

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Deaths under torture

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SENEGAL: **Younouss Djiba**, aged 27, peasant farmer from Kaguitte, Nyassia sub-district, Ziguinchor department

and another man known as

Ampa Dakar, from Yotou village, Department of Oussoye

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The two men named above are reported to have been beaten to death by members of the armed forces in early October 1990 at the military barracks in Kaguitte village in the Department of Ziguinchor. Amnesty International has only recently received details of the incident.

The two men were evidently believed by the authorities to be supporters of the Mouvement des forces démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC), Movement of Casamance Democratic Forces, a political movement which is seeking the independence of Casamance and is responsible for a campaign of violence against government targets. They seem to have been suspected in particular of looting a food store in order to provide food for the insurgents and their supporters living in the bush. There are reports that when subjected to torture at the police station (gendarmerie) they confessed to these allegations. They were later handed over to members of the armed forces based at the military barracks in Kaguitte village, where they sustained broken bones as a result of severe beatings. It has been reported that they died while still in military custody.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned at reports of torture and extrajudicial executions committed by members of Senegal's security forces in the course of operations against Casamance separatists seeking the independence of the southern region of Senegal. In the first week of October 1990, five villagers fleeing from an army patrol were shot dead in the Kaguitte area. On 21 September 1990, five men from Kanaw village on the border with the Gambia were executed extrajudicially by soldiers, apparently on suspicion that they had provided guns and munitions to the separatists.

Since May 1990, the MFDC has dramatically increased the scale of its operations against government forces and civilian targets. More than 20 civilians and a number of soldiers have died as a result of these attacks.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Telexes/Telegrams/airmail letters:

- expressing concern that there have been numerous reports recently that torture is being used during the interrogation of people held on suspicion of involvement in the Casamance separatist movement; citing the two cases mentioned above as an example and expressing particular concern that the two men are reported to have died as a result of torture;
- seeking clarification of the exact circumstances and reasons for their reported deaths, in particular to establish which branch of the security

forces was responsible for their detention at the time of their deaths, whether they received any medical attention and whether their deaths were the subject of any official investigation;

- urging the authorities to set up an inquiry to investigate the reasons for the reported deaths in detention, and urging that if, as is reported, they died as a result of torture, criminal proceedings should be instituted against those suspected of responsibility;

- urging the authorities to take all necessary steps to ensure that no one in detention is subjected to torture, and calling on the authorities to issue clear instructions to the security forces that the use of torture is forbidden by both Senegalese law and by the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ratified by Senegal on 21 August 1986.

APPEALS TO:

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Monsieur Sérigne Lamine DIOP
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
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SENEGAL

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, Dakar
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Son Excellence
Monsieur Seydina Oumar SY
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
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and to diplomatic representatives of Senegal in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 December 1990.