

# URGENT ACTION

## STUDENTS ARRESTED AT DEMO, RISK TORTURE

**Three students were arrested on 28 March during a demonstration at Togo's University of Kara. They are detained at the Central Prison in Kara and are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment. Two other students have received threats and are at serious risk of arrest.**

Students **Agnité Massama**, **Bitsioudi Birénam** and **Sidiba Mohamed** were arrested on 28 March at the University of Kara (430km north of the capital, Lomé). They are members of the National Union of Pupils and Students of Togo (*Union nationale des élèves et étudiants du Togo*), and were arrested for encouraging other students not to attend class. They had organised a general assembly to discuss the failure of the government to honour its promise to grant benefits to support students, and scholarships on the basis of merit. They were also protesting the presence of security forces on the campus. The students were severely beaten when they were arrested and are now at serious risk of ill-treatment. They reportedly have not been granted access to lawyers and to medical care.

For the past few weeks, the University of Kara has been the scene of student demonstrations and clashes between students and security forces. For the past week, the security forces are said to have attacked the students with sticks, pistol butts and teargas. Several students have been injured.

Two other members of the National Union of Pupils and Students of Togo, **Tablissi Bumber** and **Salami Aboubakar**, were abducted by men in civilian clothes in Kara, after they spoke to delegates of Amnesty International Togo and *Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo* (CACIT) on 28 March, following the arrest of their colleagues. They were interrogated about their meeting with these human rights organizations, threatened and released shortly afterwards. They are at serious risk of being arrested.

### **Please write immediately in French, English or your own language:**

- Urging the authorities to ensure that Agnité Massama, Bitsioudi Birénam and Sidiba Mohamed are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and that any allegations of torture or other ill-treatment they make are investigated;
- Calling on them to ensure that the three students have access to lawyers, their families and any medical attention they may require;
- Calling on them to release the students immediately, or charge them with a recognizably criminal offence,
- Calling on the authorities to ensure that Tablissi Bumber and Salami Aboubakar are not arbitrarily arrested;
- Urging them to respect students' right to freedom of expression and assembly.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 MAY 2012 TO:**

#### Minister of Justice

Me Tchitchao Tchalim  
Ministre de la Justice, chargé des relations  
avec les institutions de la République  
Ministère de la Justice  
BP 121, Lomé  
Togo  
Fax: +228 22 22 29 06/+228 22 21 54 91  
Email: minisjustice@justice.gouv.tg  
**Salutation: Dear Minister/  
Monsieur le Ministre**

#### Minister of Security and Civil Protection

Col. Dokissima Gnama Latta  
Ministère de la Sécurité et de la Protection  
Civile  
BP 12175 Lomé  
Togo  
Fax: +228 22 22 61 50/+228 22 22 21 84  
**Salutation: Dear Minister/  
Monsieur le Ministre**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The University of Kara and the University of Lomé have both been closed for several weeks, following demonstrations by students demanding to receive more funding. On 21 March, the government had decided, following discussions with the universities and the students' associations that the universities should reopen, as the situation had calmed down. The authorities had also decided to grant financial help and scholarships, in line with specific requirements. However, on 28 March, students were still not satisfied that the authorities would keep their promises.

Amnesty International receives regular reports of detainees, especially members of the opposition, being tortured and otherwise ill-treated in the prison in Kara. The town is the stronghold of President Gnassingbé's ruling party, the Togolese People's Rally (*Rassemblement du peuple togolais*, RPT)

Names: AGNITÉ Massama, BITSIOUDI Birénam, SIDIBA Mohamed, TABLISSI Bumber, SALAMI Aboubakar  
Gender m/f: all male

UA: 97/12 Index: AFR 57/002/2012 Issue Date: 30 March 2012

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**INTERNATIONAL**

