

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 49/05/90
Distr: UA/SC

UA 419/90

Extrajudicial Execution

16 October 1990

SENEGAL: Kaoussou TAMBA
Aliou TAMBA
Malick TAMBA
Dembo TAMBA
Souleymane GOUDIABY

The five men named above, all peasant-farmers from Kanaw village in Senegal's southern Casamance region, situated on the frontier with the Gambia, are reported to have been executed extrajudicially on 21 September 1990 by members of the Senegalese armed forces. They were arrested that day when several dozen soldiers entered their village, apparently with a list of villagers suspected of providing guns and ammunition to insurgents active in the area, fighting for the independence of Casamance region.

The soldiers searched the houses and gathered all the adult male villagers into one place, forcing them to lie face down on the ground. Several villagers, including the five named above, were subjected to beatings, and some were reportedly injured. Later on, the five men were bundled into army vehicles and taken away. The villagers found their dead bodies later in a rice field on the Senegalese side of the village.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In recent months Amnesty International has received reports of both the torture and extrajudicial execution of Casamance villagers suspected by the armed forces of being in collusion with the armed insurgents. They have been detained after attacks by insurgents on civilian and military targets or after skirmishes between armed insurgents and the security forces. Many villagers have left Senegal to seek refuge in neighbouring Gambia.

A political movement known as Mouvement des forces démocratiques de la Casamance, Movement of Casamance Democratic Forces, seeking the independence of Casamance, has dramatically increased the scale of its operations against government forces and civilian targets since May 1990. Several people have died as a result of these attacks.

In May 1990 Amnesty International published a report on the use of torture in Senegal between 1982 and 1988. The government has refused to accept that the report is accurate or to implement many of its recommendations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern that the five men named above were executed extrajudicially after being detained by Senegalese soldiers;
- requesting information on the circumstances surrounding the killings of the five men;
- urging the government to order a full, independent and impartial investigation of the report of extrajudicial executions;

- asking the government to issue clear instructions to the security forces indicating that the killing of prisoners is forbidden by both Senegalese law and international law dealing with all forms of armed conflict.

APPEALS TO

Monsieur Médoune FALL
Ministre des Forces Armées
Immeuble administratif
Dakar
SENEGAL

Telegrams: Ministre des Forces Armées, Dakar, Sénégal
Telexes: 21650 MINAFET SG

Monsieur Sérigne Lamine DIOP
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Dakar
SENEGAL

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Dakar, Sénégal
Telexes: 21650 MINAFET SG

Son Excellence
Monsieur Seydina Oumar SY
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
Dakar
SENEGAL

Telegrams: Ministre Affaires Etrangères, Dakar, Sénégal
Telexes: 21650 MINAFET SG

COPIES TO:

Walfadjri
Sicap Sacré coeur No 8542
BP 572
Dakar, Sénégal

Le Cafard Libéré
BP 7292
Dakar, Sénégal

and to diplomatic representatives of Senegal in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 November 1990.