

# CHAD

## Never again? Killings continue into the 1990's

### CASES FOR APPEALS

On 1 December 1990 the *Mouvement patriotique du salut* (MPS), Patriotic Movement for Salvation, a coalition of armed groups led by Idriss Déby, swept into the capital of Chad, N'Djaména. They overthrew the government of Hissein Habré which had held Chad in the grip of terror for eight years. Habré's regime was marked by horrific human rights violations; some 40,000 people are thought to have been killed in cold blood.

At first the new government encouraged hopes for human rights. In a letter to Amnesty International in January 1991, President Déby stated that his government's slogan was "*Plus jamais ça!*" (Never again!). The security police was dissolved. Political prisoners who had survived detention by the Habré government were released. An official inquiry was ordered into past human rights violations; for the future, the government promised a multi-party political system, free elections and the restoration of democracy. Political parties, trade unions and independent organizations, including human rights groups, were allowed to form for the first time in years.

It soon became clear that the promised new freedom was in serious jeopardy. Within a year of President Déby taking power, reports of killings, mass arrests and "disappearances" were again being reported from Chad. Torture was reported from the same detention centres which had once echoed to the screams of Habré's opponents. Anyone involved in criticism of the government, human rights work or peaceful opposition of any kind was at grave risk of human rights violations.

Any challenge, whether from dissident factions within the government's own ranks, from armed rebel groups, or from peaceful independent organizations, has been suppressed. Sometimes this has resulted in the indiscriminate slaughter of civilians; sometimes in the selective elimination of prominent individuals. Whoever their victims, the security forces have acted as jury, judge and executioner and they have operated with impunity.

The government's sole response to the instability which has rocked Chad since it took office has been repression characterized by persecution and ruthless reprisals. It has failed to investigate cases of human rights violations and to hold the perpetrators to account. It has been able to survive only at enormous cost to human rights.

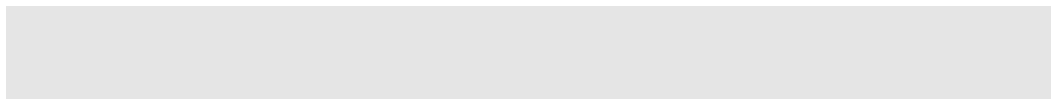
Despite enormous personal risk, there is a growing constituency of people in Chad prepared to speak out for change, for a society in which fundamental human rights are respected. Over the past two years the forces of non-violence have gained a voice. For the first time organizations and associations of ordinary people have been set up which are not mere appendages of the

ruling party. Among their objectives is the restoration of respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Concerted international action is vital to support that constituency in its struggle to secure human rights in Chad. In the 1980s, the international community made little effort to hold the Habré government to account for its actions. This reinforced a cloak of secrecy which concealed a pattern of gross human rights violations. With no one to speak out for them the victims were forgotten. Despite the lessons which might have been learnt from the past, the international community has so far failed to denounce the human rights violations which persist under the new government.

The eight cases described here illustrate the failure of the Déby government to stop human rights violations in Chad. Many of the people in these cases have been killed. Those who are still alive narrowly escaped being killed. The victims include men, women and children; innocent civilians from all walks of life. By publicizing these cases and sending appeals, as suggested in the following pages, you can help to dispel the assumption made by governments such as Chad's that the international community will eventually resign itself to the deaths of individuals. The shocking number of killings reported from Chad is a powerful indictment of such resignation. We might ask, "what can we do to bring them back?", but these cases give us an opportunity to emphasize the individuality of both the victims and the perpetrators, to show that the victim and the crimes committed against them will not be forgotten and to press for action to prevent their repetition.

