

UA 89/98 Extrajudicial executions / Fear for safety

19 March 1998

CHADAt least one hundred people killed, including:

Mbainaiibeye Gaston, chief of Goré district
Peurbo Michel, chief of Tané village
Djemadje René Paul, chief of Karwa village
Begoto Paul, chief of Talade village
Bekain Joseph, chief of Holo village
Bemadji Cheflengar, chief of Ngaranda village
Mbaiyom François, chief of Loroum village
Mbaïndoul, representative of Nangnda village
Reoudoum Isaac, chief of Kaïra II village
Mbaïkounda Ozias, chief of Kaïra I village

At least 100 people, mainly unarmed civilians, have reportedly been killed by Chadian security forces in the two Logone regions of southern Chad since the beginning of March 1998. The killings appear to be in response to attacks by the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, an armed opposition group. Amnesty International fears that many more civilians may soon be killed by the security forces and by the FARF.

In one incident on 11 March 1998, the above named village chiefs and others were summoned to a meeting with the *sous-préfet*, deputy prefect, of Benoye, supposedly to discuss tax questions. Instead of being received by the local authorities, the village chiefs were arrested by the security forces, who then shot and killed them and six others by the Logone river. Village chief Tatoloum Hondé and a 12-year-old child were also seriously injured. Amnesty International believes that the chiefs were killed simply because of the reported presence of members of the armed opposition in the vicinity, and because the security forces held the chiefs collectively responsible for armed attacks committed by the armed opposition.

The security situation in the two Logone regions of Chad has been extremely fragile since violent clashes between the security forces and the FARF in Moundou on 30 October 1997, in which at least 80 people were killed and others arrested and tortured. There are frequent reports of killings, arbitrary arrests, torture and other human rights abuses in the region, and Amnesty International believes that the sharp increase in killings during March 1998 is a clear indication that the human rights situation is deteriorating at an alarming rate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members of the security forces taking part in counter-insurgency operations have committed scores of human rights violations against the civilian population. In 1995, 1996 and 1997, there were many counter-insurgency operations in the south of Chad, in the Logone occidental and oriental regions, where the FARF was active. Real and suspected members of the FARF have been the victims of human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and torture. Many people or communities appear to have been targeted because relatives, or people they are associated with, are suspected of having connections with the FARF.

The FARF has also committed human rights abuses against the civilian population, including deliberate and arbitrary killings, and rape.

There is almost total impunity for human rights violators in Chad. Amnesty International believes that the phenomenon of impunity is one of the main contributing

factors to the continuing pattern of human rights violations in Chad, and the world over; when investigations are not pursued and the perpetrators are not held to account, a self-perpetuating cycle of violence is set in motion resulting in continuing violations of human rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:

- expressing deep concern that scores of civilians have been extrajudicially executed by the security forces in the two Logone regions of southern Chad since the beginning of March 1998;
- expressing particular concern that on 11 March 1998 at least 10 village chiefs were killed after they were targeted by the security forces and held collectively responsible for attacks by the FARF;
- urging the Chadian authorities to take immediate steps to stop human rights violations being carried out by the security forces against unarmed civilians;
- calling for a full investigation to be carried out into such human rights violations, as well as abuses by the FARF, and for those responsible to be brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness and without recourse to the death penalty;
- pointing out your concern that unless the above is achieved, the problem of impunity will continue, perpetuating the cycle of violence and human rights abuses in Chad.

APPEALS TO:

Président Idriss DEBY

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 74 N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djaména, Chad

Faxes: + 235 51 45 01

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Monsieur Abdramane SALLAH

Ministre de l'Intérieur, de la Sécurité et de la Décentralisation

Ministère de l'Intérieur, N'Djaména, Chad

Telegrams: Ministre Intérieur, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

Monsieur Oumar KADJALAMI

Ministre de la Défense nationale et de la Réinsertion

Ministère de la Défense nationale, N'Djaména, Chad

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

Colonel Routouang Yoma GOLOM

Chef d'Etat-major Général

Armée nationale tchadienne, N'Djaména, Chad

Telegrams: Colonel Golom, Armee national, N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Colonel / Dear Colonel

COPIES TO:

Le Rédacteur en chef, N'Djaména-Hebdo, BP 760, N'DJAMENA, Chad

and to diplomatic representatives of Chad accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 May 1998.