

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 57/06/99

UA 112/99

Fear of torture / Fear for safety / Prisoners of conscience

18 May 1999

TOGONADJOMBE Antoine Koffi, human rights defender

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Nadjombe Antoine Koffi, a Togolese Amnesty International member, arrested on 14 May 1999 in the capital, Lomé. He is being held at the *Sûreté Nationale* (National Security Service) of Lomé, where he is at risk of torture.

Amnesty International considers Nadjombe Antoine Koffi to be a prisoner of conscience detained solely because of his human rights work for Amnesty International. His arrest is linked to an Amnesty International report, published in May, accusing the Togolese government of allowing the security forces to carry out grave human rights violations with impunity before, during and after the elections in 1998. His wife was arrested with him but released two days later.

Human rights defenders Tengue Nestor and Gayibor François were arrested by police, together with Sant'Anna Brice, in Lomé, on 3 May 1999, also in connection with the Amnesty International report. (See UA 58/99, AFR 57/04/99, 7 May 1999.) They remain in detention. Amnesty International considers all three to be prisoners of conscience.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For years there has been a constant stream of reports of human rights violations in Togo. Extrajudicial executions and "disappearances" are carried out with total impunity in the country, ruled since 1967 by President Gnassingbé Eyadéma. Arbitrary arrests are followed by torture and ill-treatment, sometimes resulting in deaths in custody. These violations are largely attributable to the security forces who have acted for years without being accountable to the law.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Nadjombe Antoine Kofi, and urging the authorities to ensure that he is not tortured or ill-treated in custody;
- expressing concern that he is being detained solely because of his human rights work and as such that you consider him to be a prisoner of conscience;
- calling on the Togolese authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO:

President of the Republic

Son Excellence

Monsieur le Général Gnassingbé Eyadéma

Président de la République, Palais Présidentiel, Avenue de la Marina,

Lomé, Togo

Telegrams:Président, Lomé, Togo

Faxes: + 228 21 68 12 (attention of Président de la République)

Salutation:Son Excellence / Your Excellency

Minister of the Interior

Général de Brigade Séyi Memene

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité, Ministère de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité, Rue Albert Sarraut, Lomé, Togo

Telegrams:Ministre l'Intérieur, Lomé, Togo
Salutation:Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

M. Bitokotipou Yagninim

Garde des Sceaux, Ministre de la Justice, Ministère de la Justice, Avenue de la Marina, Rue Colonel de Roux, Lomé, Togo

Telegrams:Ministre Justice, Lomé, Togo
Salutation:Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Public Prosecutor

Monsieur Yaya Abdoulaye

Procureur Général, BP 342, Lomé, Togo

Telegrams:Procureur Général, Lomé, Togo
Salutation:Monsieur le Procureur Général / Dear Procureur

COPIES TO:

Crocodile (Newspaper), BP 60087 Lomé, Togo

Togo presse, BP 891 Lomé, Togo

and to diplomatic representatives of Togo accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 June 1999.