**Please support the Chadian people in their struggle for human rights. Help stop killings, "disappearances", torture and arbitrary detentions in Chad.**



Widows of victims of killings at a mosque in Diguél-est on 1 August 1992, with their children

*For more information about the current situation in Chad and Amnesty International's concerns, you can read AI's latest report entitled "Chad - Never again? Killings continue into the 1990's" (AI Index no. AFR 20/04/93) published on 21 April 1993.*

## CHAD

### CASES FOR APPEALS

1. Joseph Behidi, lawyer and Vice-President of the *Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'homme* - killed
2. Irène Rémadji, age two-and-a-half - shot and injured
3. Doba massacre - six school children killed amongst 100 other civilians
4. Fatima Abraham Ahmat - shot and seriously injured
5. Faky Ali Ahmat, Quranic teacher (and six others) - killed
6. Raymond Natangar, director of a teachers' college - tortured to death in detention
7. Bisso Mamadou, company director - killed
8. Gabriel Belel, *gendarme* and chauffeur - "disappeared"

## **Joseph Behidi    Lawyer and human rights activist**

Joseph Behidi, a 40-year-old lawyer and Vice-President of the *Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'homme* (LTDH), Chadian Human Rights League, was driving home from a nightclub at 3am on 16 February 1992. Armed men in military uniform forced the car to stop and shot him dead at point blank range.

Before his murder, Joseph Behidi had been defending the Chadian independent weekly newspaper *N'Djaména Hebdo* against defamation charges filed by the Chadian army. He had also been promoting the role of the newly-created LTDH which criticized the government and security forces for violating human rights.

Joseph Behidi's car was taken away by his killers, suggesting initially that he was the victim of an armed robbery. However, it was reportedly found in a part of the capital which was closed to civilians, near the headquarters of the new security police known as the *Centre de recherche et de coordination des renseignements* (CRCR), Centre for Investigation and Coordination of Intelligence. It was then returned by the authorities to his family. Five people, who had reportedly told the authorities on the night of Joseph Behidi's murder that two soldiers had tried to sell them his car, were said to have been arrested.

In March 1992, the Chadian Minister of Justice, Monsieur Youssouf Togoimi, in response to inquiries from Amnesty International and others, announced that an official investigation into Joseph Behidi's death had begun.

In September 1992 the Chadian authorities said they had been unable to identify the killers, despite substantial evidence that they were linked to the security forces. The killing was blamed on "*des éléments incontrôlés*" (uncontrollable elements): armed groups or individuals who are outside the law and acting without the knowledge or supervision of the government. By early 1993 no one had been prosecuted for the killing and there had been no independent judicial investigation. The failure to apprehend the killers means that the security forces can act again with impunity.

It appears that Joseph Behidi, like many other victims of recent political killings in Chad, was targeted because he spoke out against human rights violations by the security forces.

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Youssouf Togoimi  
Ministre de la Justice,  
Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Mahamat Hassan Abakar  
Procureur général de la République  
BP 426  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- deploring the killing of Joseph Behidi which took place more than a year ago
- urging the government to ensure that human rights activists such as Joseph Behidi are able to carry out their work without fear for their personal safety
- calling for the publication of all the facts discovered so far about his death and for the prompt resumption of the official investigation, to be led by a judge (magistrat)
- asking that those found responsible for Joseph Behidi's death be brought to justice and that his family receive compensation
- expressing grave concern at the number of killings of civilians by soldiers or armed men in military uniform and asking the authorities to issue clear instructions to all members of the security forces that such killings will not be tolerated and that those found committing such abuses will be brought to justice

**Copies of your appeals can be sent to:**

Monsieur Djondang Tchaknone  
Président  
Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'homme  
BP 2037  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- expressing support for the LTDH and their efforts to ensure that Joseph Behidi's death is investigated and those responsible brought to justice

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**

## Irène Rémadji

Irène Rémadji was two-and-a-half years old when, while being carried on her mother's back, soldiers shot and killed her mother, Yogueade Augustine, in the Walia district of N'Djaména in February 1992. Irène's young mother had just arrived in N'Djaména on her way to visit her sister, when the lorry she was in was stopped by soldiers. Passengers were ordered off the lorry at gunpoint and then fired on without provocation.

Soldiers stopped civilians from rescuing Irène Rémadji. Her mother's body was taken to the morgue with Irène still tied to her back. The little girl survived the attack, although wounded by bullets in the chest and thigh. Eventually it was realized that the child was still alive and she was untied from her mother's body, but she remained in police custody without treatment for her wounds, or anything to eat, until the following day when she was handed over to relatives.

