

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture/Legal & Medical concern

12 August 1993

CHAD: Outhman ISSA, Prefect of Chari-Baguirmi prefecture
Ahmat Abakar, religious leader (Imam) and representative of the
Ouddaian community in N'Djamena
Mahamat Zalba, former administrative director of Chad's state
electricity company

And at least 220 others, mainly members of the Ouddaian
community, some 30 of whom are aged between 14 and 17

Amnesty International fears for the safety of over 220 people arrested in the aftermath of a demonstration in the capital N'Djaména on 8 August 1993 which ended in clashes between demonstrators and security forces. Most of those arrested are members of the Ouddaian community, who were protesting against recent killings in their home region in the east of Chad. On 10 August three well-known representatives of the Ouddaian community, Outhman Issa, Imam Ahmat Abaker and Mahamat Zalba were arrested by gendarmes, apparently in connection with the 8 August demonstration.

Among those arrested on 8 August are approximately 30 youths thought to be between the ages of 14 and 17 years of age. Many are reportedly held in the military court building at the gendarmerie headquarters and are said to be undergoing interrogation by the Police judiciaire, Criminal investigation police, although a substantial number are held incommunicado at an unknown destination. The whereabouts of Outhman Issa, Imam Ahmat Abaker and Mahamat Zalba is also unknown. Some of those held are believed to have been seriously wounded during the demonstration on 8 August where members of the Garde républicaine, Republican Guard, fired shots and launched rockets into the crowd. (See UA 265/93, AFR 20/26/93, 9 August 1993).

Amnesty International is extremely concerned for the safety of all those detained especially in the light of recent reports of torture. For example, Mahamat Saleh Issakha, a member of the Ouddaian community, was arbitrarily arrested by members of the Garde républicaine on 12 July 1993 and held for 48 hours, during which time he is reported to have been subjected to a method of torture known as *arbatachar*, where the victim's arms and legs are tied behind the back, causing extreme pain, leading to gangrene in some cases.

In addition, the organization fears that the detainees are being denied their legal rights and that they may be held for long periods without trial.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sixty-six civilians were killed and more than 150 were injured during clashes on 8 August 1993 between demonstrators and members of the security forces in the northern district known as *quartier nordiste* of the capital, N'Djaména. 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 by demonstrators.

The demonstration was organized by members of the Ouaddaian 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.

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 Ouaddaian community appear to have been among those killed particularly targeted on a number of occasions.

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

- expressing concern at the arbitrary detention of possible prisoners of conscience, including minors and wounded persons and of members of the Ouaddaian community, and the secret and incommunicado detention of many of them;
- urging that they be given immediate access to legal counsel, relatives and any necessary medical attention;
- expressing fears for their safety and seeking assurances that all the detainees are not being subjected to torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment;
- urging the authorities to make public the identities and places of detention of those arrested and to ensure that they be moved to a civilian detention centre and that their cases be referred to the judiciary at once;
- requesting the authorities to review urgently the cases of those detained with a view to releasing without delay those who neither used nor advocated violence during the demonstration on 8 August 1993.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Colonel Idriss Déby
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: Premier Ministre Moungar,
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:

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 23 September 1993.