

Grow

Build

Change



Emergency Motion One

**Violent collapse of the
banana sector in Cameroon**

GMB Congress 2019

GMB CONGRESS 2019 BRIGHTON

EMERGENCY MOTION ONE

VIOLENT COLLAPSE OF THE BANANA SECTOR IN CAMEROON

This Congress notes that the political crisis in Anglophone Cameroon is putting in jeopardy the livelihoods of thousands of banana plantation workers and the continued existence of the Fako Agricultural Workers Union (FAWU) that represents them.

The Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC) is one of the biggest private sector employers in Cameroon, but as a result of violence on the part of both the security forces and Anglophone separatists, the company has had to close 22 of its 29 plantations costing the company 53 million Euros and this figure rises daily.

Since mid-February 2019, not only have the workers been forced to flee from their homes and work, but the FAWU union has virtually collapsed - with no income and no work. Workers have been attacked including having their fingers cut off and many plantations have been cut down leaving decaying banana crops.

GMB, through its International Solidarity Fund has supported the work of FAWU, which is a fellow member of the International Union of Foodworkers (IUF), in particular an education programme for union representatives on plantations run between 2013 and 2016, which was supported by IUF and Banana Link.

We call on our international trade union affiliates including EUROBAN and the UK Government to lobby the Government of Cameroon to engage in dialogue with the Anglophone separatists, with the aim of bringing peace to the region and rebuild the union structures.

We call on Congress to send a message of solidarity to FAWU and to work with IUF and Banana Link to set up a fundraising appeal to save the union from complete collapse.

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