

CAMEROON DORGELESSE NGUESSAN



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Jailed for attending her first protest

Two years ago, Dorgelesse Nguessan was busy running her hairdressing business and supporting her family. Although she'd never been politically active, concerns about the state of the economy prompted her to join her first ever protest, a peaceful demonstration in the city of Douala on 22 September 2020.

Security forces fired rubber bullets, tear gas and water cannons to disperse protesters. As Dorgelesse turned into an alleyway, police followed her and fellow protesters, blocking them in. She was arrested, taken to a police

station and held in a cell with 22 other people and only one bed.

Dorgelesse was subsequently charged with 'insurrection, assembly, meetings and public demonstrations' and sentenced to five years in jail. She is now in Douala Central Prison. The breadwinner of her family, Dorgelesse has an 18-year-old son with sickle cell anaemia – because she is behind bars, her relatives are struggling to pay for his medication.

Send a message of support and solidarity

Dorgelesse Nguessan
c/o Central Africa Team
Amnesty International
West and Central Africa Regional Office
Pointe E, Rue 34
Immeuble Malaado Piazza, 6ème Etage
B.P. 47582 Liberté
Dakar
Senegal

Language French or English

Suggested message We act with you

Creative action Write Dorgelesse a message of solidarity and hope, take a photo of it and post it on social media, using the hashtag #freedorgelesse. On Facebook, make sure you tag Dorgelesse

f @dorgelesse.nguessan

Her family will share the messages with her.

Can I

Send a religious card or message? Yes

Send an Amnesty card or mention

Amnesty? Yes

Include my name and address? Yes

Send an appeal letter

Urge the president to release Dorgelesse Nguessan from prison immediately and unconditionally.

Write to President of the Republic of Cameroon Paul Biya
Palais Présidentiel
Yaoundé
Cameroon

✉ cellcom@prc.cm

🐦 @PR_Paul_BIYA

📘 @PaulBiya.PageOfficielle

📷 @presidentpaulbiya

Salutation Dear President

In your letter ask him to release Dorgelesse from prison immediately and unconditionally, as she has been detained solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression and assembly.

'Everything was falling apart. Life was getting more and more expensive. And my "livelihood" wasn't making any money. I said, "Well, if my voice can help inspire actual change in my country, why not?" That was what motivated me.'

Dorgelesse Nguessan

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FOR
RIGHTS
2022**

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