

CAMEROON:

Locked up for sending a text message

Fomusoh Ivo Feh, known by his friends as Ivo, was about to start university when a text message changed everything.



© Ai Weiwei

Late in 2014, the 25-year-old received a text from a friend in the military. The sarcastic message joked that joining the armed group Boko Haram would be easier than getting into university or finding a good job without much experience. The text read “Boko Haram recruits young people from 14 years old and above. Conditions for recruitment: 4 subjects at GCE, including religion”.

Ivo thought the message was funny and forwarded it to a high school friend. And that friend sent it to a student he knows well. Trouble began when the student’s teacher saw the message and reported it to the police. Officers arrested the friend and the student. Then they tracked the message to Ivo and on December 13, they arrested him, too.

Ivo has not been treated well. For the first month, his family did not know where he was. From mid-January to April 2015, prison officials bound his ankles and the ankles of the two friends with chains.

The authorities charged Ivo and his friends Afuh Nivelte Nfor and Azah Levis Gob with trying to organize a rebellion against the state. On 2 November 2016, a military court sentenced all three to serve 10 years in prison for “crimes” related to terrorism.

They shouldn’t have to pay with their futures for sharing a private joke.

Sending a text message is not a crime. Insist that Cameroon frees Ivo without delay.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 19, Universal
Declaration of Human
Rights

To take action, go to the next page.

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the president of Cameroon.

- ◆ Start with Dear President.
- ◆ Describe who you are and what concerns you about the detention of Fomusoh Ivo Feh and his friends.
- ◆ Ask him to free Ivo and his friends. Afuh Nivelle Nfor and Azah Levis Gob.

Send your message to

President of the Republic of Cameroon
His Excellency Paul Biya
P.O. Box 95
Yaoundé, Cameroon

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: 011 3722 221 9376
Email: cellcom@prc.cm or
contact@presidenceducameroun.com
Twitter: @PR_Paul_Biya

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Anu'a-Gheyle Solomon Azoh-Mbi
High Commission for Cameroon
170 Clemow Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1S 2B4

Postage: \$2.50
Fax: (613) 236 3885
Email: cameroun@rogers.com

Sample Tweet

I'm writing for #FomusohIvoFeh, jailed for 10 years for texting a joke in #Cameroon.

@PR_Paul_Biya: Free him now! #W4R16

#Write4Rights



Show Ivo you're with him.

Send messages of solidarity and hope to Ivo and his friend to help keep their spirits strong. Postage is \$2.50.

Fomusoh Ivo Feh
Délégation régionale de
l'administration pénitentiaire
Prison principale de Yaoundé
s/c Prison centrale de Yaoundé
B.P. 100
Yaoundé, Cameroun

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