



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	Cameroon
Question(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Information on the notification system of wanted notices in Cameroon (cities of Yaoundé and Douala). In particular:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Are wanted notices directly notified to the wanted person and if so, how?Are they published? If so, where are they published and which authority publishes them?Can they be transmitted to the lawyer of the wanted person?Description of the wanted notices in Cameroon (appearance, format, content)
Date of completion	14 June 2018
Query Code	Q85
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	

Disclaimer

This response to a COI query has been elaborated according to the [Common EU Guidelines for Processing COI](#) and [EASO COI Report Methodology](#).

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 EASO and makes no political statement whatsoever.

The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on the 14 June 2018. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.



COI QUERY RESPONSE

1. Information on the notification system of wanted notices in Cameroon (cities of Yaoundé and Douala)

Part II of the Cameroon Criminal Procedure Code, titled 'Court Processes', contains provisions regarding the different types of documents which constitute 'court processes'. Section 11 reads:

'(1) A court process shall be a written document by which a magistrate or a court orders either: - the appearance or production of an individual before them; or - the remand in custody of a suspect, a defendant, an accused, or - a witness suspected of hindering the search for evidence; or - the imprisonment of a convict; or - the search of objects either used for or procured by the commission of an offence.

(2) The following shall constitute court processes: summons, bench warrant, remand warrant, production, warrant, search warrant, warrant of arrest and imprisonment warrant'¹.

With regards to the authorities responsible to issue court processes, Section 12 of the Cameroon Criminal Procedure Code states:

'(1) (a) The State Counsel may issue summonses, warrants of arrest, search warrants, or production warrants; (b) In cases of offences committed flagrante delicto, he may issue remand warrants (2) The Examining Magistrate may issue, a summons, a bench warrant, search warrant, a remand warrant, and a production warrant. (3) The trial court may issue a summons, a bench warrant, a search warrant, a remand warrant, an imprisonment warrant, and a production warrant'².

Section 14 reads:

'(1) A bench warrant shall be an order given by a court to any officer of the judicial police to bring immediately before it, the person named therein. [...] (5) If the person against whom the bench warrant has been issued cannot be found, a detailed report on the unsuccessful attempts to find him shall be drawn up and sent to the judicial authority who issued it. (6) In the case provided for in sub-section (5) above: - the original of the warrant is signed either by the head of the administrative unit, or the mayor, or the village or quarter head of the residence or the last known place of abode of the wanted person; - a copy of the warrant shall be posted either at the residence or last known place of abode of that person, or at the offices of the administrative unit, the council office or the village community hall; mention of such posting shall be made on the original of the warrant; - a report of the entire process shall be made, for transmission to the author of the warrant; a copy of the report shall be posted at the same place as the copy of the warrant'³.

Section 18 reads:

¹ Cameroon: Criminal Procedure Code, Law N°2005 of 27 July 2005, Part II, Section 11, in UNODC, ([url](#)).

² Cameroon: Criminal Procedure Code, Part II, Law N°2005 of 27 July 2005, Section 12, in UNODC, ([url](#)).

³ Cameroon: Criminal Procedure Code, Part II, Law N°2005 of 27 July 2005, Section 14, in UNODC, ([url](#)).



'(1) A warrant of arrest shall be an order given to an officer of the judicial police to arrest a defendant, an accused or a convict and bring him before one of the judicial authorities cited in section 12. (2) If the defendant, the accused or a convict is at large, the Examining Magistrate or the trial court may issue a warrant for his arrest if the offence in question is punishable with loss of liberty, or in case of imprisonment sentence. (3) If the defendant, or the accused or convict resides out of the national territory, and does not appear after having been summoned, the Examining Magistrate or the trial court may for purposes of extradition, issue a warrant for his arrest if the offence in question is punishable with loss of liberty of at least six (6) months, or if he is sentenced to the same term of imprisonment'⁴.

Section 20 reads:

'(1) If the person against whom a warrant of arrest is issued cannot be found after careful search, a copy of the warrant shall be left at his last known place of abode or with the village or quarterhead. (2) A report on the steps taken to execute the warrant shall be made in writing and forwarded to the person who issued the warrant. (3) The judicial police officer charged with executing the warrant shall have his report signed and stamped by one of the administrative authorities mentioned in section 14 (6) and shall leave a copy thereof with him'⁵.

In a 2013 COI Query Response on the 'notices to appear' in Cameroon, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) cites a correspondence with a lawyer from Cameroon's General Delegation for National Security (Délégation générale à la Sûreté nationale, DGSN) as well as with the Executive Director of the Non-Governmental Organisation 'New Human Rights' (Nouveaux droits de l'homme, NDH):

'The lawyer [of DGSN] explained that a notice to appear includes an acknowledgement of receipt that must be detached and given to the recipient, who must then sign and return it to the judicial police officer (10 Oct. 2013). However, the Executive Director [of NDH] stated that, although [translation] "certain organizations, like the central services of the DGSN, issue notices to appear with acknowledgements of receipt," "this is not generalized and is not within the scope of the Criminal Procedure Code (Code de procédure pénale)" (NDH-Cameroon 22 Oct. 2013). According to the lawyer, [translation][it] is best if the notice to appear is issued by a judicial police officer, but in practice, the notice to appear is often sent even to the complainant to be delivered to their adversary, to the head of the neighbourhood, to any person likely to reasonably deliver it (10 Oct. 2013)⁶.

