

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ARRESTED IN CHAD

On 19 December, Daniel Dezoumbe Passalet, president of Human Rights without Borders (Droits de l'Homme Sans Frontières – DHSF), a Chadian human rights organization, was arrested. He has been charged with “false accusation” (*dénonciation calomnieuse*), in connection to a radio interview on 18 December.

According to **Daniel Dezoumbe Passalet**, his lawyers and local human rights organizations, his detention is in connection with an interview on *Radio France Internationale* (RFI) on 18 December. During the interview he denounced the obstruction of the investigation into the death in custody of 10 men in the southern town of Léré and the killing of the village chief of Matta-Léré and his three assistants in September 2011. He allegedly told RFI that the widow of the village chief was kidnapped by security forces in order to prevent her from withdrawing a complaint of “false accusation” she had lodged against opposition leader and member of parliament Saleh Kebzabo in connection with her husband’s killing.

On 17 October Daniel Deuzoumbe Passalet was threatened on national radio and television by Chadian government officials following a press statement by DHSF and an interview on N’Djamena based Radio FM Liberté on 3 October. In the interview, he denounced the impunity that surrounded the death of the 10 men, the killing of the village chief and his three assistants, as well as the outstanding issue of child abductions that are taking place in the region.

Please write immediately in French, Arabic, English or your own language:

- Express concern that Daniel Dezoumbe Passalet may be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression, in which case he should be immediately and unconditionally released;
- Urge the authorities to protect him from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Urge the authorities to respect and uphold the right to freedom expression in Chad and protect human rights defenders against harassment and intimidation based on the exercise of their human rights.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 JANUARY 2012 TO:

President of the Republic

Monsieur Idriss Deby
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
BP 74, N’Djamena
République du Tchad
Email: http://www.presidencetchad.org/notes_ecrire.php#

Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Human Rights

Amina Kodjiyana
Ministre des Droits de l’Homme
Ministère des Droits de l’Homme
BP 169, N’Djamena
République du Tchad
Email : droittchad@yahoo.fr
Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Abdoulaye Sabre Fadoul
Ministre de la Justice,
Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
BP 426, N’Djamena
République du Tchad
Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 17 September, nine men died of asphyxiation four hours after being detained in the National Gendarmerie in the town of Léré in the Mayo-Kebbi West region, southern Chad. Some of the men were subjected to ill-treatment during their arrest. The remaining detainees at the Gendarmerie were transferred to the N'Djamena Central prison where another man, Bouba Hamane, later died. The ten men were among around 47 people accused of involvement in the death of the Matta-Léré village chief. The village chief and his three assistants were killed in September by a group of villagers.

Name: Daniel Deuzoumbe Passalet

Gender m/f: Male

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