

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Love is a Right, not a Wrong

Stop Discrimination in Cameroon

TO: His Excellency Paul Biya
President of Cameroon

Your Excellency:

We are deeply concerned that people in Cameroon face harassment, arrest and imprisonment because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. Authorities have detained an increasing number of people on charges of "homosexuality" under Section 347a of Cameroon's Penal Code, a law that contravenes Cameroon's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In one example, a 31-year-old student named Jean-Claude Roger Mbede was sentenced to three years in prison in April 2011 for "homosexuality." Like others jailed on such charges, he faces increased risk of attack and ill-treatment in prison because of his perceived sexual orientation.

We respectfully urge you to combat homophobia in Cameroon by repealing Section 347a of the Penal Code and by immediately and unconditionally releasing all those imprisoned solely because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, including Jean-Claude Roger Mbede. We further call on you to ensure the safety of these individuals while they remain in detention. Thank you.

YOUR SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

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