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CHAD

Cases for Appeal



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CHAD: TORTURE

“I wasn’t tortured, I’ve got scars on my arms from being tied arbatachar style for more than five hours, but for the others it was worse”

This quote obtained during a mission to Chad in April 1996 from a former detainee, arrested on suspicion of being a “codo¹” and subsequently released without charge after months of detention, highlights how routine torture has become in Chad. *Arbatachar* is the name given to a torture method where the victim’s arms are tied around the elbows behind the back, forcing the chest out, and the feet tied up to the arms. Sometimes - as in this case - the arms are tied but not the feet.

While all detainees, whether common-law or political, are at risk of ill-treatment, political detainees, particularly those suspected of links with armed groups, are at risk of severe torture.

J was arrested on 15 May 1995, accused of being a “codo” and severely tortured shortly after his arrest, apparently in an attempt to make him “tell the truth”. Metal rulers were attached to each side of his head by elastic bands at the front and back. The rulers were then tapped with another metal ruler, causing vibrations which he described as being like an electric shock. This lasted for around two hours causing severe headaches and nausea. The conditions in which J was held were extremely harsh. He spent three weeks in a cell at the Gendarmerie in Moundou known amongst detainees as “the oven” because of the extreme heat and lack of ventilation. He was handcuffed throughout his detention. After three weeks, he was transferred to the town prison, still chained and handcuffed. On 10 June 1995 he was transferred to N’Djaména where he was held at the Gendarmerie. He was released without charge or trial on 28 July 1995.

J’s name is known to Amnesty International but has not been published for security reasons.

Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners is widespread in Chad. The main purpose of torture and ill-treatment appears to be to extract confessions or statements incriminating others. It is also used as a tactic of intimidation against the civilian population. Torture and ill-treatment mainly occur at the time of arrest and in early stages of detention. There are various recurrent forms of torture. Credible testimonies describe how detainees have been tied to the back of vehicles and dragged along the ground for hundreds of metres. Others have been tied *arbatachar* style, forced into plastic sacks and submerged in rivers or have had chillies put in their nostrils, eyes and mouth. Others are forced to

¹“Codo”, derived from the French “commando”, refers to combatants of the armed group, the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, which derives much of its support from the two Logone regions of southern Chad.

drink large quantities of water and beaten. Other detainees are subjected to a more psychological form of torture: they are taken out of the cell for interrogation and told of the torture allegedly inflicted on the person interrogated before them as a form of intimidation. There have been a number of deaths in detention as a result of torture.

Was I tortured? What do you mean by torture? Is it torture when they talk in front of you about whether they will put you in the river at 2am or 4am?

Testimony of a former detainee taken during an Amnesty International mission to Chad in April 1996.

Additionally, prison conditions in Chad are generally harsh and in many cases pose a threat to health or to life. They are characterised by inadequate or non-existent sanitation, poor ventilation and insufficient food. Prisoners are sometimes kept chained and handcuffed in detention : conditions which Amnesty International considers to amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Chad has ratified a number of international instruments prohibiting torture and ill-treatment. Torture is a criminal offence and is prohibited under the constitution. However, no practical steps have been taken to eradicate the practice. Amnesty International believes that one of the main reasons why torture and ill-treatment continue in Chad is because of the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators. No investigations are known to have been carried out into allegations of torture, and no member of the security forces is known to have been brought to justice for committing such an act, suggesting that the Chad authorities condone these practices.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write a letter to the Chadian government explaining that you are raising the case of J as an illustration of the many other cases of torture and ill-treatment that occur in Chad:

* urge the government to investigate the reported torture of J and all other allegations of torture and ill-treatment. The findings of such investigations should be made public and the complainants, witnesses and investigators should be protected against violence or any other form of intimidation.

* urge that those accused of involvement in human rights violations be suspended from duty and removed from any position in which they might be able to obstruct investigations.

* appeal to the government to halt human rights violations by the security forces. Stress that past violations must be investigated and human rights violators brought to justice if there is to be respect for human rights now and in the future.

