

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 105/96

Fear of ill-treatment / Possible prisoner of  
conscience

9 July 1996

**CHAD** Ngarlégy Yorongar le Moiban, leader of opposition party, the *Front d'action pour la République-Fédération*, Action Front for the Republic-Federation

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Opposition leader Ngarlégy Yorongar was arrested in Bébedjia, Logone oriental, southern Chad, on 3 July 1996. Under Chadian law, he may be held without charge for 48 hours, renewable once for a further 48-hour period. This limit has now expired, and he has not been charged with any offence, although he has reportedly been accused of hiding firearms. Amnesty International is concerned that the real reason for his detention may be his non-violent political activities, and fears that he may be at risk of ill-treatment in custody.

In a further violation of legal procedure, Ngarlégy Yorongar was apparently arrested without the knowledge of the local Procurator (*Procureur*). After arrest, he was transferred to the Gendarmerie's Investigation Brigade (*Brigade de Recherche*) in the capital, N'Djaména, where he is currently being held.

Ngarlégy Yorongar has been arrested and detained for short periods on previous occasions and is also reported to have received threats against him. A number of other opposition leaders and human rights activists have also been threatened and detained for short periods apparently as a result of their non-violent activities.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Ngarlégy Yorongar was in Bébedjia to assist supporters and activists of General Wadal Abdelkader Kamougué's political party, the *Union pour le Renouveau et la Démocratie*, Union for Renewal and Democracy, in the run-up to the second round of the presidential elections, held on 4 July. General Kamougué was standing against incumbent President Idriss Déby. The results of the poll are not yet known. The elections went ahead after a referendum in March 1996 approved a new constitution. The referendum was due to be held in 1995 but was postponed after the N'Djaména Court of Appeal annulled the electoral census in April 1995. The census had been carried out in early 1995 prior to the referendum, but the Court of Appeal decided that the decree organizing it had been illegal. It was Ngarlégy Yorongar who had brought the case to court.

Some opposition parties had called for a boycott of the second round of the elections in protest at alleged irregularities in the first round. The activities of the main trade union were suspended by the Minister of State for Security after it called for such a boycott. Three national human rights groups were also threatened with suspension after they denounced alleged irregularities in the first round. Ngarlégy Yorongar had stood as a presidential candidate in the first round of elections.

Real and suspected opponents of the government were arrested and detained by the Chadian authorities during 1995 and 1996. Many were reportedly tortured and ill-treated in custody. Those arrested included civilians in northern, southern and eastern Chad where armed opposition continues to occur, as well as political opposition leaders, journalists, human rights activists and suspected members or supporters of armed opposition groups. Scores were detained for long periods without charge or trial before being released and at least 19 are still in detention without charge or trial.

On 2 March 1996, another opponent of President Déby, Delwa Kassire Coumakoye, leader of the *Rassemblement national pour la démocratie et le progrès* (VIVA RNDP), National Rally for Democracy and Progress, and a former Prime Minister of Chad, was arrested and charged with illegal possession of arms and misappropriation of government vehicles - charges he denied. His lawyers complained about irregularities in the arrest and detention procedures, and about alleged government interference in the judicial proceedings. He was subsequently sentenced to three months' imprisonment after being convicted of illegal possession of arms. His bodyguard, who was also arrested, was tortured apparently in an attempt to force him to make an incriminating statement.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest and continued detention without charge of Ngarlégy Yorongar;
- expressing concern at irregularities in the arrest and detention procedures and seek clarification of his legal status and of the reasons for his continued detention without charge;
- calling for his immediate and unconditional release if he is not to be charged promptly with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial within a reasonable period in accordance with international standards of fairness;
- seeking assurances that he will be allowed access to lawyers, family, doctors, and human rights organisations, and that his conditions of detention will conform to the United Nations Minimum Standards for the treatment of prisoners, including protection from ill-treatment or torture.

**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**

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

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

Monsieur Maldom Bada ABBAS  
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
N'DJAMENA, CHAD

**Faxes: + 235 52.58.85**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice, N'Djamena, Chad**

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

Procureur Général  
Palais de Justice  
N'DJAMENA, Chad

**Telegrams: Procureur General, N'Djamena, Chad**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur Général / Dear Procurator General**

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 / Dear Director General**

**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

Le Rédacteur en chef, Le Contact, BP 42, 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 12 August 1996.