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PRESS RELEASE

AIPC's Statement on Media Reporting on the Omicron Variant of the COVID-19 virus

The Ambazonia International Policy Commission (AIPC) condemns the negative reporting on the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus by some sections of the international media. Case in point is an article titled "Das Virus aus Afrika is bei uns" (The African virus is here) featuring a picture of an African mother and child, which was published by the German newspaper *Rheinpfalz am Sonntag* on Sunday 28th November 2021.

For the sake of clarity, the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus was first identified by South African Scientists, but it could have originated from anywhere in the world. Portraying it in the media as a black Africa virus is false and has the potential to needlessly incite xenophobic reactions towards Africans all over the world.

The AIPC calls for more responsible reporting around the COVID-19 pandemic as the world seeks greater transnational collaboration in effort to eradicate this once-in-a-lifetime threat to public health.

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