The political system is at a turning point

Violence will likely escalate

Potential Consequences

TO WATCH

Perceptions of Biya’s physical stamina; cost of living or new economic measures fuelling protests; political campaign in lead-up to 2025 election; inflammatory discourse on social media.

Political factions could leverage their influence over different elements of the security services and whip up existing ethnic tensions, especially via social media.

Any protests over the high cost of living, following the removal of fuel subsidies in February for example, could prompt calls for a political transition.

Biya may yet hang on and run in the 2025 presidential election, or pass the baton to a handpicked heir, but either could still trigger resistance from sections of the ruling party or a revamped opposition.

Anglophone separatists could launch more deadly attacks once they obtain expected larger volumes of weapons from various locations.

Biafra separatists in neighbouring Nigeria (known as IPOB), now allied to Ambazonia Governing Council (AGovC), one of Cameroon’s Anglophone factions, could step up attacks on Cameroon’s Anglophone communities and places an additional care burden on women.

As the conflict drags on with no resolution in sight, and hampered humanitarian assistance, the toll on civilians will likely grow. Lack of access to education (almost half the area’s schools have stopped functioning) in particular exacerbates the already serious issues plaguing Cameroon’s Anglophone communities and places an additional care burden on women.

Vigilantes groups/militias will likely continue violent attacks, with a heavy toll on civilians.

Bakassi as a safe haven for armed groups; potential restart of mediation initiatives; deteriorated humanitarian conditions following the separatists’ rejection of international aid support; AU involvement in Cameroon to facilitate a settlement; reallocation of troops to Yaoundé in case of a national crisis.

Potential Consequences

The military deal between separatists could lead to increased insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, an area notorious for piracy, as well as renewed tensions in the Bakassi peninsula, where Cameroon and Nigeria settled a long-standing border dispute in the 2000s.

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