



American Society  
of International Law

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**STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SEAN D. MURPHY CONCERNING THE  
ARREST AND DETENTION OF PROFESSOR MAURICE KAMTO IN  
CAMEROON**

WASHINGTON, DC – The following is a statement by Sean D. Murphy, President of the American Society of International Law:

The American Society of International Law expresses its deep concern about the arrest and continuing detention of Professor Maurice Kamto in Cameroon since 28 January 2019, and the institution of proceedings on charges that could carry the death penalty. Professor Kamto is a distinguished and globally respected jurist in the field of international law, a former dean of the faculty of juridical and political sciences at the University of Yaoundé II, and a former member and chairman of the U.N. International Law Commission. We call upon the authorities of Cameroon to ensure full and immediate respect for the fundamental rights, freedoms, and procedural guarantees to which Professor Kamto is entitled.

We note comparable expressions of concern by others, including the [U.N. Secretary-General](#), the [U.N. International Law Commission](#), and the [Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa](#).

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**About the American Society of International Law**

The American Society of International Law is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational membership organization founded in 1906 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950. Its mission is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Society holds Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and is a constituent society of the American Council of Learned Societies.

The Society's 3,500 members come from more than 100 countries, including scholars and practitioners, judges and government officials, representatives of governments and nongovernmental organizations, students, and others interested in international law.

Through its meetings, publications, information services, and outreach programs, ASIL advances international law scholarship and education for international law professionals as well as for broader policy-making audiences and the public.

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