

# **REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

Peace – Work – Fatherland  
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## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

8<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE PERIOD

LEGISLATIVE YEAR 2011

3<sup>RD</sup> ORDINARY SESSION

(November 2011)

# **LAW**

## **RELATING TO THE FIGHT AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND SLAVERY**

The National Assembly deliberated and adopted  
at its plenary sitting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2011  
Bill No. 901/PJL/AN set out as follows:

## CHAPTER I

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 1.-** This law relates to the fight against trafficking in persons and slavery.

**SECTION 2.-** For the purpose of this law, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) **A person:** human being of either sex regardless of age;
- b) **Trafficking in persons:** the fact of promoting or ensuring the movement of a person inside or outside Cameroon in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit of whatever nature;
- c) **Slavery in persons:** defined as the recruitment, transfer, accommodation or reception of persons for exploitation, through threat, the use of force or other forms of coercion, kidnapping, fraud, deception, abuse of authority or taking advantage of a state of vulnerability or through offer or acceptance of benefits to obtain the consent of a person having authority over the victim;
- d) **Exploitation of persons:** shall include, at least, the exploitation or promotion of prostitution of persons, or any other forms of sexual exploitation, exploitation of labour, or forced labour, slavery or practices similar to slavery, serfdom or the removal of organs;
- e) **The consent of the person is void:** where acts of violence were committed on the victim himself or on persons having legal or customary custody over him;
- f) **Debt bondage of persons:** the fact of pledging a person as security before a creditor of a loan or a debt for purposes of exploitation.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENT**

**SECTION 3.-** (1) Whoever subjects a person to debt bondage shall be punished with imprisonment for from 5 (five) to 10 (ten) years and a fine of from 10 000 (ten thousand) to 500 000 (five hundred thousand) CFA francs.

(2) The penalties provided for in Section 3 (1) above shall be doubled where the offender is either an ascendant, a guardian or a person having even customary custody over the victim.

(3) Whoever boards a person in debt bondage shall be punished with imprisonment for 10 (ten) years and with fine of from 10 000 (ten thousand) to 1 000 000 (one million) CFA francs.

**SECTION 4.-** Whoever engages even occasionally in the practice of trafficking in persons or slavery shall be punished with imprisonment of from 10 (ten) to 20 (twenty) years and with fine of from 50 000 (fifty thousand) to 1 000 000 (one million) CFA francs.

**SECTION 5.-** Whoever engages in trafficking in persons and slavery shall be punished with imprisonment for from 15 (fifteen) to 20 (twenty) years and with fine of from 100 000 (one hundred thousand) to 10 000 000 (ten million) CFA francs where:

- the offence is committed against a minor of 15 years;
- the perpetrator is a legitimate, natural or adopted ascendant of the victim;
- the offender has authority over the victim or is expected to participate by virtue of his duties in the fight against slavery or peace keeping;
- the offence is committed by an organized gang or an association of criminals;

- the offence is committed with the use of a weapon;
- the victim sustains injuries as described in Section 277 of the Penal Code; or
- where the victim dies as a result of acts related to the offence.

**SECTION 6.-** (1) Offenders, co-offenders and accomplices of crimes of debt bondage, trafficking in persons and slavery shall, in addition, be sentenced to the accessory penalties provided for under Section 30 of the Penal Code.

(2) Accessory penalties provided for under Sections 33, 34, and 35 of the Penal Code may also be handed down.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 7.-** This law repeals all previous provisions repugnant hereto, notably law No. 2005/15 of 29 December 2005 relating to the fight against child trafficking and slavery.

**SECTION 8.-** This law shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French.

**YAOUNDE,**

**CAVAYE YEGUIE Djibril**  
PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY