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**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT, 1 EASTON STREET, LONDON WC1X 8DJ, UNITED
KINGDOM**

1.ADOUM MAHAMAT SALEH (AI concern : Extrajudicial execution/torture)

Adoum Mahamat Saleh is one of hundreds of unarmed civilians who have been killed in Chad. He was extrajudicially executed in January 1994 by members of the security forces.

Background to case

Hundreds of unarmed civilians in Chad have been killed in reprisal killings by members of the armed forces and gendarmerie who operate with almost total impunity. Reprisals against civilians increasingly take the form of extrajudicial executions or "disappearances".

In January 1994, the *Front national du Tchad* (FNT), Chad National Front, took control of the town of Abéché where Adoum Mahamat Saleh lived with his family, in the northeast of the country, for several hours. In the aftermath of the attack on Abéché, government soldiers are reported to have rampaged through areas of Abéché carrying out reprisal killings on unarmed civilians. According to information received by Amnesty International and Chadian human rights organizations who went to the area to investigate the incident, at least 200 unarmed civilians were extrajudicially executed by government forces within the first few days of the attack. Others are reported to have "disappeared". The *Garde républicaine*, Republican Guard, is believed to have played a significant part in the killings. There were also widespread reports of torture and ill-treatment.

The chief of the Kabartou district, Abbo Annour, father of Adoum Mahamat Saleh, and another son were killed, made the following statement :

"After the FNT had fled, the security forces started to search houses. They came to my house. There were lots of them. While the rest were searching my house, one of them asked me if I had harboured FNT members. My two sons were next to me. They asked me who they were. Without giving me time to reply they said that these were certainly the people they were looking for, who I had hidden. I told them that these two boys were my sons. We were still talking when one of them loaded his gun and emptied it onto my sons. They were killed outright." He continued, "I had a lucky escape. They fired two rounds at me but I didn't even get a scratch. So one of them hit me violently on the back with the butt of his gun." Two months later the scars from this were still visible.

A government inquiry took place but the findings were apparently not followed up by any action, nor were they discussed within the parliament. Nor is the government known to have made use of the findings of an inquiry made by a Chadian human rights group.

What you can do :

Write to President Déby and the head of the security forces raising the following points :

- ask the government to immediately investigate the killing of Adoum Mahamat Saleh, and to make public its findings.
- urge the government to investigate all reports of human rights violations. Such investigations should take place promptly and their findings be made public. Urge the government to make use of independent inquiries.
- call on the government to end immediately the practice of effectively granting impunity to members of the security forces who commit violations
- demand that the government take steps to ensure that soldiers receive instruction about humane treatment of the civilian population and of prisoners during military operations. Any soldier suspected of abusing these rights should be brought to justice.
- argue that the Republican Guard is directly responsible to the President who is commander of the Republican Guard, and that the President must therefore ensure that members of the Republican Guard cooperate fully with the investigations of gross violations of human rights such as torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution and the bringing to justice of those responsible.

Addresses for appeals :

Colonel Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

Colonel Becher
Chef d'Etat-Major Général
Armée nationale tchadienne
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

2.JUSTIN HELKOM AND RAYMOND DJEKOUJAWA **(AI Concern : Extrajudicial execution/ill-treatment)**

Justin HELKOM, aged 15, and **Raymond DJEKOUJAWA**, aged 16, were extrajudicially executed in August 1994 by members of the *Garde Républicaine*, Republican Guard, in Kaga, southwest Chad, in reprisal for the attempted ambush of some government soldiers by the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), an armed opposition group.

Background to case

Between 13 and 14 August 1994 in reprisal for an attempted ambush of some government soldiers by members of the FARF, members of the army and Republican Guard forced the inhabitants of three villages, Kaga, Mabla and Heuri to assemble. At least 31 civilians including Justin and Philippe were then arbitrarily selected and shot. In Kaga, the main village of the district, the head of the town, Djekoubam Bolbe, and some village chiefs were tied up and beaten by soldiers. Soldiers also set fire to houses.

The Minister for the Civil Service led a government delegation of seven people, including a gendarme, a military representative and a member of the transitional government, to investigate this incident. Their findings are not known to have been made public.

What you can do :

Write to President Déby and the head of the security forces raising the following points :

- express concern at the extrajudicial execution of at least 31 civilians, including two children, Justin Helkom and Philippe Djekoudjawa, and of the ill-treatment of Djekoubam Bolbe and others by members of the security forces including the Republican Guard.
- urge that the findings of the government inquiry be made public. Urge moreover that the government investigate all reports of human rights violations.
- demand that the government end its practice of effectively granting impunity to the security forces. Demand that they be made accountable for their actions and that those found guilty of human rights violations be brought to justice.
- demand that the government establish strict control over all security force units engaged in counter insurgency operations and over all officials responsible for arrests, detention and imprisonment.
- argue that the Republican Guard is directly responsible to the President who is commander of the Republican Guard, and that the President must therefore

ensure that members of the Republican Guard cooperate fully with the investigations of gross violations of human rights such as torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution and the bringing to justice of those responsible.