It appears that the passengers in the lorry were targeted because of their ethnic origin. They came from southern Chad and were caught up in a round of reprisal killings following clashes between an insurgent group of rebel soldiers belonging to the *Comité de sursaut national pour la paix et la démocratie* (CSNPD), Committee for the Revitalization of Peace and Democracy, and government troops, which broke out in N'Djaména on 21 February. The insurgents reportedly attacked a police station in Chagoua district. After 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 in the attacks or clashes. Thirty-eight bodies were fished out of the river Chari on the outskirts of the capital and another seven were later found in the bush.

To Amnesty International's knowledge, there has been no official inquiry into the killings of the lorry passengers in Walia district or into related killings of Chadian civilians from the south, despite appeals from Chadians and non-Chadians alike (including the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa who was visiting Chad at the time). Following two other clashes between the CSNPD and government troops in southern Chad in August 1992 and January 1993, at least 200 unarmed civilians were killed by government troops in reprisal attacks.

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Youssouf Togoimi  
Ministre de la Justice,  
Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Loum Hinassou Laina  
Ministre délégué auprès de la  
Présidence de la République  
chargé de la Défense nationale  
Ministère de la Défense nationale  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- deploring the killing of Yogueade Augustine, a civilian shot dead by soldiers in February 1992, and expressing grave concern for the treatment of Irène Rémadji, her young daughter
- stressing the horror of the incident given Irène's age and the extremely traumatic situation that she had to endure
- deploring the victimization of Chadian citizens simply because of their ethnic origin
- calling on the government to initiate a prompt, independent and impartial inquiry into this incident, to ensure that those found responsible are brought to justice and that the families of those killed are compensated
- urging the Chadian authorities to issue orders to all members of the security forces -and to ensure their adherence to them - not to use violence against unarmed civilians or captured combatants who do not pose a threat to life, to treat them humanely and refrain in all cases from killing or injuring such people

**Copies of your appeals can be sent to:**

Lieutenant-Colonel Nestor Nbaye Mahamat Garfa  
Chef d'Etat-major général  
Armée nationale tchadienne  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad.

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**



## **Doba Massacre**

### **Six school children killed**

On 17 August 1992, government forces, including the elite *Garde républicaine* (Republican Guard) went on the rampage in Doba, a town in the south of Chad, shooting people indiscriminately in their houses and in the streets and fields. Over 100 unarmed civilians, including children, were shot down and killed; many more were injured.

Four children registered at the local *lycée* (secondary school) were among those killed. A further two children later died from their injuries. Mingue Ouadaye, age six, was wounded by bullets as her grandmother was killed trying to save an eight-year-old girl hit by a bullet.

The authorities attempted to justify the killings, stating that armed rebels had tried to hide among the civilian population, making it impossible for soldiers to distinguish between unarmed civilians and insurgents, who might attack them at any moment. In reality, it is quite clear that soldiers even deliberately shot at children, who were unarmed and posed no danger.

Since February 1992, the countryside surrounding Doba has been affected by the activities of an armed rebel group, the *Comité de sursaut national pour la paix et la démocratie* (CSNPD), Committee for the Revitalization of Peace and Democracy. In mid-August 1992, negotiations were at an advanced stage to bring the CSNPD insurgency to an end. However, on 16 August, on the outskirts of Doba, a vehicle failed to stop at a road block. Soldiers opened fire and killed two people. In apparent retaliation, CSNPD rebels launched an attack early the following morning on Doba's garrison.

The ensuing fighting between government forces and the rebels lasted a few hours leaving some 20 of those involved dead. By 9am the fighting was over and the rebels fled into the town or surrounding fields. Soldiers then stormed into the town and the indiscriminate killing lasted for the rest of the day. Killings occurred all over town and vehicles arriving into Doba were attacked without warning. There were also killings in the surrounding rice fields. Shops and businesses were looted and damaged.

Reports to Amnesty International make it clear that more than 100 unarmed civilians were killed in this incident. However, there has been considerable controversy over the exact number which the government has exploited to shift the focus away from the responsibility of its own armed forces. In its first public comment, the government claimed that only five or six people had been killed. By the end of August, Prime Minister Joseph Yodoyman suggested that only 25 civilians had died. When Amnesty International delegates visited Chad in September 1992, they were informed by the government that 34 or 35 people had died. The authorities claimed that a local Procurator had started an investigation in September 1992, but it remains unclear whether any investigation took place and, if so, what the results were. Amnesty International received information from eye-witnesses who had counted corpses, making it clear that the total number killed was much higher than the government admitted.

