



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	CAMEROON
Title	Information on exit procedures at airports, in particular Douala airport, for individuals with existing arrest warrants; prevalence of corruption among border officials and the police
Reference period	January 2018 – 19 December 2023
Topic(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Information on exit procedures at airports, in particular Douala airport, for individuals with existing arrest warrantsPrevalence of corruption among border officials and the police
Date of completion	19 December 2023
Query Code	Q70-2023
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	N/A

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All sources used are referenced and cited in the bibliography section. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned COI methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive or 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.

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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Cameroon

Information on exit procedures at airports, in particular Douala airport, for individuals with existing arrest warrants; prevalence of corruption among border officials and the police

1. Exit procedures at airports, in particular Douala airport, for individuals with existing arrest warrants

No information on exit procedures at airports, in particular Douala airport, for individuals with existing arrest warrants could be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information may be relevant.

According to the Aéroports du Cameroun website (ADC)¹ website, the Border Police monitor border crossing points, verify the authenticity of the presented travel documents and consult the national and international databases to control criminal records.² The Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA) outlines security procedures at Douala International Airport, specifying that since July 2019 CCAA's Airport Security Units (ASU) manage physical security measures and the police, as well as other competent state services such as customs and the gendarmerie, is 'responsible for risk assessment through operational information, background checks, arrests and the uncovering of security offences'.³

The following local newspaper sources have displayed pictures of arrest warrants issued in Cameroon, although the authenticity of these documents cannot be corroborated:

- Cameroun Web, <https://www.camerounweb.com/CameroonHomePage/NewsArchive/Mbandjock-un-jeune-de-19-ans-activement-recherch-par-la-police-pour-assassinat-photo-651767>;
- Actu Cameroun, https://actucameroun.com/2023/11/16/vol-aggrave-evasion-la-police-judiciaire-lance-un-avis-de-recherches-contre-le-nomme-basga-marcel-aliou/?utm_content=cmp-true;
- Cameroon-Info.Net, <https://www.cameroon-info.net/article/cameroun-la-police-lance-un-avis-de-recherche-contre-le-nomme-nguele-michel-accuse-du-313548.html>;

For general information on arrest warrants see the EASO query response on [the notification system of wanted notices in Cameroon](#) published on 14 June 2018.

¹ Aéroports du Cameroun is a company managing seven airports in Cameroon, including the international airports of Douala, Garoua and Yaoundé-Nsimalen, as well as the airports of Bamenda, Bertoua, Maroua-Salak, and Ngaoundéré. Aéroports du Cameroun, About us, n.d., [url](#)

² ADC, Préparer Votre Voyage - Contrôles et Inspections, n.d., [url](#)

³ CCAA, Security Checks' implementation switch at Douala International Airport, 03 July 2019, [url](#)



2. Prevalence of corruption among border officials and the police

Data displayed by the Global Organised Crime Index⁴ showed that in 2023, the vulnerability of Cameroon's borders to illicit activities is worsened by 'armed conflict and unrest, as well as corruption among border police and customs officers.'⁵

In the Freedom in the World report covering 2022, Freedom house indicated that corruption in Cameroon 'is systemic and bribery is commonplace in all sectors.'⁶ Similarly, in the Cameroon Country Report 2022, Bertelsmann Stiftung highlighted that corruption permeates all levels of government, giving rise to instances of petty corruption within the police, judiciary, and tax and customs departments.⁷

Findings from a 2022 survey made by the Afrobarometer⁸ to explore Cameroonians' experiences and assessments of police professionalism indicated that 37 % of those interviewed between May and April 2022 believed the police do not operate professionally; among those who had interactions with the police, 63 % claimed to have paid bribes to receive assistance and 52 % to avoid problems with them.⁹ Similarly, results are given by respondents to the 2019 Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) – Africa, published by Transparency International in partnership with Afrobarometer, who were asked whether they had contact with five 'key public services' in their country in the previous 12 months [Interviews were conducted from September 2016 to September 2018], including police. According to the survey, there was an overall bribe rate of 48 %, while 37 % of the interviewees claimed to have paid bribes to police.¹⁰

In the 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Cameroon, the US Department of State (USDOS) reported that 'using minor infractions as a pretext, police, gendarmes, and custom officers often extorted bribes and harassed travellers at roadblocks and checkpoints in cities and on most highways.'¹¹ A humanitarian worker interviewed in 2021 by the International Crisis Group reported that many displaced people in the Anglophone areas of Cameroon have lost civil documents such as ID cards, and due to bureaucratic hurdles in receiving new documents, they 'either have to pay for forged documents or bribe their way through checkpoints.'¹²

⁴ The Global Organized Crime Index, funded by the European Union and the United States Government, measures levels of organised criminal activities in a country and resilience to such activities. Global Organized Crime Index, Global Organized Crime Index, n.d., [url](#)

⁵ Global Organized Crime Index, Cameroon, 2023, [url](#)

⁶ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2023 - Cameroon, 2023, [url](#)

⁷ Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2022 Country Report Cameroon, 23 February 2022, [url](#)

⁸ The Afrobarometer is a research network that measures public attitudes on economic, political, and social matters in Africa. Afrobarometer, About, n.d., [url](#)

⁹ Afrobarometer, Cameroonians see police falling short of professionalism and respect for rights, 14 November 2023, [url](#), p. 2

¹⁰ Transparency International and Afro Barometer, Global Corruption Barometer Africa 2019, [url](#), p. 30

¹¹ USDOS, 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Cameroon, 12 April 2022, [url](#), p. 28

¹² International Crisis Group, Rebels, Victims, Peacebuilders: Women in Cameroon's Anglophone Conflict, 23 February 2022, [url](#), p. 6



The news provider Voice of America, in an article published in September 2021 concerning police violence and corruption, and attacks by civilians to police officers, cited a Cameroonian human rights lawyer who noted that the police often ‘extract[s] bribes from innocent civilians.’¹³

Incidents of corruption involving police officers, as reported by sources, include:

- Human Rights Watch reported in 2022 that a teacher in Buea was detained on suspicion of homosexuality and was released after paying a bribe of 50 000 CFA [approximately EUR 76]. The same source reported that the police arrested another man under the accusation of being homosexual, who was released after the payment of a bribe of 1 00 000 CFA [approximately EUR 152].¹⁴
- The Organisation Suisse d'Aide aux Réfugiés (OSAR),¹⁵ reported an incident of a participant in a voluntary return program, who was allegedly obliged to pay 400 000 CFA [approximately EUR 610] to police officers upon his return to Douala airport.¹⁶

No information on the prevalence of corruption among border officials could be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

¹³ VOA, Cameroon Police Say Civilian Attacks on Police Increasing, 14 September 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, Cameroon: Rising Violence Against LGBTI People, 11 May 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵ OSAR is an umbrella organisation based in Switzerland working in the field of asylum.

¹⁶ OSAR, Cameroun : personnes survivantes de la traite des êtres humains, intégration et soins psychologiques, 29 December 2022, [url](#), p. 12

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ADDITIONAL SOURCES CONSULTED

Amnesty International (AI); Belgium – CEDOCA; Cameroon Tribune; Camer.be; Canada – Immigration and Refugee Board; ECOI.net; European Union – EUAA COI Portal, European Parliament; Institut national de la statistique (INS); Guardian Post (The); Refworld; United Nations – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United States – Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Justice; World Bank (The)