* welcome the ratification in June 1995 of international human rights instruments but express concern that torture is continuing with impunity. Call on the Chad authorities to take immediate steps to ensure adherence to these treaties and thus provide effective safeguards against torture.

Send a copy of one of your letters to the Chad authorities to your own government and urge them to be vigilant in monitoring Chad's human rights record and in calling on the Chad authorities to adhere to the international treaties they have ratified.

President : President Idriss Déby, Président de la République, Présidence de la République, BP 74, N'Djaména, Chad

Minister of Defence: Monsieur Ali Abasakine, Ministre des Forces armées, Ministère des Forces armées, N'Djaména, Chad

Minister of Justice: Monsieur Maldom Bada Abbas, Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux, Ministère de la Justice, N'Djaména, Chad.

Copies can be sent to : Monsieur Domaye Nodjigoto Daniel, Président de la Commission

*nationale des droits de l'homme, Palais du 15
janvier, BP 426, N'Djaména, Chad*
CHAD : EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION

“In the night of 19/20 August 1995, around 300 soldiers in VLRA² and SOVAMAGs² came on a patrol to the Beissa district, looking for “codos”. Around 4am they surrounded the village of Ber-Beissa and asked the 72 villagers to come out. Eleven young men including me were selected. They hit us with their guns and with stones; they tied our hands behind our backs and made us walk for a long while. They made us drink water and eat grass like animals. When we got there, they put us in a circle...” The soldiers then selected one from the group, took him to one side and shot him simultaneously in the back of the head and lower back. They then selected the next one and so on. *“While one soldier levelled his gun at **Etienne Djebayom’s** head, another levelled it at his stomach. They both fired at the same time. They did the same to my other friends, **Amand Djékoungatan, Gabriel Djékounyom, Sylvain Warie and Sébastien Nadjihadem.** Some of us tried to escape, that’s when **Gédéon Ngombaye** was killed. My friends’ bodies weren’t recognizable anymore - they were blown apart.”*

Testimony of a survivor, taken during an Amnesty International mission to Chad in April 1996.

Since then, many young men have left the area, fearing they will be targeted simply because of their age and the locality in which they live. Those who have stayed behind say life is no longer the same and they are unable to enjoy life.

The response of the Chadian authorities to sporadic but ongoing insurgency in the country has been characterized by systematic violations of human rights against real or perceived opponents and their communities.

Members of the security forces taking part in counter-insurgency operations have committed scores of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, and acts of torture including rape with complete impunity. While all parties to the conflict have committed human rights violations against the civilian population, the main perpetrators have been members of the *Force d’Intervention rapide* (FIR), Rapid Intervention Force and Gendarmerie.

During an Amnesty International mission to Chad in April 1996, delegates gathered information and testimonies from individuals and communities in the south of the country, where the level of violations appeared to be higher. Their testimonies revealed a systematic pattern of intimidation of the civilian population where the victims appear to be selected at random and where the survivors must deal with a legacy of terror.

² French made vehicules used by the Chad security forces as personnel carriers.

³ Derived from the French “commando”, it refers to combatants of the armed group the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, which has its heartland in the two Logone regions of southern Chad and from which it gains much of its support.

Extrajudicial executions are prohibited by international human rights treaties which Chad has ratified. The right to life is also safeguarded in the Chadian constitution. Yet the Chadian authorities appear to have taken no effective measures to prevent extrajudicial executions in practice.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write a letter to the Chadian government explaining that you are raising these cases with them as an illustration of the many other cases of extrajudicial execution that occur in Chad. In addition:

* urge the government to investigate all reports of human rights violations including the extrajudicial executions raised above. The findings of any such investigation should be made public and the complainants, witnesses and investigators should be protected against violence or any other form of intimidation.

* express concern that these killings appear to be part of a systematic pattern of repression and intimidation against the civilian population, and demand that the government establish strict control over all security force units engaged in counter insurgency operations and over all officials responsible for arrests, detention and imprisonment.

