

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS RISK SIX MONTHS TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON

Four activists will be standing trial for planning to organise peaceful demonstrations to protest against President Idriss Deby's re-election bid. They are currently detained at the Amsinene Prison in N'Djamena and risk jail terms of between six months to one year.

Mahamat Nour Ibedou and **Younous Mahadjir**, spokespersons of the civil society organisations platform 'Ça suffit' ('It's enough' in French) were arrested on 21 March and 22 March respectively. **Nadjo Kaina Palmer**, coordinator of the youth movement 'Iyina' ('We are tired' in local Arabic) was arrested on 22 March. **Celine Narmadji**, spokesperson of the civil society movement 'Trop c'est trop!' ('Enough is enough' in French) was arrested on 23 March. All four were arrested after reporting to the judicial police headquarters for questioning on orders from the Public Prosecutor Alghassim Khamis.

Mahamat Nour Ibedou, Younous Mahadjir, Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Celine Narmadji were detained at the judicial police headquarters in N'Djamena before being transferred to the Amsinene prison on 24 March at around 1 PM.

The four activists on behalf of their respective organisations, were planning to organise peaceful public demonstrations which would have taken place on 22 March and 29 March. The demonstrations were being organised to protest against the current President Idriss Deby's bid for re-election for a fifth mandate.

The four have been charged with 'incitement to an unarmed gathering', 'disturbing public order' and 'disobeying a lawful order'. Their trial is scheduled for 31 March. If convicted, the activists could be sentenced to jail terms of between six months to one year.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Calling on Chadian authorities to immediately release Mahamat Nour Ibedou, Younous Mahadjir, Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Celine Narmadji and drop all charges against them;
- Urging them to ensure that, pending their release, the four activists are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment and have access to a lawyer of their choice, to family visits and to all basic necessities;
- Urging the authorities to end all forms of harassment against all human rights activists and defenders and political activists in Chad;
- Urging them to protect and ensure the right to freedom of expression and assembly for all in conformity with Chad's international human rights obligations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 11 MAY 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Dr. Ateib Idriss Halawlaw
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation: Dear Minister

Public Prosecutor

Alghassim Khamis
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Tribunal de Grande Instance
P.O. Box: 426
N'Djamena, Chad
Email: alghassimk21@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security and Immigration

Ahmat Mahamat Bachir
Ministry of Public Security and Immigration
N'Djamena, Chad
Email: bachiram62@gmail.com

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. This is the first update of UA 68/16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr20/3700/2016/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

14 candidates are running for president in Chad in the next presidential elections that will be held on 10 April. The electoral campaign started on 20 March.

Amongst the candidates is the current Chadian President Idriss Deby who has been in power for 25 years after toppling Hissene Habre in 1990 and is seeking a fifth term in office. In 2005, the Chad Constitution was amended and the two-term limit on presidential tenure was eliminated.

For security reasons, on 19 March, the Chadian Minister of Public Security and Immigration, Ahmat Mahamat Bachir, publicly announced that all public demonstrations not part of the election campaigns were forbidden.

From information received by partners in Chad, several human rights activists and defenders have gone into hiding since 21 March as the police and national security agency are looking to arrest them for their involvement in the platform 'ça suffit' and the youth movement 'Iyina'.

Amnesty international published a press release on 22 March calling for the immediate release of Mahamat Nour Ibedou and Nadjo Kaina Palmer - <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2016/03/tchad-les-autorites-doivent-liberer-deux-activistes-arrets-pour-avoir-prepare-une-manifestation-pacifique/>

Name: Mahamat Nour Ibedou (m), Younous Mahadjir (m), Nadjo Kaina Palmer (m) and Celine Narmadji (f)
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 68/16 Index: AFR 20/3737/2016 Issue Date: 30 March 2016