



THE ANGLOPHONE ARMED CONFLICT TAKES A TRAGIC TWIST ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES- A REPORT ON THE HAUSA FULANI/NATIVE CRISIS INSURGENCY IN WUM MENCHUM DIVISION OF THE NORTH WEST REGION IN CAMEROON ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 2022.

Over the years, there has always been discontent between the natives of Aghem in Wum and the Mbororo community in Wum over the issue of land known as the Farmer/Grazier conflict. Because of the aforementioned issue, these two clans are always at loggerhead with one another. These conflicts are often very bloody and painful and have escalated due to the ongoing crisis in Cameroon since 2016.

It should be recalled, On June 6th, 2019, the Anglophone Crisis took a violent turn when non-state armed groups (NSAG) attacked the minority Mbororo-Fulani communities in Upkwa and Kecha. Tensions between the Mbororo and the Natives were already strained, but that day saw the tension degenerate into outright violence. In one night, the NSAG burned down a mosque and 50 houses, destroyed multiple korans, slaughtered livestock, attacked the community leader, and destroyed an incalculable amount of property before authorities were alerted and the targeted community was evacuated.

In retaliation, over the next few days, the tensions only heightened. Another Muslim leader was attacked and the intertribal war heightened. Some Muslim youths retaliated by taking up arms against the natives. In less than one week, more 60 lives lost, 250 houses burnt, 300 wounded. Within a short time, a precarious and new ethnic war had erupted between the natives and the Fulani-Mbororo minorities. All this took place under the watchful eyes of the administration and the security forces.

Last year, In the early hours of Monday October 18th 2021 a Government security officer was brutally murdered by separatist fighters. Following this incident, a rampage by Fulanis/Hausas/Mbororos backed by state security forces led to the brutal killing and burning of an elderly man above 70 years by name Mvo John in front of his house. Three others yet to be identified persons were equally killed. About 30 houses set ablaze with several people especially women and children rendered homeless leading to massive displacement. An already fragile and vulnerable population mostly natives of Waindo, Wanagwen, Watue, Buetsi and Kesu neighborhoods suffered these gruesome and inhuman atrocities.

Reports on the ground states that, Government forces and Fulani Vigilante groups went to these areas and carried out the monstrous burning, looting of houses and destruction of properties after this unfortunate incident. Vulnerable children, women and the helpless elderly persons are paid a huge price- suffering the huge brunt of a near community war.

These wounds are still fresh in the minds of the *Aghem* people. It should be recalled that, these same incidents have become recurrent. The same Fulani vigilante backed by state security forces are pruned to carrying out grievous human atrocities on any non-Muslim once one of them is touched by the NSAG. These memories are still very fresh in the minds of the people. These are people who are struggling to heal from these bitter and sad memories that led to several houses burnt, several wounded and killed.

On Monday 25th July 28, 2022 the lifeless bodies of 4 Fulani herdsmen were found in the bush in *zonghofu/waindo* around Lake Wum area. It was alleged that they were killed by separatist fighters. Immediately some members of the Fulani community took to the street armed with knives, sticks and other dangerous weapons, attacking anyone who is not a Muslim. They descended in the most brutal and radical actions by molesting, torturing and injuring up to about 25 persons between Tuesday and Wednesday who are still under intensive care at the Wum district hospital. During our investigation, an undisclosed source said, some Fulani attacked his household at *Waindo* around the early hours on Monday. They tortured his family, his wife and two children were hospitalized at the Wum district hospital.

SADLY, HISTORY HAS JUST REPEATED ITSELF.WHAT A SAD REPLAY OF JUNE 3RD 2019 AND October 18th 2021 FOR A FRAGILE PEOPLE JUST RECOVERING FROM THE SAME SAD BRUTAL TRAGEDY.

Following these repeated barbaric attacks from some muslim undisciplined criminals and the continuous inaction by the state security forces, On Tuesday 26th July 2022, the people of *Aghem* community in wum Menchum division of the North West region, no age distinction, youths, fathers, mothers, girls and boys came out in great numbers stormed the Wum grandstand, holding weapons (sticks and machetes) ready for a fight with the Hausa/Mborro/Fulan. It was going to be a very bloody with heavy human casualties as they *Aghem* people were determined to all die in defense for what they have experienced the last years. In deep frustration, bitterness they angry *Aghem* population expressed total discontent over the non-action by the forces of law and order on the perpetrators of this acts. It at this point that The security forces did their best to calm the tension between the provoked and angry crowd of the *Aghem* community and the Fulani community.

It should be recalled that, the background to this, is heavily pregnant, as the *Aghem* clan is out to put a stop to this routine of Fulani inflicting desolation on the host community at the least or no provocation. As of the time this report, fear, turmoil, tensions still loam in the air and in the heart the heart of every one for fear of the unknown.

Confirmed sources says that the Wum Council Mayor and the forces of law and other are trying their possible best to engage the Fulani leaders and *Aghem* Traditional leaders to get peace, BIHAPHs peace and dialogue committee set up in April 2022 is also engaging with the local population to see that the relative peace which was in Wum municipality comes back through forgiveness and reconciliation. For the past days the community has witness heavy gunshot and lockdowns living endless sufferings and piles of misery in an already disenfranchised community.