* stress that past violations must be investigated and human rights violators brought to justice if there is to be respect for human rights now and in the future.

* welcome the ratification in June 1995 of international human rights treaties and call on the Chad authorities to take immediate steps to ensure adherence to these treaties and thus implement effective safeguards against extrajudicial executions.

Send a copy of one of your letters to the Chad authorities to your own government and urge your government to encourage the Chad authorities to investigate past violations ask for their help in encouraging the Chad government to implement measures with a view to ending the impunity of the security forces. Urge your government to be vigilant in monitoring Chad's human rights record and

in calling on the Chad authorities to adhere to the international treaties they have ratified, thus putting in place effective safeguards against extrajudicial executions

President : President Idriss Déby, Président de la République, Présidence de la République, BP 74, N'Djaména, Chad

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Minister of Defence: Monsieur Ali Abasakine, Ministre des Forces armées, Ministère des Forces armées, N'Djaména, Chad

Minister of Interior: Monsieur Noudjalbaye NGARYANA, Ministre de la Sécurité publique, Ministère de l'Intérieur, N'Djaména, Chad

Minister of Justice: Monsieur Maldom Bada Abbas, Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux, Ministère de la Justice, N'Djaména, Chad.

Copies can be sent to : Monsieur Domaye Nodjigoto Daniel, Président de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme, Palais du 15 janvier, BP 426, N'Djaména, Chad

CHAD - INDISCRIMINATE USE OF LETHAL FORCE

Diallo Rimoububue, aged 13, was selling cigarettes with a friend, Benjamin Bjekoumbangye, aged 18, in the market place in the village of Goré, Logone occidentale in March 1996 when members of the security forces opened fire indiscriminately on the market place seriously injuring 11 civilians including Diallo Rimoububue. His right arm and left leg were amputated as a result of the bullet wounds he received.

2Diallo Rimoububue, aged 13

On that day, a rumour circulated in the village that a number of “codos” were at the market, getting provisions. When the security forces arrived they fired indiscriminately into the market place. No arrests were made and the codos fled unarmed.

Local officials denied that members of the security forces were at the origin of the shooting saying that rebels had shot first. According to information gathered by Amnesty International, it appears that members of the security forces opened fire without provocation and with no regard for possible civilian casualties. There has been no official independent investigation into the shootings.

While all parties to the conflict have committed human rights violations against the civilian population, the main perpetrators have been members of the *Force d'intervention rapide* (FIR), Rapid Intervention Force, and the Gendarmerie. Their response to the sporadic but ongoing insurgency has been characterized by systematic violations of human rights, against real or perceived opponents and their communities. Members of the security forces taking part in counter-insurgency operations have committed scores of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, and acts of torture such as rape with complete impunity as part of an overall pattern of intimidation of the civilian population by governmental forces.

Such indiscriminate use of lethal force is clearly prohibited by the **UN Code of conduct for law enforcement officials**, **UN Basic Principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials**; the right to life is also guaranteed under the **International Covenant on civil and political rights**, the **Universal declaration of human rights** and the **African Charter of Human and Peoples' rights**, all of which Chad has ratified, and by the Chadian constitution.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write a letter to the Chadian government explaining that you are raising the case of Diallo Rimoumbubue with them as an illustration of the many other cases of unnecessary and indiscriminate use of lethal force that occurs in Chad :

- * express concern at the unnecessary and indiscriminate use of lethal force by the Chadian security forces, which in this case left 11 civilians seriously injured, including two children, and has led to hundreds of extrajudicial executions.
- * urge the government to establish strict control over all security force units engaged in counter-insurgency operations.
- * this incident and all other allegations of human rights violations, including past violations, should be the subject of impartial and independent investigations, the findings of any such investigation should be made public and the complainants, witnesses and investigators should be protected against violence or any other form of intimidation. Stress that human rights violators must be brought to justice if there is to be respect for human rights now and in the future.
- * welcome the ratification in June 1995 of international human rights treaties. Express concern however that violations which contravene these international obligations are continuing with impunity. Call on the Chad authorities to take immediate steps to ensure adherence to these treaties, thus providing effective safeguards against human rights violations.

