

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 453/91 Fear of "Disappearance"

19 December 1991

CHAD: Assali Adil, computer scientist employed by the Société
tchadienned'eau et d'électricité (Chadian Water and Electricity
Company)
Gabriel Belel, Gendarme and driver of the Presiding Judge at
Chad's Military Court
Dabon Mahamat, Captain in the National Gendarmerie
Etenna Issa, Gendarme and body guard of the Presiding Judge at
Chad's Military Court

The four people named above, apparently all of them members of the Hadjeraï ethnic group, are reported to have been arrested on 13 October 1991 by members of the Chadian security forces at the home of the Presiding Judge of Chad's Military Court (*Cour martiale*) in the capital, N'Djamena. They have not been seen in public since that date and efforts by their relatives to trace them in various detention centres in N'Djamena have been unsuccessful.

The arrests took place after the authorities announced on 13 October 1991 that an attempt by a section of the Chadian armed forces to overthrow President Idriss Deby had been thwarted. Maldom Bada Abbas, then Vice-President of the ruling *Mouvement patriotique du salut* (MPS), Patriotic Front for Salvation, and Minister of Interior and Security was apparently suspected of masterminding the coup attempt and was arrested together with an unspecified number of his suspected supporters.

Independent sources in N'Djamena reported that soldiers loyal to the government killed many civilians and arrested others solely because they came from Maldom Bada Abbas' Hadjeraï ethnic group. The Chadian authorities have said at least 40 people were killed and several dozen others were injured during the violence. Amnesty International is investigating reports that some of those arrested were subjected to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and that others have "disappeared".

On 14 November 1991 President Deby issued a decree setting up a commission of inquiry, chaired by a N'Djamena Court of Appeal judge, to investigate human rights violations and other criminal offences committed in the aftermath of the alleged coup attempt. However, the commission is reported not to have started its work.

Amnesty International is concerned that the four people named above may have been arrested solely on the basis of their ethnic group, and there are fears that they may have been killed in custody. It is also concerned that two months after the incidents no investigation appears to have started to establish what human rights violations occurred to bring those responsible to justice.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that the four people named above have "disappeared" since

their arrest on 13 October 1991;

- asking the authorities to establish the whereabouts of these four and any other people reported to have "disappeared" in the aftermath of an apparent coup attempt in October;
- requesting the authorities to reveal the whereabouts of these four people and to make public the identities and places of detention of all those who have been arrested for political reasons;

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- urging the authorities to ensure that the commission of inquiry set up on 14 November 1991 begins its work without further delay so that it can carry out an independent and impartial investigation into reports of human rights violations including "disappearances" and establish responsibility for such abuses;
- urging the authorities to bring to justice any officials responsible for unlawful secret detentions or "disappearances";
- urging the authorities also to ensure that all those arrested solely because of their ethnic origin or non-violent political activities are released without delay and that any others against whom criminal charges are to be brought are referred to the Procuracy with a view to bringing them promptly to trial.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Son Excellence Général Idriss DEBY
Président de la République du Tchad
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

**Monsieur le Président de la République /
Dear President**

Telegrams: President Deby, N'Djamena, Chad
Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or 5307 PRESIREP KD
Faxes: + 235 51 4501

2) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Jean Alingue BAWOYEU
Premier Ministre
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre /
Dear Prime Minister**

République du Tchad
Telegrams: Premier Ministre Bawoyeu, N'Djamena, Chad
Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or 5307 PRESIREP KD
Faxes: + 235 51 4501

3) Minister of Justice and Attorney General:

Monsieur Youssouf TOGOIMI
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
N'DJAMENA

**Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

République du Tchad
Telegrams: Ministre Justice, N'Djamena, Chad
Telexes: c/o 5328 MINAFFET KD

4) Minister of Defence:

Colonel Abbas KOTY
Ministère de la Defense
Ministère de la Defense
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

**Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, N'Djamena, Chad

Telexes: c/o 5201 PRESIREP KD or 5307 PRESIREP KD

Faxes: c/o + 235 51 4501

COPIES TO:

1) Le Rédacteur-en-chef
N'Djamena-Hebdo
11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle
BP 760
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

2) Monsieur Djondang TCHAKNONE
Président
Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'Homme
BP 2037
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

and to diplomatic representatives of Chad in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 January 1992.