

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST CHARGED FOR EXPRESSING HIS VIEWS

Djeralar Miankeol was arrested on 15 June in Moundou, Chad, on orders by the public prosecutor of the Logone Occidental Region after a radio interview on 7 June in which he questioned the competence of judicial officials. He was charged the next day with 'contempt of court'.



Djeralar Miankeol, activist and Director of Association Ngaoubourandi (ASNGA), received a call from the public prosecutor of Moundou, Hassane Yacoub, who asked him to present himself at his office to answer a few questions on 15 June. Djeralar Miankeol and his wife went to the public prosecutor's office at 3.30pm the same day he got the call.

During the questioning, the public prosecutor and his deputy asked Djeralar Miankeol questions related to a radio interview he gave on 7 June on radio FM Liberté. After 15 minutes of questioning, the public prosecutor called in a gendarme who arrested Djeralar Miankeol and took him to the 'Brigade de Recherche' of Moundou. A judge of the Tribunal of Moundou charged Djeralar Miankeol with 'contempt of court' the next day and had him transferred to the prison of Moundou. This is a clear attempt to punish an activist for peacefully expressing his views and to deter others from doing the same. Amnesty International considers him a prisoner of conscience.

When Amnesty International contacted the public prosecutor on 19 June, he refused to provide any further information on the case and stated that 'the case had been submitted to the High Court of Justice which will decide'. He however told Amnesty International that a hearing was scheduled for 30 June. On 22 June, Djeralar's family communicated to Amnesty International that no hearing date had been communicated to them. There are fears this will not happen any time soon. According to information received from Djeralar Miankeol, the hearing may be scheduled only after investigations are complete in Moundou and in N'Djamena, and after the soundtrack of Djeralar Miankeol's radio interview has been analysed.

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

- Calling on the Chadian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Djeralar Miankeol;
- Urging them to ensure that pending his release, Djeralar Miankeol is not subject to torture or any other ill-treatment and has access to a lawyer of his choice, to family visits and to all basic necessities;
- Urging the authorities to end all forms of harassment, in particular judicial, against Djeralar Miankeol and all other human rights activists and defenders in Chad.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 03/08/2015 TO:

Minister of Human Rights

Mahamat Issa Halikimi
BP 456
N'Djamena – Republic of Tchad
Tel (Director of Cabinet): +235 66282819
/ +235 66010100
Email: coofoui@yahoo.fr
Salutation: Dear Minister

President of the High Court of Justice of Moundou

Abderamane Patcha
Tel: +235 22691355 / +235 66267949
Email: abderamanepatcha@yahoo.fr
**Salutation: Dear President of the High
Court of Justice of Moundou**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Djeralar Miankeol is a Chadian activist and Director of Director of Association Ngaoubourandi (ASNGA). Ngaoubourandi and ASNGA mean “rainbow of hope” and “enough conflict” in local languages. The organisation’s activities are focused on land grabbing and oil production issues.

Prison conditions in Chad are so deplorable that they amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Prison cells are severely overcrowded, and food and drinking water are inadequate and sometimes unavailable. Prisoners depend on family and friends to supplement their diet and to access other basic necessities such as clothes, soap, tooth brush and tooth paste.

The prison of Moundou, where Djeralar Miankeol is imprisoned, is 20km away from his house. Every day, his family has to travel a long distance to bring him food, water and other necessities.

On 19 June,

A WARN was issued the same day by Amnesty International targeting the President of the High Court of Justice of Moundou and the Ministry of Justice.

Since the arrest, the authorities have not communicated a hearing date to Djeralar’s family and legal representatives despite the fact that they requested it to be scheduled for 23 June.

Name: Djeralar Miankeol

Gender m/f: Male

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