

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 20/09/97

22 April 1997

Further information on UA 298/96 (AFR 20/16/96, 20 December 1996) and follow-up (AFR 20/03/97, 28 February 1997) - Torture / Fear of torture / Medical concern

CHADNestor MBAÏLO  
Vincent MBAÏNAISSEM  
Grégoire BOLTOUNGAR  
Fleuri NEBADJINGUM

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Nestor Mbaïlo, Vincent Mbaïnaissem, Grégoire Boltoungar and Fleuri Neradingam have remained in detention without charge since their arrests in August and September 1996.

Following arrest, they were held in the gendarmerie station (*brigade de gendarmerie*) in Moundou, Logone Occidental, southern Chad. Although told by the local authorities that, as suspected members of an armed opposition group active in the area (the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for a Federal Republic), they fell under the jurisdiction of the military authorities, the *Procureur de la République* of Logone Occidental intervened over the poor prison conditions in which they were held. Since his intervention, the men have been held in Moundou prison, where conditions, although still harsh, are better. Reports that they were tortured and ill-treated in the early stages of their detention are not believed to have been investigated.

Ongoing negotiations between the FARF and the Chadian government ended on 18 April 1997 with the signing of a peace accord between the Chadian government and the FARF. The accord provided for, amongst other things, a general amnesty for all FARF members, activists and sympathizers and a renunciation of armed struggle by the FARF which would become a political party. The agreement also states that FARF members will regroup in "regrouping centres" within a period of 60 days from the signing of the accord and pending fulfilment of certain points of the accord.

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

- expressing concern at the continued detention without trial of Nestor Mbaïlo, Vincent Mbaïnaissem, Grégoire Boltoungar and Fleuri Neradingam and urging that they be released if they are not to be charged with recognizably criminal offences;
- seeking assurances that the physical integrity of the detainees is being safeguarded and that they have access to legal counsel, medical care and their families;
- asking whether reports that the men were subjected to torture and ill-treatment in the early stages of their detention have been investigated.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
BP 74, N'DJAMENA, Chad

**Faxes: + 235 51 45 01/51 46 53 (Please note: the 51 will change to 52 in the near future)**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

Monsieur Ahmat Hassaballah Soubiane  
Préfet de Moundou  
Moundou  
Logone occidental, Chad

**Salutation: Monsieur le Préfet**

Monsieur Youssouf Togoimi  
Ministre des Forces armées  
Ministère des Forces armées  
N'DJAMENA, Chad

**Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

Monsieur Abdelkerim NADJO  
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
N' JAMENA, Chad

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Lieutenant Colonel DAOUD Soumaïne Khalil, Directeur Général de la Gendarmerie,  
BP 425, N'DJAMENA, Chad  
Maître Paul Wadana, Procureur de la République, Palais de Justice, Moundou,  
Logone occidental, Chad  
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 10 June 1997.