

COI QUERY

Country of Origin	CAMEROON
Main subject	Voluntary resignation from the armed forces
Question(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Legal framework2. Treatment by authorities of former members of the armed forces who have voluntarily resigned
Date of completion	17 February 2022
Query Code	Q13-2022
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	N/A

Disclaimer

This response to a COI query has been elaborated according to the [EASO COI Report Methodology](#) and [EASO Writing and Referencing Guide](#).

The information provided in this response has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. All sources used are referenced. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

The information in the response does not necessarily reflect the opinion of EUAA and makes no political statement whatsoever.

The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision-making authorities. The answer was finalised on 17 February 2022. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.

COI QUERY RESPONSE – Cameroon

Voluntary resignation from the armed forces

1. Legal framework

Among the available public sources consulted within the timeframe for responding to this COI Query, no information could be found specifically regarding the law regulating the resignation from the armed forces.

According to Article 117 of the Decree 94/199 (7 October 1994) of the Public Function of the State, ‘resignation is a written act by which the servant indicates his unequivocal willingness to leave definitely the public service’¹ whereas the Article 10 (f) of the same decree states that ‘the general status does not apply to the military personnel’.²

According to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Factbook, the Cameroonian Armed Forces (Forces Armées Camerounaises, FAC) are composed of the following entities:

- Army (L’Armée de Terre)
- Navy (Marine Nationale République, MNR, includes naval infantry)
- Air Force (Armée de l’Air du Cameroun, AAC)
- Rapid Intervention Battalion (Bataillons d’Intervention Rapide, BIR)
- Gendarmerie
- Presidential Guard.³

There is no conscription in Cameroon. The military service is voluntary for males and females aged between 18-23 and lasts four years. Additionally, it is required for the servants to have graduated from high school.⁴

Cameroon has signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and according to the UN, it has taken the following steps to ‘safeguard’ the protocol:

- ‘Recruitment is widely publicized in the media;

¹ Cameroon, Decret N° 94/199 Du 07 Octobre 1994, Portant statut général de la Fonction Publique de l’Etat, (unofficial translation by EUAA), n.d., [url](#), Article 117

² Cameroon, Decret N° 94/199 Du 07 Octobre 1994, Portant statut général de la Fonction Publique de l’Etat, (unofficial translation by EUAA), n.d., [url](#), Article 10

³ CIA, Cameroon, last updated 4 February 2022, [url](#)

⁴ CIA, Cameroon, last updated 4 February 2022, [url](#); UN Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000, [url](#), p.7



- Prior to admission to military service, reliable proof of age is required of all candidates, i.e., a certified copy of the candidate's birth certificate no more than three (3) months old;
- Candidates who are not eighteen (18) years of age or older must provide the written, informed consent of a parent or legal guardian;
- A background check is conducted to confirm the accuracy of the information provided by the candidate;
- Candidates undergo a medical fitness examination;
- During training, members of the defence forces are fully informed of the duties associated with military service;
- The defence forces provide the public with regular information on the duties associated with military service, through radio and television broadcasts as well in the print media.⁵

2. Treatment by authorities of former members of the armed forces who have voluntarily resigned

In an interview published in 2012, a former member of the Cameroonian Navy, who resigned from his position in 1983, said that the procedure he went through to resign from the armed forces was not too complicated. The former member of the Navy added:

'Everybody received a summons that we should appear before the Military Tribunal in Douala which we did. It is true you had to pass through many officers who had to interrogate you, here you pass in front of a Major, then you go in front of a Lieutenant, later you came back in front of a Chief Corporal, then, you are sent to another place where you meet a Colonel. Fortunately, we were just consistent in what we were telling them, so it wasn't complicated for us'.⁶

However, no further sources could be found to corroborate this information.

⁵ UN Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000, [url](#), p.7

⁶ Cameroon PostLine, I resigned from navy before Joining Journalism-George Arrey, 17 November 2012, [url](#)

SOURCES USED

Cameroon, Decret N° 94/199 Du 07 Octobre 1994, Portant statut général de la Fonction Publique de l'Etat, (unofficial translation by EUAA), <https://www.minfopra.gov.cm/recueil/fichiers%20word/DECRET%20N%C2%B0%2094-199%20DU%2007%20OCTOBRE%201994.pdf#page=22>, accessed 16 February 2022

Cameroon PostLine, I resigned from navy before Joining Journalism-George Arrey, 17 November 2012, <https://cameroonpostline.com/i-resigned-from-navy-before-joining-journalism-george-arrey>, accessed 16 February 2022

CIA (Central Intelligence Agency), Factbook - Cameroon, last updated 4 February 2022, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/cameroon/#military-and-security>, accessed 16 February 2022

UN (United Nations) Treaty Collection, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, A/RES/54/263, 25 May 2000, <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/MTDSG/Volume%20I/Chapter%20IV/IV-11-b.en.pdf>, accessed 16 February 2022

SOURCES CONSULTED

Cameroon, Law No. 2016/ 007 of 12 July 2016, Relating to the Penal Code, n.d., <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/cm/cm014en.pdf>, accessed 16 February 2022

Cameroon, Law n. 2017/012 of 12 July 2017 to lay down the Code of Military Justice, <https://droitcamerounais.info/en/4.-security-law.html>, accessed 16 February 2022

Cameroon, Décret n° 2018/1968/PM du 13 mars 2018 modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions du décret n° 2000/693/PM du 13 septembre 2000 fixant le régime des déplacements des agents publics civils et les modalités de prise en charge des frais y afférents, 13 March 2018, available at ILO https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=110474&p_country=CMR&p_court=337&p_classification=22.10&p_classcount=45, accessed 16 February 2022

Cameroon, Practice Relating to Rule 142. Instruction in International Humanitarian Law within Armed Forces, available at ICRC/IHL Database, https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v2_cou_cm_rule142_sectionb, accessed 16 February 2022

Cameroon, Code du Travail Loi n°92-007 du 14 août 1992, <http://www.droit-afrique.com/upload/doc/cameroun/Cameroun-Code-1992-travail.pdf>, accessed 16 February 2022



HRW, (Human Rights Watch), World report - Cameroon, Events of 2021, 13 January 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/cameroon>, accessed 16 February 2022

USDOS (United States Department of State), 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cameroon, 30 March 2021, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/cameroon/>, accessed 16 February 2022