

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AFR 20/26/93
Distr: UA/SC**

UA 265/93 Extrajudicial execution

9 August 1993

**CHAD: More than 30 civilians killed by members of the
 security forces, many of them extrajudicially.**

Amnesty International is concerned about the killing of more than 30 civilians and the injuring of over 150 others during clashes on 8 August 1993 between demonstrators and security forces in the northern district (*quartier nordiste*) of the capital, N'Djamena. The security forces reportedly used automatic weapons and rockets to disperse the demonstrators. The authorities have announced that four gendarmes and three policemen were killed.

The demonstration was organized by the Ouaddai community in N'Djaména to protest against the apparent failure by the government to protect people in eastern Chad's Ouaddai prefecture from killings and other abuses. About 80 unarmed civilians were massacred on 6 August 1993 in Chokoyan village, about 100 kilometres east of Ouaddai's capital, Abéché, when an armed gang, thought by some to be members of former minister Abbas Koty, surrounded a market there and opened fire indiscriminately. The authorities have announced that government troops broke up the gang and arrested its leader.

Members of the Gendarmerie were reportedly sent to prevent the demonstration, which the authorities have said was unauthorized, and were stoned by some in the crowd. The authorities have claimed some of the demonstrators shot at the gendarmes. The Republican Guard, a unit of the Chadian army directly responsible to President Idriss Déby, was subsequently deployed to support the gendarmes and they used automatic weapons and bazooka rockets against the crowd, resulting in the heavy death toll. There have been reports that several wounded civilians were removed from ambulances and shot at point blank range by members of the security forces.

The authorities have announced that 203 civilians have been detained for interrogation in connection with the violence. It is unclear whether an independent inquiry will be ordered to establish whether the use of automatic weapons and bazooka rockets was legitimate and whether the deaths and injuries could have been prevented or minimized.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

More than 800 people, many of them unarmed civilians have been executed extrajudicially since President Idriss Déby came to power in December 1990. Many of them have been killed in custody or during attacks by members of the security forces on known or suspected government opponents or members of their ethnic groups. Members of the Ouaddai community appear to have been among those particularly targeted on a number of occasions. (For example, see UA 254/92, AFR 20/09/92, 5 August 1992).

Amnesty International is investigating reports of killings, looting and other human rights violations in recent months by members of the security forces in Ouaddai prefecture. The authorities are not known to have taken any action to investigate the reports and bring those responsible to justice. The violations have been exacerbated by attacks on civilians by unidentified armed gangs, some of them thought to be rebels. Lack of government action and the apparent impunity enjoyed by members of the security forces have left the population unable to distinguish between abuses by government troops and by other armed gangs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in

French, Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the killing of more than 30 civilians by members of the security forces, observing that the security forces appear to have shot to kill, including the use of bazooka rockets;
- expressing particular concern at reports that some of those killed had been injured and were removed from ambulances and deliberately shot at point blank range;
- expressing concern that the recent killings in N'Djaména show that the authorities have not taken sufficient measures to restrict and regulate the use of lethal force and to prevent arbitrary or deliberate killings in circumstances which violate internationally recognized standards;

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- recommending that standing orders on the use of force and firearms be urgently prepared and introduced, based on the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (adopted by the Eighth UN Congress of the UN General Assembly in Resolution 45/121 on 14 December 1990).
- calling for an independent and impartial public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the killings in N'Djaména, and the wounding of more than 150 others, and urging that those found responsible for deliberate and unlawful killings, be brought to justice;
- inquiring whether there has been an investigation into recent reports of extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations by the security forces and killings by other armed gangs in Ouaddai and, if so, asking to be informed of the results of such an investigation and what steps have been taken to prevent their recurrence;

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Colonel Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
N'Djaména
République du Tchad

**Telegrams: President Deby, N'Djamena,
Chad**

**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD;/5307
PRESIREP KD**

Faxes: + 235 51 4501

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la
République/Dear President**

3) Minister of Justice

Monsieur Delwa Kassire COUMAKOYE

Ministre de la Justice,
Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
N'DJAMENA

République du Tchad

**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, N'Djamena,
Chad**

Telexes: c/o 5328 MINAFFET KD

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

2) Prime Minister

Dr Fidel MOUNGAR
Premier Ministre
N'Djamena

République du Tchad

**Telegrams: President Deby, N'Djamena,
Chad**

**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD; 5307
PRESIREP KD**

Faxes: + 235 51 4501

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

4) Minister of Interior

Monsieur Ali DJALBORD
Ministre de l'Intérieur et

de la Sécurité

Ministère de l'Intérieur
N'DJAMENA

République du Tchad

**Telegrams: Ministre Intérieur,
N'Djamena, Chad**

Telexes: c/o 5328 MINAFFET KD

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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Transitional National Assembly President

Monsieur Mahamat Choua LOL
Président du Conseil Supérieur
de la Transition
Conseil Supérieur de
la Transition
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Newspaper

Rédacteur-en-Chef

N'Djamena-Hebdo

11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle

BP 760

N'Djamena, République du Tchad

Human Rights Organization

Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'homme

BP 2037

N'Djamena, République du Tchad

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 1993.