

Paul Biya
President of the Republic of Cameroon
Palais présidentiel
Yaoundé
KAMERUN

Your Excellency,

I would like to bring to your attention the case of Dorgelesse Nguessan, who is serving a five-year prison sentence solely because of her participation in a public protest in Douala.

The 38-year-old single mother joined her first ever protest on 22 September 2020. The security forces fired rubber bullets, teargas and water cannons to disperse the crowd and arrested over 500 people, including Dorgelesse Nguessan. She was later sentenced to five years in prison and has now spent almost three years in Douala central prison. Her appeal hearing began in mid-March 2023, but the proceedings have repeatedly been postponed.

Prior to her arrest, Dorgelesse Nguessan lived with her son Lontchi and her mother Micheline. She used to earn a living by running a hair salon, which she is now unable to do. Both her son and her mother suffer from chronic health conditions and are struggling to survive without Dorgelesse's income.

I would like to urge you to ensure Dorgelesse Nguessan's conviction is quashed and that she is immediately and unconditionally released, along with all other protestors detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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