Send a copy of one of your letters to the Chad authorities to your own government and urge your government to encourage the Chadian authorities to investigate past and present violations. Ask for their help in encouraging the Chadian government to implement measures with a view to ending the impunity of

the security forces and strengthening the judiciary.

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CHAD : ARBITRARY ARREST OF POSSIBLE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Gédéon Largue MBAILASSEM, aged 25, was arrested by members of the Gendarmerie on 8 October 1995, on suspicion of being a "codô". Before his arrest he earned his living by fishing and farming. He was taken to the Gendarmerie in Moundou. His sisters were allowed into the Gendarmerie precinct and although they were able to take food to their brother they were not allowed to see him. Male members of the family were not allowed in at all. One of his sisters saw him on the first day; over the next two days she brought him coffee but was not allowed to see him; on the third day she was turned away and told that he had been taken to Sarh, Moyen Chari region. Southern Chad and was to be transferred to the capital N'Djaména. Since then his family have had no official confirmation of his whereabouts.

BEKOUIDA Moïse
 MBAHIREHINGAM Daniel
 DIGAMYO Séraphin
 MBAIREDA Richard
 DJELASSEM Valentin
 MBAIHOUEL Théodore
 KAMLAR Etienne
 DIGAMBAYE Samuel
 DJEBONGOUM Benoît
 MBAINAISSEM Elie
 NDOUDJIAM Alain
 NDOLMBAYE Mathieu
 KOUDJITA Odon
 DATOLOUM Florent
 NDOUBABE Célestin
 MBAIGOLOUM Jude
 GUELMBAYE Jérémie
 NEDOUMDINGAM Valentin
 NODJIMADJI Moïse
 MBAIGANON Jacob
 NDOREMBAYE Barthélémy

are also believed to be in detention without charge or trial in Faya Largeau.

Gédéon Largue MBAILASSEM and the other detainees named above were among at least 22 civilians arrested in the Logone occidental and oriental regions of southern Chad between July and October 1995, and accused of collaborating with the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale (FARF)*. They appear to have been arrested simply because of the locality in which they live. Some of them were held handcuffed and chained for over two months in harsh conditions at Moundou prison, before being transferred to N'Djaména. At least three other detainees who were arrested as part of this group were too ill to be transferred to N'Djaména; they were released without charge in October 1995.

Gédéon Largue Mbailassem's family seen here await news of his fate

Previously political prisoners detained in similar circumstances in Faya Largeau were made to carry out forced labour during their detention. In addition, conditions of detention were very harsh. Amnesty International fears that **Gédéon Largue MBAILASSEM** and his co-detainees may be held in similar conditions.

President Idriss Déby has faced on-going armed insurgency in the south, east and north (Lake Chad) regions of the country. While all parties to the conflict have committed human rights violations against the civilian population, the main perpetrators have been members of the *Force d'intervention rapide* (FIR), Rapid Intervention Force and the Gendarmerie. Their response to the sporadic but ongoing insurgency has been characterized by systematic violations of human rights including against real or perceived opponents and their communities. Members of the security forces taking part in counter-insurgency operations have committed scores of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, and acts of torture such as rape with complete impunity as part of an overall pattern of intimidation of the civilian population by governmental forces.

Torture and arbitrary arrest are clearly prohibited by international human rights treaties which Chad has ratified, and by the Chad constitution and Penal Code. Despite this no effective steps have been taken to eradicate the practices.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write a letter to the Chadian government raising the cases Gédéon Largue Mbailassem and the other detainees, who are still detained without charge or trial at Faya Largeau.

* say that they appear to be the victims of arbitrary arrest and **MAY** be prisoners of conscience, arrested simply because of their regional origin. Express concern that these arrests appear to be part of an overall pattern of intimidation and terrorisation of the civilian population by governmental forces

* urge that they be released immediately and unconditionally if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness and without recourse to the death penalty.

