



# Ambazonia Prisoners of Conscience Support Network

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## **FREEDOM FOR JULIUS AYUKTABE & ALL AMBAZONIAN PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**

On January 5, 2018, the Nigerian secret service seized Julius AyukTabe, known for his nonviolent leadership of the movement for the rights of the people of Ambazonia (Southern Cameroons), and 11 of his senior aides at the Nera hotel in Abuja, Nigeria. The group had gathered to plan a meeting with the UNHCR to discuss the plight of thousands of refugees from Ambazonia, who have crossed the border into Nigeria fleeing violence at the hands of the French Cameroon military.

Then, on January 26, 2018 — with no extradition treaty between Cameroon and Nigeria, and without the involvement of a judge — Nigeria forcibly handed some of the 12 prisoners along with 47 other refugees to Cameroon in violation of non-refoulement, a fundamental principle of international law which forbids a country receiving asylum seekers from returning them to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution. This action drew condemnation from Amnesty International, the UNHCR, the United States Department of State, and other leading human rights advocates.

Four weeks later Nigeria released Barrister Nalowa Bih and Dr. Ojong Okongho, two of the 11 individuals arrested along with Julius AyukTabe.

As of June 4, 2018, it has 150 days since they were taken into custody, yet none of them have been brought before a judge or charged with a crime in either country. It is not clear which of the remaining prisoners are being held by Nigeria, and which by Cameroon. They continue to be held incommunicado. Their names are:

Mr. Julius AyukTabe — American University of Nigeria in Yola, North Eastern Nigeria  
Professor Augustine Awasum — Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Northern Nigeria  
Dr. Henry Kimeng — Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria  
Dr. Egbe Ogork — Associate Professor, Bayero University in Kano  
Barrister Eyambe Elias — Organizer with the Ambazonia Legal workers Union

Mr. Wilfred Tassang — organizer with the Ambazonia teachers Union, CAPTAC  
Dr. Cornelius Njikimpi Kwanga — Umaru Musa Yar'adua University in Katsina, Nigeria  
Dr. Fidelis Ndeh-Che — American University of Nigeria in Yola, North Eastern Nigeria  
Barrister Shufai Berinyuy — Organizer with the Ambazonia Legal workers Union  
Dr. Nfor Ngalla Nfor — Ambazonia Civil Society leader