Addresses for appeals

Colonel Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
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Chef d'Etat-Major Général
Armée nationale tchadienne
NDJAMENA
Republic of Chad

3.YACOUB ISSAKA (AI Concern : Death penalty/Fair trial)

Yacoub Issaka was sentenced to death on 20 November 1994 for his alleged role in a massacre which took place on 4 August 1994 in Gniguim, southwest Chad. He is not thought to have had proper legal representation at his trial and has no right to appeal against the sentence.

Background to case

On 20 November 1994 a group of armed men opened fire on civilians praying in the market place in Gniguim. At least 64 people were killed and 68 injured. Yacoub Issakha was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Four others were sentenced to death in absentia. AI is concerned that the trial did not conform to international standards of fairness. Yacoub Issakha is not thought to have had proper legal representation at his trial, and under the Chadian constitution he does not have the right to appeal to a higher court against his sentence or conviction, a fundamental right guaranteed by Article 14(5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and UN Economic and Social Council safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

No executions are known to have been carried out in Chad since 1991, when three soldiers were publicly executed after having been sentenced to death by a special military court. They had no right to appeal.

What you can do :

Write to President Déby and the Minister of Justice raising the following points :

- stress that the death penalty is a violation of the fundamental right to life and as such it perpetuates rather than solves human rights problems ;
- point out that the death penalty has not been shown to be an effective deterrent to violent crime;
- call for all death sentences to be commuted including that of Yacoub Issaka and for the death penalty to be abolished for all offences;
- until the death penalty is abolished, prisoners charged with capital offences should receive a fair trial in accordance with international standards. They should have the right to a defence lawyer of their choice and the right to appeal to a higher court. Express concern that Yacoub Issakha has been denied this right.
- urge that the Chadian government ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Addresses for appeals

Colonel Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA
Republic of Chad

Monsieur Loum Hinassou LAINA
Ministre de la Justice,
et Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
N'DJAMENA
Republic of Chad

4.MAHAMAT KOTY YACHOUB (AI concern - torture)

Mahamat Koty Yachoub was arrested in July 1994 by members of the Agence Nationale de Sécurité (ANS), the Chadian secret police, and by members of the Republican Guard, both units under the command of the President. During his detention Mahamat Koty Yachoub was subjected to ill-treatment and torture. He was released in December 1994 following a presidential amnesty.

Background to case

Mahamat Koty Yachoub was initially held incommunicado for a period of 45 days and in the first days of his detention, he was reportedly beaten with a stick until he lost consciousness. For the duration of his incommunicado detention, he was held in a toilet transformed as a prison cell. His hands were tied behind his back and only untied for a few minutes every three or four days to allow him to eat. A medical examination following his release in December 1994 revealed partial paralysis of his right hand. His wrists and body still bear scars resulting from his being tied up and the beatings.

It appears he was arrested solely because he is the brother of Abbas Koty, former president of the *Conseil National de Redressement (CNR)*, National Council of Redress, an armed opposition group. Abbas Koty was extrajudicially executed by the Republican Guard in the presence of the gendarmerie and the ANS in October 1993. Mahamat Koty Yachoub was accused of working for the CNR, and members of the ANS tried to obtain from him the names of all members of the CNR in the country. Under the terms of a treaty signed by both the Chadian government and the CNR in August 1993, all members of the movement led by Abbas Koty were guaranteed free movement throughout the country and the organisation was to be recognised as a political party.

What you can do :

Write to President Déby raising the following points :

- express concern at the torture of Mahamat Koty Yachoub. Urge that the government investigate these allegations with a view to bringing those responsible to justice.
- urge the government to put an end to incommunicado and secret detention which facilitates torture of prisoners;
- urge the government to publicly condemn the torture and ill-treatment of detainees, including that of Mahamat Koty Yachoub.
- express concern that despite the recommendations of the National Conference and subsequent ratification by the transitional government of the UN convention

against torture, the practice of torture appears to be continuing, and those who perpetuate it appear to operate with impunity.

- urge that Chad adhere to the convention, and ask what concrete steps have been taken to ensure that the practice is abolished in practice.

Addresses for appeals :

Colonel Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
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N'DJAMENA
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Monsieur Abderamane Izzo Miskine
Ministre de l'Intérieur
Ministère de l'Intérieur
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad