

***Echoes from Prison***  
***The Political Imagination of Cameroonian ex-Ministers***

Ever since President Biya started the “*Opération Épervier*” which led to the arrest of several top-ranking personalities who served in his cabinet, a new political literature has fuelled the public sphere. In addition to Marafa Hamidou Yaya who has consistently published open letters (eight to date) in national newspapers and international venues (*Le Monde* and *Jeune Afrique*), at least three other “*prisonniers de luxe*” have published books which speak to their experience or to what may be called a new political imagination.

This paper aims to examine the ways in the intellectual productions of Marafa Hamidou Yaya, Jean-Marie Atangana Mabara, Titus Edzoa and Jean-Baptiste Nguini Effa can help map out new dynamics of a national political discourse. In considering their writings, this paper wishes to go beyond Michel Foucault and Giorgio Agamben’s theorization on the subordination of the body. It will determine the complexity of a kind of authoritarianism that, while subjecting the body and controlling the political agenda, allows for a free imagination in spite of what, by several accounts, appears like a “criminalization of the enemy” (Agamben).

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**Biography**

**Alexie Tcheuyap** is Professor French at the University of Toronto. In addition to *Autoritarisme, presse et violence au Cameroun* (Paris, Karthala, 2014, forthcoming), he has published *Postnationalist African Cinemas* (Manchester UP, 2011), *De l’écrit à l’écran* (Ottawa, U of Ottawa P, 2005), *Esthétique et folie dans l’oeuvre romanesque de Pius Ngandu Nkashama* (Paris, L’Harmattan, 1998). He is Editor of the *Canadian Journal of African Studies* and President of the Canadian Association of African Studies.