

CHAD Official statement sanctioning extrajudicial executions must be withdrawn and remedied

**Georges Toubadé
Karbida Nérobé
and four unidentified men**

Amnesty International is extremely concerned by an order, signed by Chad's Director General of the National Gendarmerie, which instructs all members of the Gendarmerie to extrajudicially execute criminals caught in the act. A number of extrajudicial executions have been reported since the statement was made.

The order, issued in mid-November 1996, instructs that no thief should benefit from any legal procedure whatsoever, and that anyone caught in the act of stealing should immediately be "eliminated". The statement also says that failure by law enforcement agents to implement this order will be punished.

The Director General of the Gendarmerie is responsible to the Minister of Defence, who is in turn responsible to the head of state, President Idriss Déby. In an interview given to the independent newspaper, *N'Djaména-Hebdo*, President Déby has publicly supported the policy, presenting it as a measure to deal with rising violent crime, and stating that thieves should be killed.

On 12 November in N'Djaména, two men, Georges Toubadé and Karbida Nérobé, were arrested on suspicion of theft. They are reported to have been beaten at the Dembé gendarmerie station (*brigade*) before being shot on the same day. On the night of 3 December, the bodies of four unidentified men were found near the village of Djalali Arabe, near N'Djaména. Witnesses who saw the bodies said they showed traces of torture. Amnesty International is concerned that they may have been the victims of extrajudicial executions. Other extrajudicial executions have been reported outside N'Djaména.

Amnesty International has continually, and over many years, raised its concerns with the Chadian authorities and with the international community about continuing extrajudicial executions in Chad. Excessive and indiscriminate use of lethal force is widespread and is often used arbitrarily against the civilian population and real or suspected opponents of the government. It has resulted in the extrajudicial execution or serious injury of men, women and children.

Amnesty International believes that one of the principle reasons why such human rights violations continue in Chad is because of the impunity already effectively enjoyed by the perpetrators. This latest instruction allows the security forces to carry out extrajudicial executions with total impunity and allows no recourse for victims and their relatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In late November 1994 President Déby issued a similar public statement, saying "*..des instructions seront données à la gendarmerie et à l'armée renforcées pour la circonstance par d'autres unités pour traquer sans répit et tirer à vue au besoin, sur tous les éléments armés qui sèment la terreur au sein de la population...Un voleur à mains armées qui tue impunément, tire sur les*

citoyens, sur les forces de l'ordre, est un chien à abattre. Il n'a ni parent, ni protection juridique quelconque, il doit être abattu comme un chien..." ("Instructions will be given to the gendarmerie and the army, reinforced in the circumstances by other units, to track relentlessly and to shoot on sight if need be, all those with arms who are sowing terror in the hearts of the population...An armed robber who kills with impunity, shoots at civilians, at the security forces, is a dog to be killed. He has neither relatives nor any judicial protection whatsoever, he must be killed like a dog)."

In 1995, scores of extrajudicial executions were committed by the security forces, primarily the Gendarmerie and the Rapid Intervention Force, mostly under the guise of counterinsurgency operations. Scores of arbitrary arrests and acts of torture, including rape of women and girls, were also carried out during these operations (see *Chad: a country under the arbitrary rule of the security forces with the tacit consent of other countries* (AFR 20/11/96, 10 October 1996) for further information). In August 1996, Bichara Digui, a political opponent was extrajudicially executed in N'Djaména. The circumstances of his death have not been subjected to impartial investigation.

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

- expressing deep concern at the apparent extrajudicial execution of Georges Toubadé and Nérobé Karbida at the Dembé gendarmerie station on 12 November and of four unidentified men at Djalali Arabe on 3 December;
- expressing grave concern at the order issued to all units of the Gendarmerie to commit extrajudicial executions and demanding that it be immediately revoked;
- calling on the Chadian authorities to immediately make it clear to all units of the security forces and members of the government that all law enforcement personnel are prohibited from operating a policy of extrajudicial execution, and that any one operating such a policy will be prosecuted;
- calling for independent impartial investigations into all allegations of extrajudicial execution and deaths in detention, including those mentioned above, with a view to bringing to justice those responsible, and for relatives of those unlawfully killed by members of the security forces to be compensated.

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)

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

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

Telegrams: Ministre des Forces armées, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Lieutenant Colonel DAOUD Soumaine Khalil
Directeur Général de la Gendarmerie
BP 425, N'DJAMENA, Chad

Telegrams: Directeur General, Gendarmerie, N'Djamena, Chad
Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur Général

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'DJAMENA, Chad

Monsieur Abdelkerim NADJO, Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux, Ministère de la Justice, 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 8 February 1997.