

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 332/91 (AFR/20/03/91, 10 October 1991) - Death
Penalty/Legal Concern

Chad: Hazarak Mansour, soldier
 Ahamat Mouniama
 Hassane Souleymane
 Hassabalah Abderamane

Amnesty International recently received a letter from the Chadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs concerning protests about the execution on 7 October 1991 of the four people mentioned above. He said, in part:

"Le gouvernement Tchadien comprend la préoccupation d'Amnesty International pour le respect des droits de l'homme qui demeure également le souci majeur des autorités Tchadiennes. Mais il a été contraint de prendre ces mesures d'exception à caractère provisoire pour tenter de contenir la situation d'insécurité extrêmement grave qui sévit dans le pays et qui se caractérise par la violence injustifiée, les exactions et les assassinats des paisibles citoyens.

Toutefois, le Gouvernement tient à rassurer Amnesty International et ses membres que ces mesures d'exception seront levées dès que les circonstances ayant motivé leur adoption auront disparu."

(Translation into English: The Chadian Government understands Amnesty International's concern for respect of human rights which remain the major concern of the Chadian authorities. But it was forced to take these provisional extraordinary measures in an attempt to contain the extremely serious situation of insecurity which pertains in the country and which is characterized by unjustified violence, exactions and murder of peaceful citizens.

However, the government wishes to assure Amnesty International and its members that these extraordinary measures will be lifted as soon as the circumstances which motivated their adoption disappear.)

Dozens of people suspected of involvement in violent crime were arrested in early 1992. Amnesty International is concerned that the Chadian authorities may again resort to the death penalty to punish them.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters, in FRENCH, if possible:

- thanking the authorities for the letter sent by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs concerning the death penalty in Chad and asking whether since October 1990 any more people have either been tried or charged with offences punishable by death;

- pointing out that Amnesty International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty which it believes to be the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment which violates the very basis of human rights, that is, the right to life. It therefore condemns the executions which took place on 7 October and all executions;

- explaining that Amnesty International is aware of the reasons for retaining the death penalty but has not found any evidence that it serves any purpose which would not equally be served by lesser penalties. Research has shown that it does not deter crime more effectively than other punishments and it denies the widely accepted penal principle of rehabilitating the offender;

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- illustrating that the executions on 7 October 1991 did not serve to prevent the violence, resulting in many killings, which took place in Chad in the aftermath of the alleged coup attempt on 13 October 1991, hardly a week after the executions, and in the months of December 1991 and January and February 1992;

- calling on the Chadian authorities not to carry out any further executions and to substitute the death penalty with other more humane punishments for violent crime;

- explaining that today nearly half the countries of the world, including Mozambique, Namibia and Principe have abolished the death penalty in law, while others have abolished it in practice and calling on the Chadian Government to consider abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Général Idriss DEBY

Président de la République du Tchad

N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: President Deby, 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:

Monsieur Jean Alingue BAWOYEU

Premier Ministre

Présidence de la République

N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Premier Ministre Bawoyeu, 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 and Attorney General:

Monsieur Youssouf TOGIMI

Ministre de la Justice et 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 Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur Saleh Ahamat MAHAMAT
Ministre des affaires étrangères
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Ministre Affaires Etrangères, N'Djamena, Chad

Telexes: 5238 MINAFFET KD

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

1) Newspaper:

Le Rédacteur-en-chef
N'Djamena-Hebdo
11 Avenue Charels de Gaulle
BP 760, N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

2) Human Rights Organization:

Monsieur Djondang TCHAKNONE
Président
Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'homme
BP 2037, N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

and to diplomatic representatives of Chad in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 May 1992.