

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 28, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

In recent weeks, our offices have seen an increase in reports of ICE deporting Cameroonian asylum-seekers. We are concerned by this trend, as the ongoing human rights abuses in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon place deported individuals in grave danger. We urge you to halt the deportation of Cameroonian asylum-seekers until, at the very least, the violence has abated. We further request that no such detainee be removed if they have pending legal motions.

Roughly 700,000 people have been displaced and several thousand have been killed since the conflict in Cameroon began, with over 3.9 million currently in need of humanitarian support. ICE detainees returned to Cameroon face a high risk of being detained, beaten, disappeared, tortured, or possibly even killed.

The United States has a moral obligation not to turn our backs on civilians fleeing from conflict. These individuals are targets for both government forces and armed separatist groups. Allowing their deportation under these circumstances would place their lives at risk. We urge you to halt the deportation of Cameroonian asylum-seekers and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator