Paul Biya

President of the Republic of Cameroon

Palais présidentiel

Yaoundé

**KAMERUN**

Your Excellency

I would like to bring your attention to Dorgelesse Nguessan, a woman who took part once in her life in a demonstration regarding the economic situation in Cameroon and finds herself incarcerated since 2020. She has been imprisoned in Douala Central Prison for nearly three years.

The imprisonment destroyed her livelihood. She had a thriving hairdressing business with which she earned a living. Her earnings supported her son Lontchi and her mother Micheline who now struggle to cover their living expenses and suffer from chronic illnesses.

I appeal to your humanity so as to lift this sentence and have her conviction overturned so that she is released. Freedom of expression and assembly are recognised within International Human Rights Law. Dorgelesse Nguessan and the other individuals arrested that day did not commit a crime worthy of imprisonment as the military court accused them of. A president listens and promotes a dialogue with his citizens for he is placed in such authority in order to protect and serve them and the greater good and prosperity of his country. I would like to believe you aspire to build Cameroon to be place where women, men and children feel safe and free to lead their lives for their rights are respected and their voices heard.

Yours respectfully