

PUBLIC

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3 December 1999

Further information on EXTRA 168/99 (AFR 17/12/99, 26 November 1999) - Fear of "disappearance" / Extrajudicial execution

CAMEROON Mr Tchambou

Mr Tchambou has been returned to the custody of the gendarmerie, the paramilitary police, in Maroua. He does not appear to have been ill-treated and has now been allowed to receive visitors.

Mr Tchambou, a member of a non-governmental human rights organization, the *Mouvement pour la défense des droits de l'homme et des libertés* (MDDHL), Movement for the Defence of Human Rights and Liberties, was arrested on 21 November 1999 by the gendarmerie in Maroua, Far-North Province. Amnesty International became concerned for his safety when he was transferred the same day to a detention centre of a special unit of the security services, known as the *brigade anti-gang*, and held incommunicado.

Members of the MDDHL have been harassed and threatened as a result of their investigation into hundreds of killings of criminal suspects by the *brigade anti-gang*.

He has not been charged with any offence and the reasons for his arrest are not clear. It appears that he may have been arrested and detained solely because of his association with the MDDHL.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send E-mails/faxes/express/airmail letters in French, English or in your own language:

- continuing to ask about the reasons for Mr Tchambou's arrest on 21 November 1999 in Maroua, Far-North Province;
- urging his immediate and unconditional release if, as it appears, he has been arrested solely because of his association with the MDDHL and his activities in defence of human rights;
- requesting assurances that his safety be guaranteed while he is in detention.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of State for Defence

M. Amadou Ali

Ministre d'Etat délégué à la Présidence chargé de la Défense

Palais de la Présidence

1000 Yaoundé

République du Cameroun

Faxes: + 237 20 33 06

E-mails: celcom@camnet.cm

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre d'Etat / Dear Minister of State

Head of National Security

M. Luc René Bell

Délégué général à la Sûreté nationale

Sûreté nationale

1000 Yaoundé

République du Cameroun

Faxes: c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs + 237 20 11 33

Salutation: Monsieur le Délégué général / Dear Mr Bell

Minister of Justice

M. Laurent Easo

Ministre de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux

Ministère de la Justice

1000 Yaoundé

Cameroon

Faxes:+ 237 22 01 97

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Salutation:Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Le Messenger (newspaper)

Faxes:+ 237 42 02 14

Cameroon Tribune (newspaper)

Faxes:+ 237 30 43 62

and to diplomatic representatives of Cameroon accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 December 1999.