

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 380/93 Extrajudicial execution/Fear of torture
Incommunicado detention

28 October 1993

CHAD: **Abbass Koty, former minister**
Bichara Digui, executive member of the *Comité national de redressement* (CNR), National Committee of Redressment,
Ahmat Digui, brother of Bichara Digui
Adoum Badour, businessman
Mahamat Koussou, soldier
and at least 20 soldiers believed to be Abbass Koty supporters

Amnesty International is concerned that Abbass Koty, an opponent of President Idriss Déby, appears to have been extrajudicially executed in the capital N'Djamena on 22 October 1993 by members of the *Garde républicaine*, Republican Guard. The exact circumstances of his killing remain unclear. The Chadian government has claimed that he died as a result of gunshot injuries sustained at the time of his arrest, although this claim has been disputed. The Minister of the Interior had alleged Abbas Koty was in possession of a plan to stage a coup attempt.

A number of suspected supporters of Abbass Koty have since been arrested in the Chadian capital, N'Djamena. Amnesty International fears that they may be tortured or ill-treated in custody, denied legal rights and held for a long period without trial.

Four arrests were carried out on 22 October by members of the Republican Guard; they include Bichara Digui, Ahmat Digui, Adoum Badour and Mahamat Koussou. The Chadian authorities have issued a press statement claiming that their case has been referred to the Judiciary, but Amnesty International has not been able to confirm this and believes they are being held incommunicado. Their place of detention is unknown.

Several members of the armed forces, many of whom are believed to be suspected of supporting Abbass Koty, were apparently also arrested between 22 and 25 October. They are believed to be in incommunicado detention at the Gendarmerie headquarters or at the *Agence nationale de la sécurité*, (ANS), National Security Agency. It is not known whether they have been charged with any offence or their cases referred to the judiciary.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Abbass Koty, former army chief of staff (*chef d'Etat Major*) and ex-minister in the government of Idriss Déby, fled into exile in June 1992, following an alleged coup attempt in which he was suspected of involvement. Since then, he led the ***Comité national de redressement*** (CNR) as an armed opposition force to fight against the Chadian army in western Chad. He returned to Chad after

signing a Peace Accord on 17 October 1993 with representatives of the Chadian President in the Libyan capital, Tripoli. Under the conditions of the agreement the CNR renounced hostilities and was to become a political party and its armed members incorporated into the Chadian national army.

More than 800 people, many of them unarmed civilians, have been extrajudicially executed since President Idriss Déby came to power in December 1990. Many of them have been killed in custody or died during attacks by members of the security forces on known or suspected government opponents or members of their ethnic groups. The Republican Guard is understood to be responsible for the majority of the killings. Torture of political opponents has been widespread.

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

- expressing concern at the apparent extrajudicial execution of Abbass Koty and urging the government to open a thorough and impartial inquiry into his death;
- expressing concern at the detention of Bichara Digui, other CNR officials and over 20 members of the Chadian army who may be held solely for their political affiliation;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or ill-treatment and urging that they be given immediate access to lawyers, relatives and medical treatment, and that their names and place of detention be made public at once;
- asking that unless they are promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and brought to trial in conformity with international standards of fairness, that they be released immediately and unconditionally.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Général Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djamena, Chad

Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or 5307 PRESIREP KD

Faxes: + 235 51 4501

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République/Dear President

2) Prime Minister:

Dr Fidel MOUNGAR
Premier Ministre
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Premier Ministre Moungar, N'Djamena, Chad

Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or 5307 PRESIREP KD

Faxes: + 235 51 4501

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre/Dear Prime Minister

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

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:1) 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

2) Newspaper:

Rédacteur-en-Chef

N'Djamena-Hebdo

11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle

BP 760, 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 9 December 1993.