

URGENT ACTION

CHADIAN ACTIVISTS HELD OVER PEACEFUL PROTEST

Mahamat Nour Ibedou, Younous Mahadjir, Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Celine Narmadji are being detained by the judicial police of N'Djamena, Chad, for planning to organise peaceful demonstrations that were to take place on 22 March and 29 March, to protest against President Idriss Deby's re-election bid. They are charged with 'disturbing public order' and 'disobeying a lawful order'.

Mahamat Nour Ibedou and **Younous Mahadjir**, spokespersons of the civil society organisations platform 'Ça suffit' ('It's enough' in French) were arrested on 21 March and 22 March respectively. **Nadjo Kaina Palmer**, coordinator of the youth movement 'Iyina' ('We are tired' in local Arabic) was arrested on 22 March. **Celine Narmadji**, spokesperson of the civil society movement 'Trop c'est trop!' ('Enough is enough' in French) was arrested on 23 March. All four were arrested after reporting to the judicial police headquarters for questioning on orders from the Public Prosecutor Alghassim Khamis. They are currently being detained at the judicial police headquarters in N'Djamena.

Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Celine Narmadji's homes were respectively searched by officers from the judicial police and the National Agency of Security on 21 March and 22 March respectively. At Nadjo Kaina Palmer's home, his national identity card, posters and whistles for the planned demonstrations and millet flour were taken away and his brother Ézéchiel Kaina, who was found in the house, was arrested and taken into custody before being released on 22 March around 7pm. Three judicial police officers spent the night in Nadjo Kaina Palmer's home waiting for him.

The four activists on behalf of their respective organisations, were planning to organise peaceful public demonstrations which would have taken place on 22 March and 29 March. The demonstrations were being organised to protest against the current President Idriss Deby's bid for re-election for a fifth mandate. All four activists have been charged with 'disturbing public order' and 'disobeying a lawful order'.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Calling on Chadian authorities to immediately release and drop all charges against Mahamat Nour Ibedou, Younous Mahadjir, Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Celine Narmadji;
- Urging them to ensure that, pending their release, the four activists are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and have access to a lawyer of their choice, to family visits and to all basic necessities;
- Urging the authorities to end all forms of harassment against all human rights activists and defenders and political activists in Chad;
- Urging them to protect and ensure right to freedom of expression and assembly for all in conformity with Chad's international human rights obligations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 MAY 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Dr. Ateib Idriss Halawlaw
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation: Dear Minister

Public Prosecutor

Alghassim Khamis
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Tribunal de Grande Instance
P.O. Box: 426
N'Djamena, Chad
Email: alghassimk21@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security and Immigration

Ahmat Mahamat Bachir
Ministry of Public Security and Immigration
N'Djamena, Chad
Email: bachiram62@gmail.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

CHADIAN ACTIVISTS HELD OVER PEACEFUL PROTEST

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

14 candidates are running for president in Chad in the next presidential elections that will be held on 10 April. The electoral campaign started on 20 March.

Amongst the candidates is the current Chadian President Idriss Deby who has been in power for 25 years after toppling Hissene Habre in 1990 and is seeking fifth term in office. In 2005, the Constitution was amended and the two-term limit on presidential tenure was eliminated.

For security reasons, on 19 March, the Chadian Minister of Public Security and Immigration, Ahmat Mahamat Bachir, publicly announced that all public demonstrations not part of the election campaigns were forbidden.

From information received by partners in Chad, several human rights activists and defenders have gone into hiding since 21 March as the police and national security agency are looking to arrest them for their involvement in the platform 'ça suffit' and the youth movement 'Iyina'.

Amnesty international published a press release on 22 March calling for the immediate release of Mahamat Nour Ibedou and Nadjo Kaina Palmer - <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2016/03/tchad-les-autorites-doivent-liberer-deux-activistes-arrets-pour-avoir-prepare-une-manifestation-pacifique/>

Name: Mahamat Nour Ibedou (m), Younous Mahadjir (m), Nadjo Kaina Palmer (m) and Celine Narmadji (f)
Gender m/f: both

UA: 68/16 Index: AFR 20/3700/2016 Issue Date: 24 March 2016