Laurent Esso

Ministère de la Justice

Quartier ministériel

Yaoundé

B.P. 1000

**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 and finds herself incarcerated since 2020. The single mother has been sentenced to five years in Douala Central Prison by the military court.

The imprisonment destroyed her livelihood and that of her dependants since her earnings supported her son Lontchi and her seriously ill mother Micheline. Both now struggle to cover their living expenses.

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 500 individuals arrested that day did not commit a crime worthy of imprisonment as the military court accused them of. As Minister of Justice I would like to believe that the cases brought before you are met with fairness and that justice is served.

I hope that in her upcoming hearing in March you will oversee that she is given a chance to return to her life as a free woman and no longer be incarcerated as a criminal for speaking up.

Yours respectfully