In February 1993, Amnesty International received reports of a similar incident in January of

deliberate and arbitrary killings by government forces of at least 45 civilians in Goré, a town 95 kilometres south of Doba.

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
République  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Mahamat Hassan Abakar  
Procureur général de la  
BP 426  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Loum Hinassou Laina  
Ministre délégué auprès de la  
Présidence de la République  
chargé de la Défense nationale  
Ministère de la Défense nationale  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- deploring the killing of unarmed civilians at Doba on 17 August 1992, including at least six children
- stress that there can be no justification for the killing of young children who clearly posed no danger to anyone
- asking for the immediate suspension from active service of officers commanding the Doba garrison until they have been cleared of responsibility for the killings
- urging the government to initiate an independent and impartial inquiry into the killings, to bring those responsible to justice and to ensure compensation for all those affected
- urging the government to prevent such atrocities from recurring in future, for example by issuing and ensuring adherence to orders to all armed units that the killing and injuring of unarmed civilians is absolutely prohibited

**Copies of your appeals can be sent to:**

Lieutenant-Colonel Nestor Nbaye Mahamat Garfa  
Chef d'Etat-major général  
Armée nationale tchadienne  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad.

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**

## **Fatima Abraham Ahmat**

Fatima Abraham Ahmat is a young woman of the Ouaddaian community (people from the Ouaddaï region near the Sudanese border). She lives in Diguel-Est, a suburb on the outskirts of the capital, N'Djaména.

In June 1992, two gendarmes were sent by their commander to Diguel-Est, apparently in search of a Quranic teacher known as Faky Ali Ahmat. Fatima and another member of the community were stopped by the two gendarmes, who demanded to know Faky Ali Ahmat's whereabouts. Having failed to obtain the information they wanted from Fatima and her companion, the gendarmes shot them in the legs without provocation. Fatima was seriously wounded in the thigh and there were doubts as to whether she would ever recover full use of her leg.

The local population reacted angrily, beating the gendarmes, confiscating their guns and refusing to let the two gendarmes leave. The gendarmes' commander later negotiated their release. A few days later the *chef de race* (head of the community) of the Ouaddaiens handed the guns in to the Gendarmerie.

No official investigation is known to have been conducted into this incident. The victims have received no compensation for their injuries. The authorities are not known to have taken any action against the gendarmes responsible for the shootings or against the commander who dispatched them.

Later in August over 100 gendarmes returned to Diguel-Est to arrest Faky Ali Ahmat, the Quranic teacher from the Diguel-Est mosque whom the two gendarmes had been looking for when they shot at Fatima. They demanded an official letter from the Minister of Interior for permission to use firearms if they thought it necessary before they returned to the village, apparently because of the earlier action by the Ouaddaien community. This second visit by the gendarmerie to Diguel-Est resulted in the death of seven people. Faky Ali Ahmat was one of those killed. This incident is also the subject of an Amnesty International appeal case.

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Loum Hinassou Laina  
Ministre délégué auprès de la  
Présidence de la République  
chargé de la Défense nationale  
Ministère de la Défense nationale  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Koïbla Djimasta  
Ministre d'Etat à l'Intérieur  
et à la Sécurité  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- expressing concern at the serious injuries sustained by Fatima Abraham Ahmat in June 1992 when gendarmes injured her without any apparent provocation in Diguel-Est
- asking that Fatima Abraham Ahmat receive adequate medical care and compensation for her injuries
- calling for a prompt and independent investigation into the incident and for those found responsible for the shooting to be brought to justice
- calling on the government to establish regulations governing the use of firearms, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations (UN) Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (adopted by the UN in 1979) and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (adopted by the UN in 1990), and to ensure that these regulations are respected by all members of the security forces

**Copies of your appeals can be sent to:**

Lieutenant Colonel Djimai Gaw  
Commandant  
Gendarmerie nationale du Tchad  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**

## **Faky Ali Ahmat, Quranic teacher and six others**

On 1 August 1992, over 100 gendarmes surrounded a mosque in Diguel-Est, a small suburb just outside the Chadian capital N'Djaména. The gendarmes were on an operation to arrest Faky Ali Ahmat, a 52-year-old Quranic teacher. The warrant for his arrest was issued in connection with a civil dispute between members of a community originating from Ouaddaï, in the east of the country, and the city authorities over the ownership of the land on which the mosque was built. There were reports that people connected with top government officials wanted to acquire the land.

