



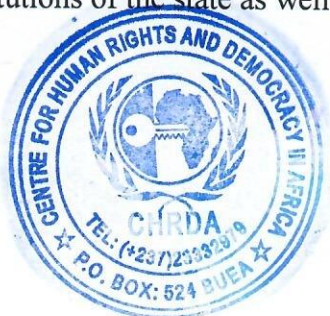
Ref: CHRDA/HR10/24

**THE CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA (CHRDA)
DEMANDS FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF JUNIOR NGOMBE**

The arbitrary arrest and detention of Junoir Ngombe, a Young Cameroonian activists by Cameroon' forces of law and order is unacceptable. On Thursday 25 July 2024, the young Cameroonian activists/founder of a platform known as "Jeunesse Debout Pour Le Changement", was arbitrarily arrested from his Douala residence and transferred to the State Secretariat of Defense (SED) in Yaounde as confirmed by family sources. The 23 years old Cameroonian activist has been very popular on social media platforms especially TikTok because of his continuous calls for Cameroonian youth to enlist massively into the electoral register. This will enable them participate in the 2025 Presidential and 2026 Municipal and Parliamentary Elections in order to bring about change in Cameroon. He has also been noted for his criticisms against the excesses of the government of Cameroon. His arrest is therefore seen to be linked to his activism.

It should be noted that Cameroon over the years has been faced with the problem of voter apathy as most citizens especially youths seem to have lost confidence in the electoral system. This is evident in the 2018 Presidential Elections which saw only over 3 Million out of a population of about 30 Million taking part in the elections. The active mobilization of youths towards the upcoming Elections in Cameroon has been qualified by many opinion leaders as a step towards the right direction.

As the 2025 Presidential and 2026 Municipal and Parliamentary elections draws near, the state of Cameroon continues to restrict the right to freedom of expression. In the recent decree of July 16 2024, the Senior Divisional Officer for the Mfoundi Division stated categorically that "anyone who dangerously insults state institutions or the person who embody them could be banned from residing in the said division. In yet another release from Cameroon's Minister of Communication, Rene Emmanuel Sadi, he cautioned Cameroonians not to use irrelevant language against institutions of the state as well as persons who embody them, especially the Head of State. These



outings have been qualified by both National and International human rights advocates, journalists, political leaders and other opinion holders as an attempt to limit freedom of expression.

Freedom of Thought, Expression and Association is a Fundamental human right guaranteed in Cameroon by the 1996 Constitution of Cameroon as amended, the 1990 Liberty Laws as well as Regional and International Human Rights Convention duly ratified by Cameroon such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The state of Cameroon has continued to violate these laws therefore limiting the free speech.

CHRDA, urges the State of Cameroon to:

Order for the unconditional release of Junior Ngombe so that he can freely enjoy his constitutional right to freedom of expression.

Unconditionally release all other opinion holders and activists who have been incarcerated and detained for legally exercising their constitutional right of Freedom of expression and Association.

To comply with National and International Laws which seek to guarantee freedom of expression and association.

