

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

20 August 1992

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CHAD:                   Daoud Ahmat Cherif  
                          Awat Abdou

Two members of the Chadian security forces were sentenced to death on 18 August 1992 for murder. Amnesty International is concerned that they have no right of appeal to a higher court and may be publicly executed in the near future.

Daoud Ahmat Cherif, a member of the Centre de Recherche et de Coordination de Renseignements (CICR), Centre of Research and Information, Chad's feared secret police, was convicted of shooting dead a civilian who was attempting to cross the border illegally to neighbouring Cameroon. Awat Abdou, a gendarme, was convicted of killing a civilian when he opened fire on a crowd in the capital, N'Djamena.

The two condemned men are believed to have been tried by a special military court set up in April 1991 to curb growing crime, particularly by soldiers. In October 1991 three soldiers and a civilian were publicly executed by firing squad after being convicted of criminal offences by this court; it allowed no right of appeal against its judgments to a higher, independent jurisdiction. Amnesty International is concerned that trials before this court may not be considered fair by international standards as there is no right of appeal against their sentences.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following decades of civil war, the demobilisation of thousands of armed soldiers in Chad has led to an increase in criminal offences involving firearms, including murders and assaults, as well as in extrajudicial executions of government opponents and critics. Several hundred people have been executed extrajudicially by members of the security forces since President Idriss Déby came to power in December 1990.

In March 1992 at least four and possibly several more government opponents who were among Chadian nationals forcibly returned from Nigeria are reported to have been extrajudicially executed while in custody in N'Djamena.

Although Amnesty International welcomes moves by the Chadian government to bring to justice members of the security forces who have carried out extrajudicial executions or other killings, the organization remains unconditionally opposed to the death penalty on the grounds that it constitutes a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and a violation of the right to life and is therefore calling for the death sentences in these cases to be commuted.

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

- expressing concern at the death sentences imposed on Daoud Ahmat Cherif and Awat Abdou on 18 August 1992;

- expressing particular concern that they appear to have been convicted by a special military court which allows no appeal to a higher, independent jurisdiction, and referring to the safeguards adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 1984 which stipulate that anyone who is sentenced to death shall have the right to appeal to a higher court;

- explaining that, while Amnesty International does not condone acts of violence and recognizes the right of governments to bring to justice those responsible for  
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criminal acts, it opposes the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment which violates the right to life;

- appealing to the Chadian authorities to commute these sentences and not to carry out any further executions;

- calling for a review of all legislation and procedures concerning the death penalty with a view to reducing progressively the number of offences punishable by death and to substitute the death penalty with other more humane punishments for violent crime.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

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

**Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djamena,  
Chad**

**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or  
5307 PRESIREP KD**

**Faxes: + 235 51 4501**

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

2) Minister of Defence:

Monsieur Loum Hinassou LAINA  
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**

3) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Joseph YODOYMAN  
Premier Ministre  
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre Bawoyeu,  
N'Djamena, Chad**

**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or  
5307 PRESIREP KD**

**Faxes: + 235 51 4501**

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

4) 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 5328 MINAFFET KD**

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Monsieur Mahamat Ali ADOUM

Ministère des Relations extérieures  
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 accredited to your country.

3) Newspaper:  
Rédacteur-en-Chef  
N'Djamena-Hebdo  
11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle  
BP 760  
N'Djamena, République du Tchad

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Please check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 1 October 1992.