Men from Diguel-Est mosque

When the gendarmes arrived at the mosque, Faky Ali Ahmat refused to give himself up, telling the gendarme commander that he would present himself to the Minister of the Interior the next day. The Minister was contacted by gendarmes at the scene. He rejected Faky Ali Ahmat's request and ordered his arrest.

The gendarmes had obtained written permission to use firearms if they met resistance, because of earlier unrest in the village over the shooting and wounding of two members of the community. Gendarmes fired tear-gas canisters into the mosque where Faky Ali Ahmat and his followers were praying, forcing them out of the mosque. As the gathering fled outside, the gendarmes opened fire. Faky Ali Ahmat is reported to have waved a white scarf, appealing to them not to shoot. He was shot in the stomach. As he fell to the ground gendarmes rushed forward and beat him to death.

A total of six people were killed at the Diguel-Est mosque, while a seventh, a teenage boy, died later from his injuries. Eight others were injured. The government took no steps to order an independent inquiry and government ministers gave conflicting explanations for the killings. One claimed the gendarmes had opened fire in self defence, another blamed the Minister of the Interior for giving the gendarmes permission to shoot if Faky Ali Ahmat resisted arrest. The Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, seconded from the *Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'homme* (LTDH), Chadian League for Human Rights, criticized Interior Ministry officials over the shootings and resigned in protest.

Six weeks later, in the absence of any official action, relatives of those killed and some of the injured lodged a complaint with the N'Djaména Procuracy (Public Prosecutor's office). In September 1992 a Procuracy official told Amnesty International that an inquiry had begun but made no progress because the Gendarmerie refused to cooperate with the civil authorities. Some government and Gendarmerie officials told Amnesty International that a special section of

the Gendarmerie carried out an internal investigation into the incident and found that there had been no wrong-doing by the gendarmes involved. There was no official independent inquiry. By early 1993 it was still unclear what progress had been made by the Procuracy to bring those responsible to justice.

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby Abakar Président de la République République Présidence de la République N'Djaména République du Tchad	Monsieur Mahamat Hassan Procureur général de la BP 426 N'Djaména République du Tchad
---	--

Monsieur Koïbla Djimasta  
 Ministre d'Etat à l'Intérieur  
 et à la Sécurité  
 Ministère de l'Intérieur  
 N'Djaména  
 République du Tchad

- deploring the killing of Faky Ali Ahmat and six of his followers by members of the gendarmerie
- calling for an independent and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the killings and the wounding of at least eight others at Diguel-Est mosque, asking that those found responsible be brought to justice and that the families of those killed receive compensation
- expressing concern that this incident and other recent killings in Chad suggest that the Chadian authorities have allowed and even ordered the use of lethal force by the security forces in circumstances that violate internationally recognized standards
- recommending that the government, as a matter of urgency, establish regulations governing the use of firearms, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations (UN) Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (adopted by the UN in 1979) and the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (adopted by the UN in 1990), and ensure that these regulations are respected

**Copies of your appeals can be sent to:**

Lieutenant Colonel Djimai Gaw  
 Commandant  
 Gendarmerie nationale du Tchad  
 N'Djaména  
 République du Tchad

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**

**Raymond Natangar****Director of a teachers' college**

In October 1991 violent armed clashes occurred between sections of the armed forces. Maldom Bada Abbas, then Vice-President of the ruling *Mouvement patriotique du salut* (MPS), Patriotic Movement for Salvation, and Minister of Interior and Security, was arrested. The authorities said he tried to seize power by force from President Déby but others attributed his arrest to tension between his supporters and those of the President, within the ruling MPS and its army. The incident took place just 10 months after the MPS had come to power. Several dozen people, most of them, like Maldom Bada Abbas, members of the Hadjerai ethnic group, were arrested. At least four subsequently "disappeared".

At least 40 other Hadjerai were extrajudicially executed, many of them on account of their ethnic origin or because they were known to be supporters of Maldom Bada Abbas.

