

1 August 1996

Further information (2) on EXTRA 105/96 (AFR 20/02/96, 9 July 1996) and follow-up AFR 20/04/96, 19 July 1996 - Fear of ill-treatment / Possible prisoner of conscience and new concern - Fear for safety

CHADNgarlégy Yorongar le Moiban, leader of opposition party, the *Front d'action pour la République-Fédération*, Action Front for the Republic-Federation

Since the release without charge of Ngarlégy Yorongar on 16 July 1996 he is reported to have received a number of serious threats against his safety from members of the Chad security forces in N'Djaména, the capital. He is also believed to have been ill-treated and threatened while in detention in Bébedjia, Logone oriental, southern Chad, by members of the Gendarmerie. Torture and ill-treatment in detention in Chad are endemic.

Ngarlégy Yorongar, who maintains a high public profile, appears to have been the victim of politically motivated arrests and threats, apparently because of his criticism of the current government. He has been particularly targeted since April 1995 when he brought a case to court claiming that the decree issued to organize the electoral census was illegal: the N'Djaména Court of appeal annulled the census.

Ngarlégy Yorongar has been the victim of politically motivated arrests on several occasions in the past, including in March 1994 when he was arrested and detained for five days. His arrest at that time arose from the public expression of his opinions on federalism in the south of the country. At that time, he was director of the satirical magazine, *La Roue*, the Wheel. He is also reported to have received threats in the run-up to the presidential elections in June 1996 in which he was a candidate.

A number of other opposition leaders and human rights defenders have also been threatened and detained for short periods of time, apparently as a result of their non-violent activities.

Amnesty International not only fears for the safety of Ngarlégy Yorongar, but is also concerned that freedom of expression in Chad appears to be under attack during an important period of electoral reform. Other opposition leaders have been attacked or imprisoned since the electoral process began.

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

- asking the government to ensure that Ngarlégy Yorongar le Moiban and others who are attempting to exercise their right to freedom of expression in Chad are able to do so without fear of intimidation, threats, arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment or extrajudicial execution, and asking for them to be protected against such human rights violations;
- calling for an impartial investigation into the alleged threats against Ngarlégy Yorongar le Moiban, both while he was in detention in Bébedjia and subsequent to his release, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging that, in this and all other cases, allegations of torture and ill-treatment are investigated, and if torture or ill-treatment is found to have occurred, that those responsible are brought to justice;
- calling for the implementation of safeguards against torture;

- seeking assurances that fundamental freedoms, such as the freedom of expression, are guaranteed.

APPEALS TO:

President

President Idriss Déby

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 74, N'Djamena, Chad

Fax: + 235 51 45 01 / 51 46 53 (nb: the 51 will change to 52 in the next few weeks)

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Maldom Bada Abbas

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux

Ministère de la Justice

N'Djamena, Chad

Fax: + 235 52 5885

Telegrams : Minstre de la Justice, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Procurator General

Procureur Général

Palais de Justice

N'Djamena, Chad

Telegrams: Procureur général, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation : Monsieur le Procureur Général / Dear Attorney General

Minister of Interior

Monsieur Noudjalbaye Ngaryana

Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ministère de la Sécurité publique

N'Djamena, Chad

Telegrams: Ministre de la Défense, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Monsieur Domaye Nodjigoto Daniel, Président de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés, Palais du 15 janvier, BP 426, N'Djamena, Chad

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

Lieutenant Colonel Daoud Soumaïne Khalil, Directeur Général de la Gendarmerie, BP 425, 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 29 August 1996.