'The Executive Director also stated [translation] "that, in general, following a complaint, the judicial police officer issues a notice to appear that is delivered to the complainant so that they ... may deliver it to the accused" (NDH-Cameroon 22 Oct. 2013). She also stated that the people accused [translation] "most often refuse to fill out the acknowledgements of receipt

⁴ Cameroon: Criminal Procedure Code, Law N°2005 of 27 July 2005, Part II, Section 18, in UNODC, ([url](#)).

⁵ Cameroon: Criminal Procedure Code, Law N°2005 of 27 July 2005, Part II, Section 20, in UNODC, ([url](#)).

⁶ IRB (Canada), *Cameroon: Notices to appear issued by the General Delegation for National Security (Délégation générale à la Sûreté nationale, DGSN), including the issuing procedure; the content and appearance of the notices to appear, and whether it is the same at all police stations in the country; possibility of obtaining a fraudulent notice to appear (2012-October 2013)*, 23 October 2013, CMR104623.FE ([url](#)).



when they are delivered" (ibid.). The Executive Director added that, [translation] [n]ormally, there should be no arrest or warrant before a third notice to appear is ignored. This procedure is not always followed in practice, and often after the first notice to appear, the judicial police officer decides to arrest the accused (ibid.)⁷.

In 2014, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) denounced the case of a Cameroonian journalist jailed for defamation. According to the journalist's lawyer, the court accused him of failing to respond to a summons. However, according to CPJ, the lawyer stated that the journalist never received any notice of proceeding against him. Following the announcement of the verdict, the police issued an arrest warrant against him. Eventually, he was 'picked up by police in the capital, Yaoundé'⁸.

The below media articles report on cases of 'wanted notice' ('avis de recherche') or 'search warrant' issued by the Cameroonian authorities.

In June 2017, several articles published on local media websites reported that the police (gendarmerie) had launched a wanted notice for two Vodaphone employees⁹. One of the article refers to a "Message Radio-Porté" which announced the wanted notice; the article also includes a photo of the so-called "Message Radio-Porté"¹⁰. According to another article, the wanted notice had been signed by the 'Commandant de brigade de gendarmerie de Bonanjo' and was later canceled¹¹.

On January 2018, the website 'Cameroon-info.Net' published an image of a wanted notice issued by the police against a man accused of killing his partner, in a neighborhood, in Yaoundé¹².

An article published in 'Journal du Cameroun', on March 2018, reported that the Judicial Police Division, in the Central Cameroon Region, launched a 'search warrant' against a well-known pastor, accused of 'aggravated fraud'. According to the article: 'The search warrant states that, he is wanted throughout the country and anyone who finds him is asked to take him to the nearest police or gendarmerie station'¹³.

According to the pan-African media outlet AfrikMag, a wanted notice ('avis de recherche') issued by the Judicial Police Division against the above mention pastor circulated for days on social media¹⁴.

⁷ IRB (Canada), *Cameroon: Notices to appear issued by the General Delegation for National Security (Délégation générale à la Sûreté nationale, DGSN), including the issuing procedure; the content and appearance of the notices to appear, and whether it is the same at all police stations in the country; possibility of obtaining a fraudulent notice to appear (2012-October 2013)*, 23 October 2013, CMR104623.FE ([url](#)).

⁸ CPJ, *Cameroonian newspaper editor jailed for defamation*, 15 April 2014 ([url](#)).

⁹ ActuCameroun, *Cameroon: La gendarmerie lance un avis de recherche contre Wilfried Sama et Antoine Pamboro des responsables de Vodafone au Cameroun*, 18 June 2017, ([url](#)) ; Cameroon-Info.Net, *Cameroon : La gendarmerie lance un avis de recherche contre Wilfried Sama et Antoine Pamboro, des responsables de Vodaphone au Cameroun, pour blanchiment d'argent et financement du terrorisme, entre autres*, 18 Juin 2017, ([url](#))

¹⁰ ActuCameroun, *Cameroon: La gendarmerie lance un avis de recherche contre Wilfried Sama et Antoine Pamboro des responsables de Vodafone au Cameroun*, 18 June 2017, ([url](#)).

¹¹ Cameroon-Info.Net, *Cameroon : La gendarmerie lance un avis de recherche contre Wilfried Sama et Antoine Pamboro, des responsables de Vodaphone au Cameroun, pour blanchiment d'argent et financement du terrorisme, entre autres*, 18 Juin 2017, ([url](#)).

¹² Cameroon-info.Net, *Cameroon: La police lance un avis de recherche contre le nommé Nguele Michel, accuse du meurtre de la compagne au quartier Olembé à Yaoundé*, 18 January 2018 ([url](#))

¹³ Journal du Cameroun, *Renown Cameroonian preacher accused of "defrauding" followers*, 6 March 2018 ([url](#)).

¹⁴ AfrikMag, *Cameroon: Le pasteur Dieunedort Kamdem recherché par la Police*, 6 March 2018 ([url](#)).



2. Description of the wanted notices in Cameroon (appearance, format, content)

Among all sources consulted and within the timeframe allocated to respond to this query, no specific and reliable information could be retrieved regarding the appearance, format, content of wanted notices in Cameroon. Although some photos of 'Avis de recherches' could be found on the internet, it was not possible to assess the reliability of such documents.



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