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WEEKLY UPDATE SERVICE 36/93

Contained in this weekly update is an external item on Chad.

NEWS INITIATIVES

UN CAT REPORT - NEW INFORMATION

The dates of reporting to the UN Committee Against Torture have been changed. China is now due to report on 22 April, and Spain on 23 April. A weekly update item on China embargoed for today accompanies our report to the CAT, and we are currently working on a weekly update item on Spain.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

World Conference - Monday 19 April

A news release and open letter from the Secretary General to all governments of the world was sent to you on Thursday, following section suggestions that we target the Geneva Preparatory Committee.

We are currently taking the media pack (for more general World Conference work) through approvals, and hope to have it with you shortly.

Chad - 21 April

PLEASE NOTE - a weekly update is enclosed updating on recent changes in Chad. It is embargoed for tomorrow and should be used in conjunction with the news release and two reports on Thursday.

The document to go with this campaign has been sent out to sections dated February. Please inform your section campaign coordinators and anyone else who may receive it that it is EMBARGOED FOR 21 APRIL.

A second short document about recent killings was sent to you by telex, fax or e-mail last week.

Chad Campaign, document, news release, Q&A and ENR. The news release and Q&A have been sent to you.

Bangladesh - 28 April

Document on serious human rights violations in Bangladesh, accompanied by a news release, sent on Friday. Sorry it was so late - this was due to staff shortages and sickness in the IS press office.

Tadzhikistan - 5 May

Publication and news release on killings in the context of civil war - with striking similarities to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The news release was sent out to you on Friday.

Indigenous People - 12 May

News release planned to accompany Focus article on Human rights violations against indigenous people worldwide. Indigenous people will be one of the main themes of our work on the World Conference.

Guatemala - 18 May

A document or publication with a news release on a full range of recent human rights violations (in the past year or so) in Guatemala.

Egypt - 26 May

A document or publication and news release on all our concerns in Egypt. These include very high numbers of prisoners and torture.

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES**Brazil - 7 May**

Document on prison massacre, including new forensic information. Weekly update item to go with it will be sent out early next week. Sections are also being asked to carry out campaign work in connection with this document.

Unconfirmed news initiatives

News releases or embargoed weekly update items are being considered on the following subjects:

Malawi (May)

World Conference (early June, or possibly to coincide with AI's anniversary on 28 May)

Nagorno-Karabakh (to go with section-level action, late May)

Aceh, Indonesia (14 July)

Section Initiatives

French Section - European Press Officers' Meeting

The second European Press Officers' meeting will take place in Paris this year. The date of this meeting is now fixed for 15 and 16 May as the majority of you asked for. It will be focused on two themes: Audiovisual work (production and TV experiences) and how to improve it; and the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna.

European World Conference Press Briefing in June

The British Section Press Office has been talking to the EC project office and the Francophone Belgium Press Officer about holding a European press briefing in Brussels for MEPs and for journalists who will be covering the World Conference. The date will probably be Tuesday, June 8th in the morning. The aim will be to look at the EC's role as a whole in terms of its internal shortcomings (Asylum issues, etc), external policies - aid/development, etc, and also to look at Europe's role within the UN.

Although the idea has been suggested by the British Section, it is hoped that all European Section Press Officers will be interested in being involved. For further information please contact either Daphne Davies, in the British Section Press Office or Johannes in the EC project office.

2. AFR 20/WU 01/93 EXTERNAL
21 APRIL 1993

CHAD: NATIONAL CONFERENCE ENDS AS AT LEAST 100 UNARMED CIVILIANS ARE REPORTEDLY KILLED BY GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS IN SOUTHERN LOGONE ORIENTAL PREFECTURE

Amnesty International has just received disturbing reports of the extrajudicial execution of at least 100 unarmed civilians in southern Chad's Logone Oriental prefecture. The killings are reported to have been carried out on 5 April 1993 by members of the *Garde républicaine*, Republican Guard, a unit of the *Armée nationale tchadienne* (ANT), Chadian National Army. The Republican Guard is directly responsible to President Idriss Déby.

The killings are reported to have occurred in the villages of Kouh, Kobiteye and Bekolo. A government minister said in a radio interview that according to commanders in the region the numbers of those killed were exaggerated. However, in the wake of publicity about the killings, the Prime Minister is reported to have announced that a commission of inquiry composed of representatives of the government and independent non-governmental organizations would be sent to the area to investigate the killings. He apparently did not specify when the inquiry would take place or what its duration would be.

The killings on 5 April 1993 are the latest to be reported in the current wave of killings by the ANT which began in the south of Chad on 21 January 1993, when at least 45 civilians were extrajudicially executed near Goré town. Information about extrajudicial executions reported between January and March 1993 is contained in a separate report entitled *Chad: Amnesty International calls for a full inquiry into army killings in the south in 1993* (AI Index: AFR 20/16/93), published on 21 April 1993. The Republican Guard was also responsible for the extrajudicial execution of more than 100 civilians in Doba in August 1992.

In early 1992, the Chadian authorities deployed thousands of troops to southern Chad following the outbreak of a rebellion by an armed opposition group led by a breakaway officer who had attempted to overthrow the government in February 1992. It is in this context that the troops have continued to carry out atrocities, sometimes, as appears to be the case in early April 1993, without any provocation.

Although the killings have received wide publicity inside and outside Chad, the authorities have failed to take steps to bring them to an end. In January 1993, a National Conference attended by representatives of political and other organizations was convened to discuss Chad's political future and make specific recommendations on how to bring an end to human rights violations. Following the killings in January, a government commission of inquiry investigated the killings in mid-February but concluded that the army was not responsible. The Chairman of the National Conference demanded that a new delegation composed of representatives of the government and the National Conference be sent, but his request was rejected by the government without explanation.

The National Conference concluded its deliberations on 6 April 1993 after electing a new Prime Minister, Dr Fidel Moungar, previously Minister of Education. It also elected a transitional national assembly known as the *Conseil supérieur de la transition* (CST), Higher Transitional Council, charged with supervising the implementation by the government of the Conference's decisions during the transitional period. Some of the decisions are those drawn by the Conference's working group on Human Rights, Freedoms and Communication.

The working group's recommendations include the setting up of a national commission to carry out inquiries and establish responsibility for cases of abduction, "disappearances" and embezzlement since Chad's independence in 1960. It demanded the implementation of recommendations made by a previous commission of inquiry set up by President Déby's government to investigate human rights violations and other crimes committed when President Hisssein Habré was in power during the 1980s. The recommendations of the previous commission, which were published in May 1992 and reiterated by the working group, include bringing to justice all members of the security forces responsible for human rights violations, whether or not the violations occurred in areas affected by insurgency. All those responsible for crimes such as torture, political crimes and particularly those who belonged to Habré's security police, the Direction de la documentation et de la sécurité (DDS), some of whom continue to work in the current security police known as the Centre de recherche et de coordination de renseignements (CRCR). The working group also demanded the dissolution of the CRCR and the destruction of secret detention centres and an end to unlawful detentions and arbitrary arrests - demands previously made by human rights groups in Chad and elsewhere, but which have not yet been met.

The decisions have so far not been implemented and it is unclear whether any steps are being taken to ensure their implementation. The transitional constitution requires the Prime Minister to oversee the activities of the security forces but it remains unclear how much influence, if any, he has over them.