



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

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## CAMEROON JUVENILE JUSTICE

### VIDEO

CU. PASCAL, YOUNG INMATE  
STARING AT THE PRISON CELL  
WINDOW

OPEN SEWER

CU. PASCAL ON CAMERA

MS. DARK SCENE. PASCAL  
STARING AT CAMERA FROM HIS  
BUNKBED.

INMATES PLAYING BOARD GAME

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Living life behind bars. Pascal is just one of 85 juvenile inmates doing time in Douala's Newbell Prison. Here they live on top of each other. They sleep, eat and wash in an area meant for only 30 prisoners. An open sewer runs through their cellblock, and all the mattresses are lice ridden. In Yaounde's Central prison some boys are forced to sleep on the floor. (23")

#### PASCAL: (Local Dialect)

**M**

*"It's crowded; there are not enough beds for all the boys. Some boys have to sleep on the benches."*  
(5.75")

#### NARRATION

Pascal is only 14 years old. He was arrested for stealing, and although he's been here for over 10 months, he has still not been tried. Many of the boys are here for even lesser crimes such as begging or smoking and unless they are able to pay bribes, they too wait months and sometimes even

years for their day in court. (18.25")

HAND HOLDS ON CELL BAR

17-year-old Bernard has been here for over three years. It took two of those years for his case to get to court, and now with nine months to go until the end of his sentence, he feels he's lost out on life. (11.33")

BERNARD, YOUNG INMATE,  
TALKS (PARTLY HIDDEN FROM  
CAMERA).

BERNARD: (English) **M**  
*"My mother comes here to visit me. She brings me food, she talks to me, she gives me consolation and she brings me some money. And I heard after that she was sick, and she could never come here again; she was in the hospital. Then after I heard that her sickness was very bad, and the last time, they came and told me that she was dead. I have a very big pain because she was my only support here, and now she died. Since then, nobody comes here to visit me."* (30")

CU. BOYS FACES / SITTING ON  
GROUND.

NARRATION  
Apart from the inhumane conditions, minors are also vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse by older inmates. HIV and Aids are rampant. (7.5")

WS. EXTERNAL SHOT OF PRISON  
BUILDING  
FLAG  
BOYS WATCHING TELEVISION  
BOY READING

But UNICEF, in partnership with Cameroon's Ministry of Social Affairs, is working to improve conditions for minors in the country's prisons. Televisions, educational materials, books, beds and blankets have been provided while UNICEF trains judicial, police and prison officers on the correct treatment of children in conflict with the law. (18")

GROUP OF JUDICIAL POLICE

GROUP OF INMATES, COVERING  
THEIR FACES

But the ultimate aim is to get Cameroon's children  
out of prison and into rehabilitation centres.

VARIOUS SHOTS OF THE  
CENTRE UNDER GOING  
CONSTRUCTION.

Preparation is under way for one such centre in  
Douala, and will provide schooling, workshops and  
most importantly, space. While they will be under  
constant surveillance – with one social worker come  
warder to every ten boys – they at least will have a  
better chance at life. (20")

DOORS UNDER REPAIR  
BUNK BEDS

The Centre will be run by Madame Asana Ngwenyi,  
a director at the Ministry of Social affairs. (5.5")

ASANA REBECCA NGWENYI,  
CENTRE DIRECTOR, ON CAMERA

ASANA NGWENYI: (English) **F**  
*"Here we have workshops which the prison doesn't  
have, we have school facilities where they can go  
through their formal education and the prison  
doesn't provide that. And from here they will go to  
colleges or they go open their workshops outside  
and it will be better."* (13")

CU OF YOUNG INMATE  
VARIOUS SHOTS OF JUVENILES  
INSIDE PRISON.

NARRATION  
Getting juveniles out of prison and into rehabilitation  
centres also means removing them from hardened  
criminals who could become teachers or role  
models. It is in prison that many juveniles, originally  
arrested for petty crimes, learn how, and are  
encouraged, to commit serious offences later on.  
(17.5")

ASANA REBECCA NGWENYI ON  
CAMERA

ASANA NGWENYI: (English) **F**  
*"The situation in the prison... you will see that  
some minors are at the primary stage of*

*delinquency. They now leave primary delinquency to secondary delinquency, and it becomes difficult to treat. A structure like this will help them in the sense that they will place them immediately here and we can get them out of delinquency and put them in the normal cycle of society.” (17.5”)*

#### NARRATION

BERNARD AND HIS PAINTING  
GROUP OF POLICE /  
WS. DUMPING TRASH INTO A  
GARBAGE BIN

Back in Newbell Prison, Bernard’s painting depicts a freedom he hasn’t known for three long years. Eventually he will be let out but without an education or practical skills, life on the outside looks bleak. (13”)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Guy Hubbard for the United Nations. (4)