

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 54/18/96

EXTRA 129/96

Fear of ill-treatment / Refoulement /
Fear of refoulement

15 August 1996

SUDAN Mahamat Ousmane, member of a Chadian armed opposition group, the *Conseil national de redressement* (CNR), National Council for Recovery
Ahmat Abdoulaye, member of the CNR
Faki Adam, member of the *Armée nationale tchadienne en dissidence* (ANT/D),
Dissident Chadian National Army
Ismael, member of the ANT/D

Four members of Chadian armed opposition groups remain detained without charge in El Généina prison in Sudan, where they are feared to be at risk of ill-treatment. Even more seriously, they may also be facing forcible return to Chad where they would be at risk of torture, ill-treatment, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution.

The four were among 10 Chadian nationals arrested in Sudan on or around 25 July 1996 by members of the Sudanese security forces. Most were arrested in the town of El Généina near the Sudanese border. All are reported to be members of Chadian armed opposition groups in exile.

The other six men are reported to have been handed over to members of the Chadian security forces and transferred to the Chadian capital, N'Djaména, by members of the Chadian *Agence nationale de sécurité* (ANS), National Security Agency, on or around 3 August. This transfer, which took place without any judicial or other extradition procedures, or guarantees for their physical integrity, was in flagrant violation of international standards, which prohibit forcibly returning any person to a country where he or she may be at risk of serious human rights violations.

None of the six men have been seen since. There are reports that two of the six, Gassi Idriss and Garni Adam, were extrajudicially executed by members of the ANS in the border town of Adré shortly after they were returned to Chad. Their cases are being raised with the Chadian authorities in EXTRA 130/96, AFR 20/09/96, 15 August 1996.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The government of Chad headed by 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".

At least 20 civilians arrested on suspicion of being members of an armed opposition group, the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, which operates in the south of Chad, are currently held without charge in harsh conditions at Faya Largeau in the north of 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. 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/express/airmail letters in English or Arabic or your own language:

- seeking assurances that for the duration of their detention in Sudan, the four men named above will be safeguarded from any ill-treatment;
- appealing for the four not to be forcibly returned to Chad, where they would be at risk of human rights violations including torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution;
- expressing deep concern that six men were forcibly returned to Chad on 3 August 1996 despite the fact that their return placed them at risk of serious human rights violations. Express particular concern at reports that two of them may have been extrajudicially executed shortly after they crossed the border into Chad;
- reminding the Sudanese authorities that under international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights and the UN Convention against Torture to which Sudan is a party, it is prohibited to forcibly return any person to his or her country of origin when that person is at risk of serious human rights violations;
- urging the Sudanese authorities to investigate reports of human rights violations against those returned to Chad, and to seek guarantees from the Chadian authorities that those responsible will be protected from human rights violations and will be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President

His Excellency Lieutenant-General Omar
Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir
People's Palace
PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: President Omar, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation : Your Excellency

Minister of Interior

Brigadier Bakri Hassan Saleh
Ministry of the Interior
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation : Dear Minister

Minister of Defence

Major-General Hassan 'Abd al-Rahman Ali
Ministry of Defence
Khartoum, Sudan

Telegrams: Defence Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation : Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Telegrams: Foreign Affairs Minister, Khartoum, Sudan

Salutation : Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

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

Monsieur Ahmat Nimir, Ministre de l'Intérieur, Ministère de l'Intérieur,
N'DJAMENA, Chad

Monsieur Saleh Kebzaboh, Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Ministre des
Affaires étrangères, N'DJAMENA, Chad

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 SUDAN accredited to your country.

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