Raymond Natangar, Director of Studies at the *Ecole normale supérieure* (Higher Teachers College) in N'Djaména, was one of those detained. He was held at a detention centre known as the *piscine* (swimming pool), a converted pool at the former Presidential Palace, which had been used for torture under the former government of Hisssein Habré. Raymond Natangar was severely beaten and tortured. He died from his injuries in October 1991.

Many others detained at that time were reported to have been tortured in the custody of the security forces. They were severely beaten, starved and partially suffocated. Some died as a result. The current government has denied ever using the *piscine* as a detention centre, despite evidence to the contrary. This particular detention centre was later destroyed as part of a public relations exercise in July 1992.

Graffiti on the walls of the *piscine* detention centre shows a date of 11.7.91



In January 1992 the government announced the release of all political prisoners, including those held in connection with the alleged coup attempt of October 1991. However, the authorities did not make public the identities or numbers of those released and did not comment on reports that some of these two groups of prisoners had been tortured or secretly killed. Within weeks of the releases, Amnesty International received reports that at least 50 of those arrested, including soldiers detained in October 1991, had in fact not been released.

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Youssouf Togoimi  
Ministre de la Justice,  
Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- deploring the torture and killing in detention of Raymond Natangar in October 1991 and expressing serious concern that other prisoners held at that time were tortured, "disappeared" or secretly killed

- calling on the government to initiate an independent and impartial investigation into the killing of Raymond Natangar and to bring those found responsible to justice
- asking the government to establish and make public the identities of all prisoners arrested during the alleged October 1991 coup attempt, naming those who have been released, those who still remain in detention and accounting for those who "disappeared"
- calling on the government to publicly condemn and prohibit by law the torture and ill-treatment of detainees and to introduce safeguards, including formal detention procedures, which would help prevent torture.

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**

## **Bisso Mamadou Water and Electric Company Director**

Bisso Mamadou, director of the *Société tchadienne de l'électricité et de l'eau* (Chad's state water and electricity company), died from gunshot wounds on the night of 11 January 1992. He and two people with him were shot by members of the security forces who included personnel from the *Centre de recherche et de coordination des renseignements* (CRCR), Centre for Investigation and Coordination of Intelligence, Chad's new security police. According to current CRCR regulations, the CRCR is an intelligence-gathering service and its personnel are not allowed to arrest or detain suspects. Armed men broke into Bisso Mamadou's home in N'Djaména, supposedly seeking to arrest him and two of his associates, Ahmed Seid Ali and Moussa Mahamat, on suspicion of supporting armed government opponents.

Independent sources claim that the security forces opened fire without provocation, killing all three men. It appears that Bisso Mamadou and his two friends were shot because they protested against their unlawful arrest, at night, by armed men with no arrest or search warrants. A further 15 people were arrested for similar reasons on the same night, all of whom are believed to have been released later.

It is thought that Bisso Mamadou was targeted because of his association with a non-violent political party known as the *Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès* (RDP), Rally for Democracy and Progress, advocating peaceful reform in Chad, of which Moussa Mahamat was a founding member. This victimization occurred despite the fact that on coming to power in December 1990, the new government, headed by President Déby, explicitly allowed the formation of political parties. The arrests occurred while the Chadian army was fighting armed supporters of the former President, Hissein Habré, near Lake Chad. However, no link has ever been proved between the RDP and these armed government opponents.

The body of Bisso Mamadou was taken away by his killers and not returned to his relatives, thus preventing any independent examination of the injuries which caused his death. No official inquiry into the incident is known to have been initiated.

A door in Bisso Mamadou's house, wrecked by security police

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Joseph Yodoyman  
Premier Ministre  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- deploring the killing of Bisso Mamadou and his two associates
- calling on the government to initiate an independent and impartial investigation into the incident and to bring those responsible to justice and to ensure that the victims' families are compensated
- calling on the government to oblige CRCR personnel to observe regulations and not to arrest or detain suspects, and to ensure that anyone found contravening these regulations is disciplined
- requesting the authorities to make clear to all security personnel of the CRCR and other branches of the security forces that the killing of unarmed civilians who do not pose a life-threatening danger to them will not be tolerated and that in every case, those found responsible will be brought to justice