* urge that their families are informed immediately of their whereabouts and their legal status. Express concern that they may have been ill treated and tortured during their detention. Seek assurances that for as long as their detention continues they are treated in accordance with UN minimum standards of detention including access to medical care and lawyers.

Send a copy of one of your letters to the Chad authorities to your own government and urge your government to encourage the Chadian authorities to investigate past and present violations. Ask for their help in encouraging the Chadian government to investigate these cases and for those detained to be released if they are not to be charged with recognizably criminal offences. Ask for their help in ensuring that prison conditions in Chad conform at least to UN minimum standards of detention.

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CHAD - DEATH IN DETENTION

*On or around 8 August 1995, **Mbaïtare** Nasson, who had been detained in connection with a criminal offence, was transferred from Moundou prison to a cell in Moundou Gendarmerie. There he was interrogated about the activities of the rebel group, the Forces armées pour la République fédérale (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, without the knowledge or authorization of the Prosecutor of the locality. He was taken out of the cell in chains and caught "trying to escape". He was then reportedly forced to drink a large amount of water, tied to a tree and nails were hammered into his head. He died as a result of torture shortly afterwards. His body was found near the villages of Lolo and Samoh in Logone occidentale.*

The Commander in charge was transferred after the event. However, he is still believed to hold a position of authority. A judicial investigation was announced. However it is unclear whether there is the political will to investigate and bring those responsible to justice.

There have been a number of cases recently where detainees have died in detention apparently as a result of torture. At least four prisoners were reportedly tortured to death in 1995. A number of other deaths in detention have been reported, some of which appear to be as a direct result of poor conditions of detention and inadequate medical care.

Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners is widespread in Chad. Ill-treatment and torture mainly occurs at the time of arrest and in early stages of detention. The main purpose of torture and ill-treatment appears to be to extract confessions or statements incriminating others. Torture, including rape, is also used as a tactic of intimidation against the civilian population. Additionally,

prison conditions in Chad are generally harsh and in many cases pose a threat to health or to life. They are characterised by inadequate or non-existent sanitation, poor ventilation and insufficient food. Prisoners are sometimes kept chained and handcuffed in detention : conditions which Amnesty International considers to amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Chad has ratified a number of international instruments prohibiting torture and ill-treatment, and which guarantee the right to life. Torture is a criminal offence and prohibited under the Chad constitution. However, no practical steps have been taken to eradicate the practice. Amnesty International believes that one of the main reasons why torture and ill-treatment - and

which lead to deaths in detention such as this - continue in Chad is because of the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators. No investigations are known to have been carried out into allegations of torture, and no member of the security forces is known to have been brought to justice for committing such an act, suggesting that the Chad authorities condone these practices.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write a letter to the Chadian government explaining that you are raising the case of Mbaïtare Nasson with them to illustrate AI's concerns in relation to deaths in detention in Chad :

- * urge the government to investigate all reports of death in detention, including that of Mbaïtare Nasson, and other human rights violations. The findings of any such investigation should be made public and the complainants, witnesses and investigators should be protected against violence or any other form of intimidation.
- * urge that those accused of involvement in torture and other human rights violations should be suspended from duty and removed from any position in which they might be able to obstruct investigations.
- * stress that past violations must be investigated and human rights violators brought to justice if there is to be respect for human rights now and in the future.
- * appeal to the government to halt human rights violations by the security forces. State that the government must accept responsibility for these violations and ensure that human rights violators are punished.
- * welcome the ratification in June 1995 of international human rights instruments. Express concern that violations which contravene these international obligations are continuing with impunity. Call on the Chad authorities to take immediate steps to ensure

adherence to these treaties thus providing effective safeguards against human rights violations.

Send a copy of one of your letters to the Chad authorities to your own government and urge your government to encourage the Chadian authorities to investigate past violations. Urge your government to be vigilant in monitoring Chad's human rights record and in calling on the Chad authorities to adhere to the international treaties they have ratified.

