



## Cameroon - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 29 December 2015

### Current information on prison conditions.

A report released in June 2015 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of 2014 notes:

“Prison conditions remained harsh and life threatening due to gross overcrowding and inadequate food, sanitary conditions, and medical care.” (United States Department of State (25 June 2015) *2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Cameroon*)

In August 2015 a report released commenting on events of 2014 by *Freedom House* states that:

“Prisons are overcrowded and conditions are sometimes life threatening. Torture and abuse of detainees are widespread.” (Freedom House (18 August 2015) *Freedom in the World 2015 – Cameroon*)

In September 2015 *Amnesty International* points out in a report that:

“Amnesty International has documented poor detention conditions in Maroua Prison including chronic overcrowding, inadequate food, lack of drinking water, limited medical care, and deplorable hygiene and sanitation.” (Amnesty International (23 September 2015) *Boko Haram: Civilians continue to be at risk of human rights abuses by Boko Haram and human rights violations by state security forces*, P.5)

*Voice of America* in October 2015

“Human rights groups in Cameroon say prisons constructed for 500 detainees are housing more than 3,000 people, many of whom can be held for years without charge in inhumane conditions.” (Voice of America (22 October 2015) *Rights Groups: Cameroon Prisons Severely Overcrowded*)

A report issued in October 2015 by *Amnesty International* includes noting:

“...inhumane detention conditions in overcrowded prisons...” (Amnesty International (30 October 2015) *Cameroon: Authorities must reveal the whereabouts of a journalist arrested three months ago*)

### References

Amnesty International (30 October 2015) *Cameroon: Authorities must reveal the whereabouts of a journalist arrested three months ago*  
<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=56388ee44>  
(Accessed 29 December 2015)

Amnesty International (23 September 2015) *Boko Haram: Civilians continue to be at risk of human rights abuses by Boko Haram and human rights violations by state security forces*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/2428/2015/en/>

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Freedom House (18 August 2015) *Freedom in the World 2015 – Cameroon*

<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=55d444e915>

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United States Department of State (25 June 2015) *2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Cameroon*

<http://www.refworld.org/publisher,USDOS,,CMR,559bd57928,0.html>

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Voice of America (22 October 2015) *Rights Groups: Cameroon Prisons Severely Overcrowded*

<http://www.voanews.com/content/rights-groups-cameroon-prisons-severely-overcrowded/3018739.html>

(Accessed 29 December 2015)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

### **Sources Consulted**

Amnesty International

BBC News

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Google

Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

International Crisis Group

IRIN News

Lexis Nexis

Minority Rights Group International

National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

Online Newspapers

Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

Reliefweb

Reuters

United Kingdom Home Office

United States Department of State

UNHCR Refworld