

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 57/01/94

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UA 11/94 Extrajudicial executions/  
Fear of torture / fear for safety

14 January 1994

TOGO      *Amoussou, adjudant, warrant officer*  
            *Batchassi, sergent-chef, warrant officer*  
            *Tchédré, sergent, sergeant*  
            *Amegadji, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Djagri, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Aziamaley, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Ayiliga, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Saliou, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Kissé Anani, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Yaya, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Koudaya, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            *Amegan Djika, soldat de 1ère classe, private*  
            and at least 36 others

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Amnesty International is deeply concerned at reports that at least 48 people have been extrajudicially executed by members of the *Forces Armées Togolaises (FAT)*, the Togolese army. The killings followed an alleged attempt to overthrow the government on 5 January 1994. Amnesty International fears for the safety of many others taken into detention at the same time.

On 6 January, the Togolese authorities announced that 35 people, suspected of involvement in an attack on the headquarters of the *Régiment Interarmes Togolais (RIT)*, Combined Forces Regiment, had been arrested and that houses in Lomé were being systematically searched to find other suspects. It is reported that at least 48 people were extrajudicially executed; most were killed at the barracks of the RIT in the capital, Lomé, on 6 January; others were extrajudicially executed on 8 January. Most of them had apparently been arrested arbitrarily in Lomé after the alleged attack. However, the 12 named above, who are believed to have been among those extrajudicially executed on 6 January, had been arrested in connection with an alleged attack on 25 March 1993 (see UA 92/93, AFR 57/04/93, 30 March 1993) and detained since then at the RIT.

Others arrested are believed to be held at the *Camp de la Gendarmerie nationale*, Gendarmerie barracks. There are fears for the safety of these detainees. It was also announced that there had been an attempt to assassinate President Gnassingbé Eyadéma, and that 58 people had died, including assailants, members of the security forces and civilians, but gave no further details.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As in similar circumstances in March 1993, the Togolese authorities have claimed that the attack was launched by Togolese exiles coming from Ghana. However,

this has been denied by opposition leaders. Although firing was heard from the RIT barracks, it appears that the government may have used the occasion of further unrest within the army as an excuse to execute government opponents.

There was previously reported unrest within the army in October 1993 during which many, including the President's son, Captain Ernest Gnassingbé, were injured and others killed.

General Eyadéma was returned to power in August 1993 in an election which was widely criticised by many international observers. Parliamentary elections are due to take place in February 1994.

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

- expressing grave concern at reports that at least 48 people have been extrajudicially executed by members of the *Forces Armées togolaises (FAT)*, the Togolese army, after an alleged attempt to overthrow the government on 5 January 1994;
- urging the authorities to clarify the fate of 12 military prisoners held at the RIT barracks since March 1993, citing some of those named above;
- calling on the Togolese authorities to halt the killings and conduct an immediate and impartial investigation into the alleged killings, with a view to bringing those found responsible to justice;
- urging the Togolese authorities to safeguard the security of those in custody who may be at risk of torture or being extrajudicially executed by ensuring that they are given immediate access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging the authorities to release any prisoner who is not to be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President:

Son Excellence Monsieur le Général Gnassingbé Eyadéma  
Président de la République  
Avenue de la Marina, Lomé, Togo

**Telegrams: Président de la République, Lomé, Togo**

**Faxes: + 228 21 18 97; + 228 21 32 04**

**Telexes: 5319, 5419, 5201 TMS THG**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

2) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur Ouattara Fambaré Natchaba  
Ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération  
Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération  
Place du Monument aux morts, Lomé, Togo

**Telegrams: Ministre des Affaires étrangères, Lomé, Togo**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Aregba Polo  
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
Avenue de la Marina, Lomé, Togo

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice, Lomé, Togo**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 25 February 1994.