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CHAD : HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY ARMED OPPOSITION GROUPS

In September, four young women were raped by three members of the armed opposition group, the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, who intercepted them as they returned on foot to their village from the market at Moundou, southern Chad. One of the victims, J, gave the following account :

...they asked where we were from and we said we were from Tilo. They asked us if the chief was there. They said they had been to him and asked him to give them and their comrades food but he had run away. They said that if we had been men they'd have killed us...they insulted us and said we were dirty. Then they went with us one by one. One of us resisted but they put a knife against her neck and she had to give in.

The Chadian government faces armed opposition particularly in the south, west and east of the country. The main armed groups are the FARF, le *Front national du Tchad rénové* (FNTR), *l'Armée nationale tchadienne en dissidence* (ANTD) and the *Mouvement pour la démocratie et le développement* (MDD). While all parties to the conflict have committed human rights violations or abuses against the civilian population, and government forces have used counter insurgency operations as a pretext to commit indiscriminate abuses against the civilian population, armed groups too have committed, deliberate and arbitrary killings, hostage taking and rape. They have also looted and held the population to ransom.

Members of the FARF, which operates in the south of the country have carried out abuses - including rape - against the civilian population. It appears to be a tactic of intimidation and reprisal against a population suspected of denouncing them or their activities to the authorities, as well in

some cases the opportunism of the armed aggressor.

Recent research by Amnesty International in southern Chad demonstrates that the local political and military authorities, along with armed opposition group leaders either are aware of the systematic abuses committed against women and girls, together with other gross abuses which have characterized the conflict, or have condoned such violations as part of war tactics. As a result, effective measures have rarely, if ever, been taken against perpetrators responsible for the rape and sexual abuses of women and girls. A limited number of women have tried to prosecute the perpetrators - both security forces and rebels but no successful prosecutions are known to have happened. One self-confessed rebel is currently in custody on charges of rape.

Absence of investigation into human rights violations has led to a sense of impunity which encourages both the security forces and armed opposition groups to believe crimes can be committed without fear of being brought to justice.

Rape and sexual abuse as forms of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment are clearly in contravention of international human rights standards ratified by Chad, as well as of international humanitarian law. The 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Conventions explicitly prohibit rape and any form of indecent assault at any time and in any place whatsoever.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write open letters to newspapers in Chad, addressed to Laokeim Bardé, leader of the Forces armées pour la République fédérale, Armed Forces for the Federal Republic.

* say that you are aware that many people have been extrajudicially executed by the Chadian security forces or been the victim of other violations by government security forces in Chad. However, no government violations can justify the arbitrary and deliberate killings of civilians by opposition groups, or other abuses against the civilian population.

* urge the leaders to make it clear to members of their groups that abuses against unarmed civilians will not be tolerated and to investigate and denounce human rights abuses committed by their own or other armed groups.

* ask to be informed of any steps they may have taken to prevent human rights abuses being committed by their members.

Addresses

N'Djaména Hebdo, BP 760, N'Djaména, Chad

Le Contact, BP 42, N'Djaména, Chad

Le Progrès, BP 3055, N'Djaména, Chad

CHAD : RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS

“...around 5am on 20 August 1995 soliders surrounded our village. Everyone started to flee but I couldn't as I was ill. Two soliders came into the house. One asked if I was the one married to a “codo”ⁱⁱⁱ. I said no and the other one hit me. I fell over and the other tore my wrap. The one who had hit me, hit me on the head with his gun and said if I screamed they would kill me. When he had finished doing it, the other one started. They raped me twice each in turns before leaving me. I couldn't get up when they had gone ... I had no strength left ..”

R, aged 30, was raped on 20 August 1995 in her village in Logone occidentale. She was one of a number of women, including a girl of 12, who were raped when the security forces surrounded their village, ostensibly looking for suspected members of armed opposition groups.

