



## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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# CHAD: PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

### *Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Chad*

Amnesty International welcomes Chad's acceptance of 13 recommendations to abolish the death penalty, including for crimes linked to terrorism. While preparing to act on these recommendations, the organization calls on the government to immediately establish an official moratorium on executions.

In the 2013 review, Chad rejected all recommendations on the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, including to ensure that they can operate in a safe environment and free from arbitrary arrest. Amnesty International is concerned that since then their situation has deteriorated. The criminal justice system has been used to target and harass defenders and journalists for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

Amnesty International therefore welcomes Chad's acceptance of recommendations to develop and adopt a law to recognize and protect human rights defenders.

Since the latest presidential election in Chad, Amnesty International has documented at least 13 government decrees to refuse authorization to protest and the security forces regularly use excessive or unnecessary force to disperse demonstrations in the capital N'Djamena and other towns. It therefore welcomes Chad's accept of recommendations to amend Ordinance No.45/62 on public gatherings and Decree No.193/62 on public events to allow peaceful demonstrations.

In order to curb the economic crisis prompted by the drop in oil prices, the government adopted a series of austerity measures in August 2016 to reduce public expenditure. In 2017, the budget for the free emergency healthcare programme was cut by 70%, leaving thousands of Chadians with virtually no access to healthcare and essential drugs.

Amnesty International commends Chad for accepting the recommendations to improve the education and health systems and to ensure access for the most vulnerable people.

Amnesty International urges the government to take all measures to effectively implement the accepted recommendations.

### **Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Chad on 15 March 2019 during its 40<sup>th</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered this oral statement.

Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the review through its submission on Chad: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr20/8653/2018/en/>

### Public Document

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