Improved efficiency in the fight against slavery in the South countries: the case of Cameroon

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The fight against slavery is a serious issue and it is during the action of my initiative. But more personally, I would say it is for me a key issue for combating poverty in Africa and mainly in Cameroon. This initiative is based only in Cameroon, as an expert in human rights in local development and promotion of civil society organizations, I have during my many work at how this subject permeated the entire international community in general and Cameroon in particular. Aware of this critical situation, the subject is often placed under the broader term of respect for human rights and transparency, but we lack the courage often be very direct about the extent of the problem.

Slavery was the first to violate human rights, which has greatly concerned the international community. Universally condemned, slavery-like practices remain, however, a serious and persistent problem in the late 20th century. Indeed, slavery may be illegal, it is difficult to get a clear idea of the extent of slavery and more to discover, punish or eliminate it. The situation is complicated by the fact that victims of abuse in general slave belong to social groups the poorest and most vulnerable. Fear and the need to ensure their survival does not encourage talking.

GICAR-CAM nevertheless enough evidence to show that slavery is significant and widespread. A number alone illustrates the reality, according to a recent estimate by the International Labour Organization (ILO), 100 million children are affected by the exploitation of child labour. As part of the campaign to raise public awareness of human rights, GICAR-CAM, through its working group focuses on modern forms of slavery and the work done at the national level to end and prevent them. The campaign also contains suggestions for local associations and private groups for the Defence of Human Rights, which may help their efforts to build a universal order of human rights where slavery will no longer be tolerated.

The factors that help GICAR-CAM to evaluate its activities in the field of slavery are based on studies conducted on the ground to identify problems concerning slavery analyzed by the Working Group on slavery. This franchise is in itself a positive factor in this fight. I am particularly grateful to the commitment of the international non-governmental organizations and invite the public to invest in the framework of this policy. There is no doubt that some institutions such as the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), ILO, CRIN and Free the Slaves (FTS) are organizations that contribute more in the fight against slavery in Internationally, it is therefore important that all member states are involved.

Relationship between slavery and under-development

Of course, I will not naive to believe there is an automatic link between slavery and under-development without good human resources management, that of States such as those individuals or companies. However, if it happens that some dispute, as far as I am concerned, I have no doubt that slavery is a bad human resources management: note the situation at the micro level, generating inefficiencies daily losses often at the expense of the poor or by directing public funds to projects irrelevant. This is also the same case at the macro level where States is deprived of resources for poverty reduction. In fact, it is not responsible, well-known for roles in our country on this subject, which I doubt on this point.
Beyond the economic losses that represent slavery, it is also important for the image of Cameroon and therefore the level of investment that are willing to spend donors and private enterprises. We are very positive action by Free the Slaves (FTS) and Centre Europe - Tiers Monde (CETIM) to make clear in the public feel that every person who has suffered slavery. But let's face it, slavery is by nature a difficult concept and statistical reliability of such data is necessarily limited. Thus one may fear a strong effect of inertia when a country is not classified, it is seen as poorly managed and its perception index of slavery can hardly improve, regardless of the action of its powers public. Slavery is also a development issue as it affects countries all the more strongly they are poor.

The influence of slavery in some Third World countries

The aim of this initiative would make strongly that we should not stigmatize Africa in general and Cameroon in particular, as many commentators are poorly informed. Certainly, when a country is weak, its institutions are weak, its politicians and officials are poorly paid, and there is a fertile ground for contemporary forms of slavery gangrene population and especially the poor.

We all know that slavery exists at a critical level in all regions of the world. In Asia, America, in Europe it is also very present. The difference is that for some African countries which have natural attractions, it can not conducive to development. That's why I want to briefly mention the actions supported by GICAR-CAM and other organizations like the National Commission of Human Rights and Freedom (CNDHL) at the national level to strengthen the fight against slavery. I would support that, the international initiative developed by the United Nations in this field:

The initiative approved by the Working Group of the United Nations on contemporary forms of slavery, which is to end this amazing paradox is that the poor will always be exploited by the rich as a whole are generally perceived as a to poverty of people in producing countries, political instability and even armed conflicts. Beyond this international initiative, I would like to conclude a few examples of the daily update.

On the one hand it is important to launch an initiative for organizations to promote and protect human rights, which in part aims to help slaves find freedom and ex-slaves to develop an integrated self the formal sector. Because we do not hide, though some organizations, often large do not respect the social or environmental legislation of the countries where they are supposed to operate, it is generally not because the administration had not identified. Any organization dealing with issues of modern slavery must be involved at the initiative of the United Nations that proposes priority sector strategies and implementation should be linked closely with other initiatives welcomed by our governments that are intended not only to strengthen the system of gradual release and increase the resources of developing countries and give them the means to fight against poverty and reduce their dependence on violations of human rights.

These actions are not ideal and the goal is not disappear overnight slavery, but rather plan a model of progressive liberation of slaves. The second example is to involve civil society is one of the main strengths of our entrant actor mobilization of civil society. It is also important to develop our ministries for additional resources to enable them to support more projects of local NGOs in the field of human rights. We have also set up several strategies to strengthen the fight against contemporary forms of slavery at the national level of course, but especially in the context of decentralization.
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Policy GICAR-CAM in the fight against the worst forms of slavery

Protection against violations of human rights that fall within the definition of slavery in the broadest sense is a feature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women under each of the covenants and conventions of each of monitoring the implementation of these instruments by States parties.

In addition, there are in GICAR-CAM commission to receive complaints about violations of human rights, including those that deserve the name of slavery. It should also be mentioned that under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force September 2, 1990 is the newest and potentially the most effective fight against slavery. Because the number of child victims of these practices, if properly applied, it protects children at risk of being exploited sexually, economically and other ways, especially to be sold to the subject of Trafficking and be engaged in armed conflict. The abolition of slavery is one of the concerns of the Millennium Goals for Development is an important aspect in the struggle to improve living conditions for the most vulnerable populations. But the objectives of GICAR-CAM are in the centre, protecting and improving the quality of life.

The activities of CAM-GICAR concerning slavery are developed by its Working Group on Slavery, which is in charge of organizing a study of slavery in all its aspects. He met for 05 days each year and report to the General Assembly. In addition to monitoring the implementation of the conventions on slavery and to examine the situation in different regions of the country, it also annually selects a topic that holds special attention. It met for the 1st time in 2006 and the subject was on preventing the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in 2007, the abolition of child labour and servitude for debt and, in 2008, the prevention of human trafficking and exploitation of prostitution of others. In 2009 and with the support of Free the Slaves, CETIM, OMCT and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the GICAR-CAM’s Working Group evaluate its study of the three subjects and resume the idea of a conference pledging to help end the exploitation of child labour.