

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Chad: Security forces beat and mistreat detained peaceful protesters

Authorities in Chad must conduct a prompt and independent investigation into the detention and ill-treatment of 17 peaceful protesters arrested on 6 February.

On Friday 5 February dozens of youths members of the '*Collectif des associations et mouvements de la jeunesse du Tchad* (CAMOJET)' organized a peaceful gathering in front of the Ministry of Education in the capital Ndjamena to call for jobs in the country's civil service. Several other youths joined the gathering which was then dispersed by police.

The following day, human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations joined the youth groups for another peaceful protest. The protesters, who were holding signs and Chadians flags, were forcibly dispersed by police, and 17 protesters were arrested and detained for two days before being released.

Those who had been detained reported that they were subjected to ill-treatment by the police, who fired tear gas in their cell, leading to at least two people requiring emergency medical assistance. A human rights defender told Amnesty International that "if it had not been the high level of alertness of a policeman who opened the cell's door, all detainees would have died of suffocation."

Amnesty International calls on the Chadian government to take immediate action to uphold the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, ensure that the allegations of arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of peaceful protesters are effectively investigated, and that those found responsible are held to account.

Public Document

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