

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Incommunicado detention/Fear of torture

30 March 1993

CHAD: Moussa Ben Moussa

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Moussa Ben Moussa who was arrested by the security forces in Moundou, a town in southern Chad, on 25 March 1993 and taken to the capital, N'Djamena. It is believed that he is being held incommunicado within the presidential complex where it is feared he could be subjected to torture.

Moussa Ben Moussa is accused of having links with the Comité de sursaut national pour la paix et la démocratie (CSNPD), Committee for the Revitalization of Peace and Democracy, an armed opposition group led by a breakaway officer who had attempted to overthrow the Chadian government in February 1992. The arrest of Moussa Ben Moussa is related to the armed conflict which started in February 1992 in southern Chad between government troops and the CSNPD. At least 45 people are believed to have been extrajudicially executed by the Armée Nationale Tchadienne, ANT, Chadian National Army in southern Chad this year because of their suspected association with CSNPD insurgents.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The first clashes between the CSNPD and government troops broke out in N'Djamena on 21 February 1992, when the insurgents reportedly attacked a police station in Chagoua district. In the wake of the attack dozens of people were killed indiscriminately by the security forces; most of the victims were unarmed civilians from southern Chad, who were not involved with the insurgents. In mid-August 1992 members of the Garde républicain (Republican Guard) were responsible for over 100 extrajudicial executions of civilians during reprisal killings following fighting with the CSNPD in Doba, also in southern Chad. Despite numerous appeals, the Chadian government has so far failed to initiate any inquiry into the incident or discipline any of the soldiers engaged in the killings. It is also reported that the town of Doba and the surrounding area have been militarized and the citizens live under virtual martial law, with no protection from human rights violations.

After 26 years of insecurity and war in Chad, a National Conference opened to discuss the country's political future on 15 January in N'Djamena. Delegates from political parties, human rights groups and religious organisations were invited to attend by the government. However, fighting between the army and different insurgent groups in southern Chad, as well as in the lake Chad region, has been continuing since the beginning of the National conference. (For further information please see UA 32/93, AFR 20/06/93, 10 February 1993 and follow-up, AFR 20/11/93, 11 March 1993 and UA 67/93, AFR 20/10/93, 10 March 1993).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in French, Arabic, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest of Moussa Ben Moussa and at his reported incommunicado detention at the Presidency;

- urging that he be moved to a recognized civilian prison and that his case be referred to the procurator immediately;

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- calling for him to be allowed immediate access to legal counsel, relatives and any necessary medical attention;

- seeking assurances that Moussa Ben Moussa is not being subjected to torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

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 délégué auprès de la
Présidence de la République,
chargé de la Défense nationale
Ministère de la Défense nationale
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, N'Djamena, Chad
Faxes: + 235 51 4501

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

3) Commander of army, Moundou region

Commandant de la zone 2, Etat-Major
Armée nationale tchadienne
MOUNDOU
République du Tchad

Telegrams: Com-Zone 2, Moundou, Chad
Telephone: + 235 69 14 59

Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant / Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

French language independent weekly newspaper:

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

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.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 May 1993.