**Copies of your appeals can be sent to:**

Al Hadj Zacharia Berdei  
Directeur  
Centre de recherche et de coordination de renseignements (CRCR)  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**

## **Gabriel Belel      *Gendarme and chauffeur***

Gabriel Belel, a *gendarme* and official driver for the Presiding Judge at a special military court in Chad, was reportedly arrested with three other people on 13 October 1991 by members of the security forces at the judge's home in the capital of Chad, N'Djaména. The four who were arrested were all members of the Hadjeraï ethnic group. None of them have been seen since their arrest. Gabriel Belel's relatives fear that he was secretly killed.

The arrests took place after the authorities announced on 13 October 1991 that an attempt by a section of the Chadian armed forces to overthrow President Idriss Déby had been thwarted. Those alleged to be responsible for the coup attempt were Hadjeraï. In the ensuing hours and days, at least 70 people are believed to have been killed. Some were killed while trying to prevent soldiers seizing their property and at least 25 were reportedly executed at a site about 25 kilometres north of N'Djaména. Several dozen people, most of them members of the Hadjeraï ethnic group, were arrested.

Soldiers reportedly singled out the judge's home because a number of their colleagues were in custody awaiting trial by a special military court on criminal charges. The military court had been set up earlier in 1991 in an apparent attempt to curb crime and violence among soldiers. Three soldiers and a civilian, sentenced to death by the court, had been executed a week earlier. The soldiers who attacked the judge's home evidently suspected that their colleagues in custody were likely to be sentenced to death and executed. The imprisoned soldiers were freed by their colleagues and have remained at large. Gabriel Belel and the three abducted with him have remained unaccounted for: they have "disappeared".

Others among those arrested in October 1991 are reported to have been tortured in custody by being severely beaten, starved and partially suffocated. The government has denied this. Many other Hadjeraï fled from N'Djaména in fear of their safety. None of those detained was ever charged formally and all were held outside the framework of the law.

On 14 November 1991 the government announced that it was setting up a commission of inquiry, chaired by a N'Djaména Appeal Court judge, to investigate human rights violations and other criminal offences in the wake of the alleged coup attempt. To date, the commission has not published any report and there is some doubt over whether it ever began its work.

A few months later, the government claimed that all those arrested after the incident had been released. However, it did not publish the names either of those detained or of those released, thus making it impossible to verify what had happened to prisoners such as Gabriel Belel. Within weeks of the government's announcement, Amnesty International received reports that at least 15 soldiers detained in October 1991 were still in prison. Fifteen prisoners who had allegedly been severely ill-treated in custody and required medical treatment were eventually released in February 1992.

No official investigation into the "disappearance" of Gabriel Belel and the three other men at the

judge's home is known to have taken place. Other reported "disappearances" have similarly not been investigated. The authorities' failure to take action on such cases means that they have virtually condoned "disappearances" as well as failed to take appropriate action to stop them recurring.

**Please send appeals to:**

Son Excellence Monsieur le Colonel Idriss Déby  
Président de la République  
Présidence de la République  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

Monsieur Loum Hinassou Laina  
Ministre délégué auprès de la  
Présidence de la République  
chargé de la Défense nationale  
Ministère de la Défense nationale  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

- expressing concern that Gabriel Belel and three other men arrested with him on 13 October 1991 are reported to have "disappeared" in the aftermath of the alleged coup attempt in October 1991
- asking the government to establish the whereabouts of the four men and any other people reported to have "disappeared" at this time and, if they are still detained, to make public their identities and places of detention
- asking the government for any progress from the commission of inquiry set up on 14 November 1991 which was to investigate human rights violations and criminal acts committed on or soon after 13 October 1991
- asking that if no official inquiry has begun that such an inquiry be initiated as a matter of urgency
- urging the government to bring to justice any officials found responsible for unlawful detention, ill-treatment or torture of detainees, "disappearances" and secret killings

**Copies of your appeals can be sent to:**

Monsieur Youssouf Togoimi  
Ministre de la Justice,  
Garde des Sceaux  
Ministère de la Justice  
N'Djaména  
République du Tchad

**You can also write to your own government to draw their attention to the situation in Chad and asking them to appeal on behalf of this case.**