Rape and sexual abuse of women and girls have been reported in almost every modern situation of armed conflict, whether internal or international. Rape is not an accident of war, or an incidental adjunct to armed conflict: it is a weapon that may be used to spread political terror, to destabilize a society and break its resistance and to displace targeted groups.

There is evidence that women in Chad are routinely raped or subjected to other sexual abuses by members of the security forces, usually members of the *Force d'intervention rapide* (FIR), Rapid Intervention Force, and the Gendarmerie. Rape occurs particularly during counter-insurgency operations in the south where the government is facing armed opposition^{iv} from the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic. While all parties to the conflict have committed human rights violations - including rape - against the civilian population, the main perpetrators have been

members of the FIR and Gendarmerie. Their response to the sporadic but ongoing insurgency has been characterized by the systematic violation of human rights, including rape and sexual abuse, against real or perceived opponents and their communities as part of an overall pattern of intimidation of the civilian population. Members of the security forces taking part in counter-insurgency operations have committed scores of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, and acts of torture such as rape with complete impunity.

Both women and girls have been the victims of rape and sexual abuse. The victims fall into two categories: women targeted for human rights violations because of the real or perceived activities of their partners or male relatives; and victims of abuses, targeted simply because they live in areas where armed groups are active and where the population is automatically considered by the security forces to be sympathizers or supporters of the rebels. Most cases of sexual violence documented by Amnesty International, which represent only a tiny fraction of the total number of cases, are cases of rape, usually committed by several men. However, Amnesty International has also received information on other forms of sexual abuse against women and young girls, including forced sexual intercourse between partners in front of others and men forced to participate in the collective rape of their female relatives.

Rape and sexual abuse as forms of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment are clearly in contravention of international human rights standards ratified by Chad, as well as of international humanitarian law.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write a letter in French to the Chadian government :

* say that AI has received testimonies from a number of women indicating a pattern of rape and sexual violence and that this pattern is also well documented by human rights groups in Chad. Express concern that steps are not being taken to prevent this violation.

Urge the government to:

- * end the impunity enjoyed by law enforcement officials by ensuring that all reports of rape and other human rights abuses are promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated. Those responsible should be brought to justice.
- * condemn rape publicly as an act of torture and issue clear instructions to law enforcement officials that torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment are crimes punishable by law.
- * ask them to take special care to prevent rape during military operations.
- * provide victims with fair and adequate redress, including financial compensation and appropriate medical care.
- * ensure that all law enforcement personnel and other government agents receive adequate training on national and international human rights standards and how to enforce them properly, thus providing effective safeguards against further violations.

Send a copy of one of your letters to the Chad authorities to your own government and ask your government to publicly state its commitment to ensuring that the intergovernmental bodies which monitor human rights violations against women have adequate resources to carry out their tasks effectively and to urge those bodies to monitor rape and other human rights violations against women in Chad. Urge your government to support education and training programs in Chad designed to promote awareness of women's rights as human rights.

President : President Idriss Déby, Président de la République, Présidence de la République, BP 74, N'Djaména, Chad

Minister of Women: Madame Achta Selguet, Ministre des Affaires sociales et de la promotion féminine, Ministère des Affaires sociales, N'Djaména, Chad

Minister of Defence: Monsieur Ali Abasakine, Ministre des Forces armées, Ministère des Forces armées, N'Djaména, Chad

Copies can be sent to : Monsieur Domaye Nodjigoto Daniel, Président de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme, Palais du 15 janvier, BP 426, N'Djaména, Chad

i. "Codos" derived from the French "commando" refers to combatants of the armed group, the Forces armées pour la République fédérale (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, which derives much of its support from the two Logone regions of southern Chad.

ii. Derived from the French "commando" it refers to combatants of the armed group, the *Forces armées pour la République fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic, which derives much of its support from the two Logone regions of southern Chad.



ommando" refers to combatants armées pour la République s for the Federal Republic, which m the two Logone regions of

ÍV. The government also faces armed opposition in the east and Lake Chad region where rape and other violations by government troops are also reported as well as abuses by armed groups.