

AC Organization Activity Report May 2008



I- General

This month has still been active in recruiting victims, publicizing the goal and the objectives of AC Cameroon to Cameroonians, building legitimacy through meeting with others organizations of civil society and official organizations in charge of fighting corruption. But it has also been active in fighting to get the first court case opened.

II- Investigations

- AC Cameroon combined strategy of recruiting victims is working well. Victims are recruited through the hotline, direct recruitment from corruption hotspots, from lawyers and from other NGOs. These new complaints were added to some of the old one for continued investigation.
- AC Cameroon is starting to make a database of the complaints. We also started producing a weekly "important cases of the week" for those interested in an insight on corruption.
- The hotline remains the main channel for the complaints. We received more than 50 phone calls with a rate of 1.6 /day. Half were concerning corruption. 4 fitted our criteria and continued in the process.
- 30 ground missions were taken producing about 20 complaints. 3 cases fitted our criteria and continue in process. They were specially from small traders.
- AC is still building up strategies of treating complaints which are not within its scope of fighting corruption. These are mainly complaints against human right violations or other injustices which can not result in a court case. Some of the suggestions include the use of the media, supportive officials of the forces of law and order, or lobbying. AC Cameroon is planning to consult with members of international community to see how they can improve it or help.
- Investigations in the case brought by Cameroon's Students' Rights Association (ADDEC) are achieved and there are enough evidences to open a court case against the Director of Advance School of Mass Communication who is taking more than 12 times the normal fees to get in this public high school. ADDEC received complaints of 7 students who couldn't be admitted in the Advanced School of Mass Media. The Director of this Institute is taking 600 00 Fcfa instead of 50 000.

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- One victim supported by AC Cameroon decided not to continue with her case. This can be attributed to fear. It was the lady whom the grant has been given to somebody else because of he was the dean's relative.
- AC Cameroon during the month of May received many other complains. One of them was concerning a commissioner who released a thief and a middle man in exchange of money. Another one is concerning a officials who are not appointed of controls missions but doing to take money to traders. The third one is concerning a person who loose his land title because a rich man bought official of land title office and policemen to get him out of his land. The last one is about an official who convinced a trader to pay him an illegal fee for a public service and the trader wants to collect back his money.
- AC Cameroon made 02 ground missions to Mokolo market in order sensitizes members of transporters syndicate.
- AC Cameroon was making many investigations to understand more about traders complains on prices controllers who are taking them illegal money. Laws on prices policies have been found. Legal evidences on activities of controllers were confirmed.
- AC Cameroon met 5 lawyers to discuss with them on the possibility to get victims of corruption from them.

III- Media

- No media pieces were sent out during the month of May, in order to concentrate media efforts in covering the first court case after it is launched..

IV- Legal

- May month was marked by the first experience of testing our legal strategies. More experience was gained with lawyers as well as with bailiffs.
- The bailiff made 02 ground missions in May. First made to University of Yaoundé I were a lecturer was obliging students to buy his document if they want to participate on exams. The second ground mission permitted to produce a legal document on corruption in Advanced School of Mass Communication. This document will be used in court like evidence when ADDEC will sue the director of this state high school in court for corruption.
- AC Cameroon is involved in process of elaboration of the new law against corruption as many others organization of civil society. This involvement has been possible because of the intervention of M. Michel Van Hulman from CHOC Program



- Opening the first court case on corruption to Mfoudi High Court in Yaoundé was delayed this month despite of all the evidences collected. The complainer wants to get more assurances before starting the case. This obstacle was treated and we expect the case to be launched in the beginning of June.
- Another lawyer is appointed to follow the case of ADDEC. AC Cameroon accepts it to give assurance to students of ADDEC but the lawyer of AC Cameroon is maintained.

V- Human Resources

- This month, no volunteers have been recruited. The main priority was to get the first court case. More emphasis will be given to recruitment on June month.

VI- Finances

- Contract has been signed between British High Commission and AC Cameroon. The organization was supposed to receive the funds for April and May this month. AC will receive it in the beginning of June.
- AC Cameroon is facing a lot of problems unexpected when the pilot project was written. The sustainable solution is to make another application and submit it to Deutch Embassy to cover the expenses that British High Commission grant can't cover.

VII- Management

- AC Cameroon got a Post Office Box - 5031 Yaoundé- Nlongkak Cameroon.
- Translation of concept note in French to facilitate the introduction of AC Cameroon to francophone people.

VIII- Relations with institutions

- Until now, AC Cameroon is still working with no status because the file not yet treated to public security Headquarters. The help of international community is really needed at this level because it seems to be a political problem. The file for AC Cameroon legalization is introduced since 2006.
- Meeting between AC Cameroon's coordinator and Dr Michel Van Hulden of CHOC Program team. The discussion was about the collaboration in fighting corruption in Cameroon. The CHOC program involved AC Cameroon in the new law on corruption process.

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IX- Relations with NGOs

- Constructive collaboration between AC Cameroon and ADDEC. The first court case has advanced with a complaint brought by ADDEC.
- Discussion with Mouffo Djontu of the NGO "SOS Jeunesse" for a possible collaboration in law of fighting corruption improvement.
- A meeting took place between members of International Community, AC Cameroon and students of ADDEC in order to give more assurance to students of ADDEC who were afraid of personal harm if they use the legal system to fight corruption against a government high official.

X. AC FINANCES

The Expenditure of AC Organisation by budgetary heading in May 08

Amount in FCFA	Item	Details	Amount in USD
126 500	Investigations		\$284,3
181 000	Legal		\$406,7
7 425	Office		\$16,7
249 900	Management		\$561,6
564 825	Total Expenditure		\$1 269,3

Total Expenditure by Donor for the Month of May 08

Amount in FCFA	Donor	Amount in USD
567 325	British High Commission	\$1 350,8
567 325	TOTAL	\$1 350,8

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