a duty to submit **State reports** to the UN treaty body associated with each treaty Cameroon has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Cameroon has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Cameroon has ratified [optional protocols](#) or made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR, CEDAW, and CAT. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Cameroon has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT and CEDAW.

On September 15, 2014, Cameroon extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Cameroon. For example, the Independent Expert on minority issues conducted a mission to Cameroon in September 2013 and published a [report](#) on that visit in January 2014.

For more information on Cameroon's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/CMIndex.aspx>

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