



ICN joins Nobel Peace Prize laureates in calling for a ceasefire in Cameroon

Geneva, Switzerland; 23 June 2020 - International Council of Nurses has joined a group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates in urging the Cameroon government and separatist rebels to stop fighting to allow health workers to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic there.

ICN is backing the [Global Campaign for Peace and Justice in Cameroon](#) declaration which urges the African Union, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie to call on the government of Cameroon to declare a "COVID-19 ceasefire."

ICN CEO Howard Catton said, "Health is a human right and COVID-19 is a common enemy regardless of politics and ideology. The number of cases of the virus is escalating in Cameroon because the background of conflict and violence puts an unimaginable and terrifying pressure on front-line nurses and other health workers trying to deliver healthcare and tackle the virus. What is even more abhorrent is that nurses and others are putting their own lives at risk due to the deliberate targeting of healthcare workers and health facilities. ICN adds the voice of more than 20 million nurses worldwide to the distinguished Nobel Peace Prize laureates calling for a cessation of fighting in Cameroon and all other countries in conflict."

The group of Nobel Peace Prize laureates and former heads of states includes – among others – the 2018 laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege; former president of South Africa FW de Klerk; and three former United States ambassadors to Cameroon. The declaration regarding Cameroon was made following the call by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who demanded a global ceasefire in countries in conflict so that they could focus on beating the pandemic.

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In addition to ICN signatories to the declaration include:

Doctor Denis Mukwege

Nobel Peace Prize 2018
Panzi Hospital and Foundation,
Democratic Republic of the Congo and
United States of America

Professor Muhammad Yunus

Nobel Peace Prize 2006
Founder of the Grameen Bank, People's
Republic of Bangladesh

The Honourable José Ramos-Horta

Nobel Peace Prize 1996
Former President of the Democratic
Republic of Timor-Leste

The Honourable FW de Klerk

Nobel Peace Prize 1993
Former President of the Republic of
South Africa

The Honourable Oscar Arias Sánchez

Nobel Peace Prize 1987
Former President of the Republic of
Costa Rica

The Right Honourable Joe Clark

Former Prime Minister of Canada
Former Foreign Minister and Minister of
Constitutional Affairs of Canada

The Honourable Ricardo Lagos

Former President of Chile

**The Right Honourable Harriet
Baldwin, Member of Parliament of the
United Kingdom**

Former United Kingdom Joint Minister of
State at the Foreign and Commonwealth
Office and the Department for
International Development

**The Right Honourable Andrew
Mitchell, Member of Parliament of the
United Kingdom**

Former United Kingdom Secretary of
State for International Development

**US Ambassador (ret.) R.
Niels Marquardt**

Former United States of America
Ambassador to the Republic
of Cameroon

US Ambassador (ret.) John Yates

Former United States of America
Ambassador to the Republic
of Cameroon

US Ambassador (ret.) Harriet Isom

Former United States of America
Ambassador to the Republic of
Cameroon

Doctor Simon Adams

Executive Director of The Global Centre
for the Responsibility to Protect, United
States of America

Ms. Ewelina U. Ochab

Co-Founder of the Coalition for
Genocide Response, United Kingdom

Note to Editors

The **International Council of Nurses** (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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