

June 2008

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The Social Democratic Front (SDF), the major opposition political party, was launched as a protest movement in 1991, and in 1992 the SDF leader lost the presidential election as reported above. Demonstrations in the North West province were violently suppressed. These circumstances began the polarization between the government and the opposition that permeates Cameroon politics. The SDF is a challenge to the ruling party because it is well established and organized.

Members of the SDF sit in Parliament and have regular meetings in public and with the government. Generally, neither SDF nor SCNC membership itself is a basis for persecution. While admitted SCNC membership is likely to provoke government harassment, only very active and serious members attract the attention of authorities.

The State Department is not aware of any credible report that SDF membership resulted in persecution and has received no reports of harassment of opposition politicians during the 2007 parliamentary elections.

The Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC) is a group of activists with the political aim of gaining the independence of Southern (Anglophone) Cameroon. The SCNC has not been permitted to register as a legal organization/association and is therefore illegal. Occasionally, and especially in the days preceding and during October 1, 2007 commemorations, security forces arrest and detain some members. SCNC sympathizers are occasionally harassed by police, as the secessionist literature and sentiments they hold are illegal under Cameroonian law. However, the authorities are most interested in the organizers, and arrested 26 of them in Bamenda in March of 2007. The trial is proceeding in accord with Cameroonian law – and is a strong indication of a shift in how Cameroonian authorities wish to deal with this group. Overall, the group has weakened dramatically, and is not considered a threat by the authorities, or a serious political force by Cameroonians who might share some of its views.

Adjudicators might use the following questions to help sort bona fide SCNC members from impostors:

- How many members does SCNC have? (approx 200)
- Where do most of them live? (The United States)
- How many coordinators does the SCNC have and what areas do they cover? (Two: Northwest and Southwest provinces)
- Who is the leader of the Northern Zone Chair (Prince Hitler Mbinglo)
- Who is the Southern Zone Chair (Sylvester Taku)
- Who is the National Chairman of the SCNC (Chief Ayambe Ette Otun)
- Where is the SCNC headquarters in Bamenda located? (Cow Street)
- What is the SCNC motto? ("The force of argument not the argument of force")
- In 2007 a group of SCNC members were arrested. Where were they arrested? What has happened to them? (Arrested in Bamenda and released on bail)

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