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FURTHER INFORMATION ON MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

(See AI Index: AFR 20/15/98, 6 November 1998)

**Ngarléjy Yorongar le Moïban
CHAD**

Amnesty International has learned that Ngarléjy Yorongar le Moïban, an AI prisoner of conscience in Chad, was released on 5 February 1999 after eight months in detention. A medical letter writing action was issued on his case in November 1998 when he reportedly suffered from malaria and typhoid fever but was denied adequate medical care. His release was announced in a presidential decree which cited 'humanitarian reasons'.

Ngarléjy Yorongar le Moïban was arrested in June 1998 and charged with defamation of President Idriss Déby and of Wadal Abdelkader Kamougué, the president of the National Assembly. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and a heavy fine. In a ruling on 24 December 1998, the N'Djaména Court of Appeal upheld his sentence.

Ngarléjy Yorongar le Moïban's release was announced after a meeting between President Idriss Déby and local political representatives from Ngarléjy Yorongar's East Logone region in southwestern Chad. During the meeting, President Déby reportedly said to the representatives that he would release Ngarléjy Yorongar le Moïban but that he "[had] the means to keep him quiet [...]" and that "it [was] up to [them] to keep him quiet" [*"j'ai le moyen de le faire taire [...], à vous de le faire taire."*].

In a message of thanks sent to Amnesty International following his release, Ngarléjy Yorongar le Moïban wrote:

"Vos actions conjuguées avec la chaîne de solidarité des militantes et militants de part le monde ont abouti à ma libération... Je ne saurais vous remercier... Sans cette chaîne de solidarité, je serai encore aujourd'hui dans cette tristement célèbre prison... je vous encourage à continuer à oeuvrer pour les prisonniers qui, de part le monde, continuent à moisir dans les geôles des dictateurs... mes salutations à tous les militantes et militants de l'Amnesty International qui m'ont écrit pour m'encourager à tenir bon. Je puis vous dire que ces lettres ont été confisquées par la police politique et c'est à ma sortie que j'ai pu lire celles [...] qui ont échappé à ses mailles... mes remerciements les plus chaleureux et ma gratitude la plus sincère."

["Your actions, combined with the chain of solidarity of activists all over the world, have led to my release... I do not know how to thank you... Without this chain of solidarity, I would still be in that regrettably well-known prison... I encourage you to continue working on behalf of the prisoners who, all over the world, are rotting in the jails of dictators... my greetings to all the Amnesty International activists who wrote to me, encouraging me to hold out. I can tell you that your letters were confiscated by the security police, and it is only since my release that I have been able to read some letters [...] which slipped through the net... my warmest thanks and sincerest gratitude."]

No further action on the case of Ngarléjy Yorongar le Moïban is required by network members. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.