

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 20/09/96

EXTRA 130/96

Fear of torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial
execution

15 August 1996

CHADYACOUB EL DARIS Ibrahim, Commander of an armed opposition group, the *Conseil national de redressement* (CNR), National Council for Recovery

IBRAHIM Souleymane, member of the *Armée nationale tchadienne en dissidence* (ANT/D), Dissident Chadian National Army, another armed opposition group

MAHAMAT Ahamat, member of the ANT/D

ABAKAR Ousmane, member of the ANT/D

GASSI Idriss, member of the ANT/D

GARNI Adam, Sergeant, ANT/D

Amnesty International is concerned that six members of Chadian armed opposition groups, named above, may have "disappeared" since being forcibly returned to Chad by the Sudanese security forces on 3 August 1996. Amnesty International is particularly concerned at unconfirmed reports that two of the six men, Sergeant Garni Adam and Idriss Gassi, were extrajudicially executed by members of the Chadian *Agence nationale de sécurité* (ANS), National Security Agency, on 3 August near the border town of Adré in Chad.

The six were arrested with four others by members of the Sudanese security forces on 25 July in or near El Généina, Sudan, near the Chadian border. They were handed over to the Chadian security forces and transferred to the Chadian capital, N'Djaména, on or around 3 August, reportedly by ANS members. They have not been seen since. The four others are reportedly still in detention in El Généina (see EXTRA 129/96, AFR 54/18/96, 15 August 1996).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The government of President Idriss Déby faces continued sporadic armed opposition especially in the south, east and Lake Chad region from a number of armed groups. Some members and supporters of these groups are in exile in neighbouring countries. On a number of previous occasions, Chadian nationals believed to be members of armed groups in exile have been forcibly returned to Chad from neighbouring countries including Sudan. On their return they have faced arrest, torture and ill-treatment, extrajudicial execution or "disappearance". These deportations have taken place without any judicial or other extradition procedures in flagrant violation of international standards including the fundamental principle of *non-refoulement*, which prohibit forcibly returning any person to a country where he or she may be at risk of serious human rights violations.

The ANT/D is formed of supporters of former President Hissein Habré who was overthrown in 1990 by Idriss Déby. The CNR was formed in exile in 1992 by Abbass Koty Yachoub who was extrajudicially executed by members of the Chad security forces in N'Djaména on 22 October 1993. He had returned to Chad in October 1993 after signing a peace accord with representatives of the Chadian President in the Libyan capital. Other supporters of the CNR were arrested shortly after his extrajudicial execution and detained without trial for over one year. Dozens of suspected supporters of the CNR were detained in 1992; they were held in extremely harsh conditions: some are reported to have suffocated in detention, others "disappeared". Mahamat Koty Yachoub was arrested and detained by members of the ANS and Republican Guard in July 1994. He was held for a period of 45 days by the ANS (who have no legal powers of

arrest and detention) ; during this period he was severely tortured. He appeared to have been arrested simply because he was the brother of Abbass Koty Yacoub.

At least 20 civilians arrested on suspicion of being members of another armed group, the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, are currently held without charge in harsh conditions at Faya Largeau, northern Chad. There has been no official confirmation of their continued detention. Amnesty International considers them to have been the victims of arbitrary arrest, arrested simply because of the locality in which they live. Previously, political prisoners detained in similar circumstances in Faya Largeau were made to carry out forced labour during their detention and were severely tortured in the early stages of their detention.

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

- expressing concern that the six men named above, forcibly returned from Sudan in violation of the internationally recognized principle of *non-refoulement*, may have "disappeared" or been extrajudicially executed by members of the Chadian security forces, including members of the ANS;
- expressing concern at reports of the extrajudicial execution of Garni Adam and Idriss Gassi by the ANS and urging that these reports be investigated immediately;
- urging that the whereabouts of those forcibly returned from Sudan be made public immediately, that steps be taken to guarantee their safety and physical integrity and they be allowed access to medical care and legal counsel, and to visits by their families and humanitarian organizations;
- urging that all the named detainees be released unless they are to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial in accordance with international standards of fairness and without recourse to the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President Idriss Déby
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 74, N'DJAMENA, Chad

Faxes: + 235 51 45 01/51 46 53 (Please note: the 51 will change to 52 in the near future)

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Monsieur Youssouf Togoimi
Ministre des Forces armées
Ministère des Forces armées
N'DJAMENA, Chad

Telegrams: Ministre des Forces armées, N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Monsieur Saleh Kebzabo
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
N'DJAMENA, Chad

Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires étrangères, N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Lt-Col NDJOUÏ Musa

Directeur général, Agence nationale de sécurité

N'DJAMENA, Chad

Telegrams: Agence nationale de sécurité, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation : Monsieur le Directeur Général

COPIES TO:

Mr Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Khartoum, Sudan

Monsieur Domaye Nodjigoto Daniel, Président de la *Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés*, Palais du 15 janvier, BP 426, N'DJAMENA, Chad

Le Rédacteur en chef, N'Djaména Hebdo, BP 760, N'DJAMENA, Chad

and to diplomatic representatives of CHAD accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 September 1996.