

URGENT ACTION

POLITICAL ACTIVISTS ARRESTED, RISK TORTURE

More than a dozen political activists arrested around the time of the Togolese presidential election, which saw Faure Gnassingbé reelected, are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment in prison. Two of them are in urgent need of medical attention, which they are not receiving.

Augustin Glokpon and **Jacob Benissan** were arrested on 3 March, the day before the election, as they were bringing election campaign materials to the town of Vogan, 45 km east of the capital, Lomé. Both are members of the main opposition party, the Union of Forces for Change (*Union des Forces de Changement*, UFC). They were held for a week at the gendarmerie in Lomé, and then charged with "an attempt on the security of the state" (*atteinte à la sûreté de l'État*). The investigating judge remanded them to the civilian prison in Lomé, but the security forces took them to the prison in the town of Kara (420 km north of Lomé). This makes it much more difficult for their families and lawyers to visit them. Augustin Glokpon suffers from blood pressure problems and Jacob Benissan is diabetic: they are running out of the medicines they had on them when they were arrested, which they need to take every day, and they have been given no medical treatment in prison.

Another dozen opposition activists were taken to the Kara prison the same day, charged with the same offence. Two are members of the opposition party Organization to Build Togo in Solidarity (*Organisation pour bâtir dans l'Union un Togo solidaire*, OBUTS): **Gérard Adja** and **Emmanuel Atayi** were arrested a few days after the election with leaflets disputing the reelection of Faure Gnassingbé. The others are members of a political movement, Citizens' Movement for an Alternative (*Mouvement Citoyen pour l'Alternance*, MCA), including **Fulbert Attisso** and **Guillaume Coco**, were also arrested in Lomé.

Amnesty International receives regular reports of detainees, especially members of the opposition, being tortured and otherwise ill-treated in the prison in Kara. The town is the stronghold of President Gnassingbé's ruling party, the Togolese People's Rally (*Rassemblement du peuple togolais*, RPT).

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in French, English or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to release Augustin Glokpon, Jacob Benissan, Gérard Adja and Emmanuel Atayi immediately and unconditionally, as they appear to be prisoners of conscience;
- Calling on them to ensure that Augustin Glokpon and Jacob Benissan receive the medical attention they need immediately;
- Calling on them to ensure that all the detainees are protected from torture and other ill-treatment, and have regular access to their families, lawyers, and any medical attention they may require.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 APRIL 2010 TO:

Minister of Security and Civil Protection

Colonel Atcha TITKPINA
Ministre de la Sécurité et de la
Protection Civile
Ministère de la Sécurité et de la
Protection Civile
BP 12175, Lomé, Togo
Fax: +228 222 61 50/
+228 222 21 84
Salutation: Dear Minister/
Monsieur le Ministre

Minister of Justice

Kokou Biossey TOZOUN
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
BP 121, Lomé, Togo
Fax: +228 222 29 06/
+228 221 54 91
Salutation: Dear Minister/
Monsieur le Ministre

And copies to:

Embassy of Togo in France
Tchao SOTOU BERE
Ambassador of Togo in France
8 rue Alfred Roll
75017 Paris, France
Fax: +331 43 80 06 05
Salutation: Dear Ambassador/
Monsieur l'Ambassadeur

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

POLITICAL ACTIVISTS ARRESTED, RISK TORTURE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The incumbent, Faure Gnassingbe, won Togo's presidential election on 4 March 2010. He had been appointed to the government in 2003 by his father, General Gnassingbé Eyadéma, who ruled the country for more than 40 years, until his death in 2005.

The 4 March election took place amid allegations of widespread fraud, condemned by opposition party leaders speaking to demonstrations, which were banned or dispersed with teargas.

UA: 59/10 Index: AFR 57/001/2010 Issue Date: 12 March 2010

