

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 20/13/97

11 December 1997

Further information on UA 315/97 (AFR 20/11/97, 3 October 1997) - Ill-treatment / Fear for safety

CHADSosthène Ngargoune, journalist
Dobian Assingar, human rights activist

New name: Julien Beassemda, human rights activist

Amnesty International continues to fear for the safety of Sosthène Ngargoune and Dobian Assingar, who received death threats from the Chadian security forces on 25 September 1997. Julien Beassemda, a human rights activist, also received death threats from the security forces on the same day and Amnesty International fears that he too is at risk of extrajudicial execution or other human rights violations.

All three men live in Moundou, southern Chad, where the human rights situation has rapidly deteriorated since fighting broke out on 30 October between the Chadian security forces and members of the former *Forces Armées pour la république fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces for the Federal Republic. Scores of people, including many unarmed civilians, have been killed or arrested in the following weeks, and the situation remains extremely unstable.

Members of the free press and human rights organizations, who speak out about abuses by government forces or armed opposition groups such as the FARF, are particularly at risk of human rights violations.

Julien Beassemda is president of the human rights organization *Association Tchad Non-Violence*. In the days following the events of 30 October, his house was ransacked by the security forces, who then detained two of his nieces for over 24 hours, until they were able to escape. Julien Beassemda was not in the country at the time, but he has recently returned to Chad and Amnesty International fears that he is in danger of being attacked or killed by members of the security forces.

Counter-insurgency operations by the security forces, in response to reported activity by the FARF, have often resulted in reprisals against the civilian population, during which large numbers of people have been killed or arrested and detained without charge. Members of the FARF have also committed grave human rights abuses against the civilian population, including indiscriminate killings.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French, Arabic or in your own language:

- asking for information about the steps taken by the government to ensure the physical safety and security of Sosthène Ngargoune, Dobian Assingar and Julien Beassemda;
- urging that the beating of Sosthène Ngargoune and the death threats against the three men be investigated, and that those responsible be brought to justice in accordance with international standards of fairness and without recourse to the death penalty;
- expressing concern over the harassment and ill-treatment of human rights defenders and journalists in Chad and urging that these groups, and all Chadian people, be guaranteed the rights to freedom of expression and association;

- calling on the Chadian authorities to take immediate practical steps to prevent further human rights violations by members of the armed forces and armed opposition groups.

APPEALS TO:

President

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 Déby, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Minister of Defence and Reintegration

Monsieur Mahamat Nimir HAMAJTA
Ministre de la Défense nationale et de la Réinsertion
Ministère de la Défense nationale
N'DJAMENA, Chad

Telegrams: Ministre des Forces armées, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation : Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Abdelkerim NADJO
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
N'DJAMENA, Chad

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Prefect of Moundou

Monsieur Ahmat Hassaballah Soubiane
Préfet de Moundou
Moundou
Logone occidentale, Chad

Telegrams: Prefet de Moundou, Logone occidentale, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Préfet

COPIES TO:

Chief of defence staff

Colonel Routouang Yoma GOLOM
Chef d'Etat-major Général
Armée nationale tchadienne
N'DJAMENA, Chad

Procureur de la République,
Palais de Justice, Moundou, Chad

Dobian Assingar and Sosthène Ngargoune,
LTDH/FLT, BP 108 Moundou, Chad

Le Rédacteur en chef, N'Djaména Hebdo,
BP 760 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 30 January 1998.