



CAMEROON

POPULATION SIZE¹
14.5 million

GDP
US\$25 billion

GDP PER CAPITA
US\$2,400

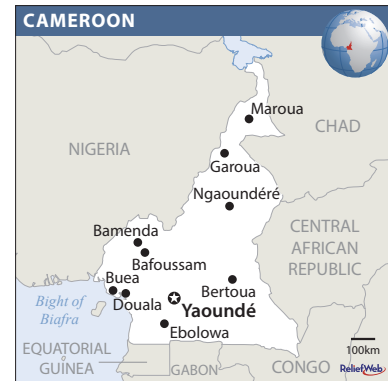
EXPORTS
US\$6 billion

EXPORT ABSORBED BY U.S.
US\$330 million (5.5%)

IMPORTS
US\$6.8 billion

IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.
US\$299 million (4.4%)

U.S. ASSISTANCE
US\$25.6 million²



Map Sources: UNCS, OCHA.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created Jun 2010 - www.reference.com

CAMEROON'S criminal code penalizes "sexual relations with a person of the same sex" with conviction carrying a prison term of six months to five years and fines of over US\$400. Since the mid-2000s, this provision has been used to harass and intimidate LGBT individuals and those who advocate on their behalf. Research shows that people arrested and detained under these laws are beaten, threatened with rape and subjected to anal examinations in custody, among other abuses.

Due to the political climate in which prominent community leaders condemn LGBT individuals as evil, those detained under the criminal laws are likely to be beaten by other prisoners, or potentially sexually abused. Prison

authorities and guards offer no protection.³ In March 2011, Jean-Claude Roger Mbede was sentenced to three years in prison for homosexuality for sending an affectionate text message to a friend.⁴

In July 2013, Eric Lembembe, a prominent gay human rights defender and journalist, was found tortured and killed in his home.⁵ So far, authorities

in Cameroon have ignored calls from the United Nations and others to fully investigate Lembembe's killing and bring the perpetrators to justice.

There is no legislation to protect employees against discrimination based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

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¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all trade and demography data from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook found at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> (accessed on July 18, 2014), and refers to 2013.

² Department of State, "Congressional Budget Justification, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, Fiscal Year 2015," March 4, 2014, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/222898.pdf> (accessed on July 18, 2014).

³ *Criminalizing Identities: Rights Abuses in Cameroon based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, Alternatives Cameroon, ADEFHO, Human Rights Watch, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, published November 2010, Note 1.

⁴ "Gay man jailed in Cameroon has died, says lawyer," Associated Press in Cameroon, published in *The Guardian* (London, UK), 13 January 2014.

⁵ Afua Hirsch, "Cameroon gay rights activist found tortured and killed," *The Guardian* (London, UK), 18 July 2013.