

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 20/08/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 139/92 Extrajudicial executions/Ill-treatment

5 May 1992

**CHAD:** More than 40 Chadian nationals forcibly repatriated from Nigeria including:  
Goukouni Guet - leader of the Movement for Democracy and  
Development  
Ahmed Saker Bidon - former Assistant Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs

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Amnesty International is concerned for the lives of an unspecified number of Chadian nationals who were among more than 40 forcibly returned from Nigeria without legal proceedings in February 1992. Following their return, they were imprisoned and none of them has been seen by their relatives, lawyers or doctors.

Amnesty International has also recently received reports that several dozen of the more than 40 have been secretly killed. Initial reports of extrajudicial executions came from detainees who had escaped from custody. Some are reported to have been killed by deliberate asphyxiation and others starved to death in cramped cells at the former Presidency in N'Djamena and the headquarters of the security police known as the *Centre de recherche et de coordination des renseignements* (CRCR).

Amongst those killed were Goukouni Guet, leader of the *Mouvement pour la Démocratie et le Développement*, Movement for Democracy and Development, and Ahmed Saker Bidon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in former President Hissein Habré's government. They are reported to have been secretly killed in March 1992 in the capital, N'Djamena, by members of the Chadian security forces.

Despite media publicity about these alleged extrajudicial executions, no information or clarification has yet been forthcoming from the Chad Government, and no investigation has been announced. There are grave fears for the safety of all those forcibly returned and imprisoned.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In January 1992, armed rebels belonging to the Movement for Democracy and Development, believed to be supporters of former President Habré, who had been sheltering in neighbouring Niger, clashed with Chadian soldiers in the Lake Chad region in the west of the country. They then retreated to neighbouring countries. After the clashes in apparently related developments, at least 15 people were arrested in N'Djamena and at least three unarmed civilians were shot dead by members of the security forces. Most were supporters of opposition *Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès* (RDP), Rally for Democracy and Progress, party.

After the rebel attacks, the Chadian authorities apparently requested their counterparts in the northern Nigerian State of Maiduguri to hand over these Chadian nationals suspected of masterminding the attacks: several dozen Chadian nationals were subsequently arrested and handed over in February to the Chadian authorities. When those forcibly returned arrived in custody in N'Djamena they were reportedly subjected to torture, severe beatings and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Some were reportedly shot dead by

members of the Chadian security forces.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters in FRENCH, if possible:

- urgently requesting the authorities to take adequate steps to protect those still held from human rights violations, and to set up an independent and impartial commission of inquiry to investigate the killings and torture of Chadian nationals forcibly repatriated from Nigeria;
- urging that the commission makes recommendations to the government on how such killings and other human rights violations can be avoided in future;

page 2 of UA 139/92...

- urging that those found to be responsible for human rights violations are brought to justice;
- expressing concern at reports that Goukouni Guet, Ahmed Saker Bidon and an unspecified number of other Chadian nationals forcibly repatriated in February 1992 have been secretly executed extrajudicially by members of the security forces;
- urging the authorities to make public the identities and places of detention of those still held since their forcible repatriation from Nigeria;
- urging that they be allowed to receive visits by members of their families, independent legal counsel and humanitarian organizations, and ensuring that they have adequate medical care;
- requesting the authorities to release immediately all detainees forcibly returned from Nigeria, unless they have been charged with a recognizably criminal offence and are to be promptly brought to a fair trial.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

Général Idriss DEBY  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
N'DJAMENA  
République du Tchad  
**Telegrams:** President Deby, N'Djamena,  
Chad  
**Telexes:** 5201 PRESIREP KD; 5307  
PRESIREP KD  
**Faxes:** + 235 51 4501  
[Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la  
République / Dear President]

2) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Jean Alingue BAWOYEU  
Premier Ministre  
N'DJAMENA  
République du Tchad  
**Telegrams:** Premier Ministre Bawoyeu,  
N'Djamena, Chad  
**Telexes:** 5201 PRESIREP KD; 5307  
PRESIREP KD  
**Faxes:** + 235 51 4501  
[Salutation: Monsieur le Premier  
Ministre/Dear Prime Minister]

3) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Youssouf TOGOIMI  
Ministre de la Justice,  
Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
N'DJAMENA  
République du Tchad  
**Telegrams:** Ministre Justice, N'Djamena,  
Chad  
**Telexes:** c/o 5328MINAFFET KD  
[Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear  
Minister]

4) Minister of Defence:

Monsieur Nadjita BEASSOUMAL  
Ministre de la Défense nationale  
Ministère de la Défense nationale  
N'DJAMENA  
République du Tchad  
**Telegrams:** Ministre Defense, N'Djamena,  
Chad  
**Faxes:** c/o + 235 51 4501  
[Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear  
Minister]

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Interior:

Monsieur Ahamat HASSABALLAH  
SOUBIANE  
Ministre d'Etat à l'Intérieur  
et à la Sécurité  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
N'DJAMENA  
République du Tchad

3) Newspaper:

Rédacteur-en-Chef  
N'Djamena-Hebdo  
11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle  
BP 760  
N'Djamena  
République du Tchad

2) Human Rights Organization:

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 15 June 1992.