



PRESS RELEASE

ALLIANCE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE ANNOUNCES DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS ICO Supporting APJ's Diplomatic and Peace-Building Efforts

Buea | London | New York: Thursday, December 5, 2024 – The Alliance for Peace & Justice (APJ) in the Former British Southern Cameroons today announced that the International Communities Organisation (ICO) is supporting its efforts towards a negotiated settlement with the Cameroon government aimed at putting an end to the pro-independence war, securing autonomy, and getting a referendum on the future of the Former British Southern Cameroons. Apart from training APJ members on conflict negotiation, ICO has also met senior United Nations (UN) officials as well as 13 countries to drum up support for the APJ peace initiative.

“It’s exactly one week since we delivered the historic speech at the 17th Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues calling for the international community to support our efforts towards peace and justice for the Former British Southern Cameroons, an achievement which was facilitated by ICO,” said Professor Januarius Asongu, chair of the APJ Steering Committee. “ICO has drawn the world’s attention to our conflict and pushed for a negotiated settlement by both parties.”

In October 2024, the former President of the UN General Assembly 76th Session and current ICO International Ambassador H.E. Abdulla Shahid held meetings with the Permanent Missions of over a dozen UN member states and high-level UN officials including United Nations Secretary General H.E. António Guterres, Deputy Secretary General H.E. Amina Mohamed, Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas H.E. Miroslav Jenča, Under Secretary General H.E. Guy Ryder, and the President of ECOSOC H.E. Robert Rae. Apart from these activities in New York, ICO has also discussed the conflict with the Vatican and facilitated the Geneva presentation where hundreds of diplomats and activists listened to the APJ presentation on the Former British Southern Cameroons.

“ICO believes that the government of Cameroon and leaders of the Former British Southern Cameroons can come together and achieve peace by constructing a shared vision for a better future,” said James Holmes, ICO Secretary General. “We know that peace cannot be imposed from above and that only communities themselves can determine what peace between them looks like. Unresolved disputes will only worsen over time.”

About the APJ

The Alliance for Peace & Justice in the Former British Southern Cameroons, briefly referred to as the Alliance for Peace & Justice, or simply APJ, represents a collective of leaders from the Former British Southern Cameroons, united by a shared vision for peace, justice, and equitable governance. We understand the depth of suffering experienced by communities in the Former British Southern Cameroons, the injustices of marginalization, and the enduring aspirations for dignity, equality, and self-determination. We are working towards the cessation of hostilities between the pro-independence forces of the Former British Southern Cameroons and the Cameroon armed forces, and for autonomy and a referendum on the future of the Former British Southern Cameroons territory. For more information, contact the APJ Spokesperson at spokesperson@aforpeace.org or visit our website at www.aforpeace.org.

About the ICO

International Communities Organisation (ICO) is a London-based international organisation with UN consultative status and working for peace and reconciliation in divided conflict affected areas with a specific focus on minority rights. ICO is independent, neutral and dedicated to the protection of human rights and giving a voice to those who need it. Through the belief that communities can come together and achieve peace, based not on one group’s views prevailing over another, but by constructing a shared vision for a better future. In order to achieve these goals, we know that they cannot be imposed from above and that only communities themselves can determine what peace looks like to them. For more information on the ICO, write to info@internationalcommunities.org or visit the website at www.internationalcommunities.org.