

URGENT ACTION

SEVEN HELD SINCE 2007, RELEASED IN 2011

Seven men subjected to enforced disappearance since late 2007 are now known to have been released in March this year. The men and their relatives have thanked Amnesty International for campaigning on their behalf.

The seven men had been arrested by Chadian security forces on 30 November 2007, in the town of Guéréda, in the north-eastern region of Dar Tama. They were released in March 2011 after more than 3 years in detention. During a meeting in N' Djamena with an Amnesty International delegate at the beginning of June 2011, the men and their relatives thanked Amnesty International for following up on their case. Amnesty International had raised their cases in several meetings with the Chadian government officials and with members of the international community including embassies accredited to Chad as well as United Nations representatives in the country.

These men are: Abdelkerim Mahamat Ahmat Taowraye; Abdelazizi Moussa Souleyman; Yacoub Oumar Adam; Youssef Abdelkerim Abdoulaye; Ibrahim Idriss Ibrahim; Ali Abdelkerim Mahamat (also known as Kauiguit) and Daoud Ibrahim Abdoulaye.

The men told Amnesty International that after their arrest, they were taken to the Korotoro maximum security detention centre on 8 December 2007 where they were held incommunicado. News of their possible detention at Korotoro emerged in 2010, but was never confirmed by the Chadian authorities, despite requests from the men's families, Amnesty International and other human rights organizations. The seven men were finally released on 13 March 2011, without having been charged with any criminal offence. They told Amnesty International's delegate that they were tortured during their detention.

The seven are all members of the Tama ethnic group; some of them were members of the former armed opposition group *Front Uni pour le Changement Démocratique* (FUC), United Front for Democratic Change, which was mainly made up of Tama people. The FUC's leader was the Chadian Minister of Defence, Mahamat Nour, who was dismissed by President Idriss Deby Itno on the day the seven were arrested. The president met with the men that day to discuss the disarmament of former FUC elements in the area that had refused to disarm. A number of other people arrested in Chad are still unaccounted for, and Amnesty International is continuing to campaign on their behalf.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 326/07. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR20/013/2007/en

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