

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: AFR 20/011/2009
24 September 2009

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Chad: Amnesty International urges stronger action to protect human rights

Amnesty International welcomes many of the recommendations made by states in the UPR Working Group, including those calling on Chad to end extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions, the impunity enjoyed by members of the security forces, violence against women and the recruitment of child soldiers. Amnesty International notes that Chad supports many of the recommendations.¹ The real test of this UPR examination will be measured by the extent to which the government fulfils the commitments that it has made and improves respect for Chad's international human rights obligations.

Amnesty International regrets that Chad did not expressly support some important recommendations made by several states.² In particular, we suggest that the recommendations made in the Working Group be strengthened as follows:

- To promptly implement the recommendations contained in the report of the *National Commission of Inquiry into the events of 28 January to 8 February 2008* and to initiate criminal proceedings against individuals suspected of having committed acts of rape, extrajudicial killings, torture, and other serious human rights abuses during the clashes in N'Djamena in 2008.
- To cease the forced eviction of people in N'Djamena and to conduct a full, independent and impartial enquiry into the role of police and military in forced evictions, and to hold accountable those responsible for human rights violations. It should also pass and enforce a law prohibiting forced evictions.
- To investigate and disclose the whereabouts of victims of enforced disappearance. In particular, the government should disclose the whereabouts of Ibni Oumar Mahamat Saleh who was arrested by members of the security forces on 3 February 2008; the more than 14 army officers and civilians who were arrested in April 2006 in N'Djamena and six men who were arrested on 30 November 2007 in Guereda, eastern Chad. The fate or whereabouts of these people remains unknown to this day.
- To immediately end the practice of secret detention and to make public the name and location of all detention facilities in Chad. In addition, the authorities must ensure that family members and legal and medical representatives of detainees have access to all detention facilities.
- To refrain from harassing human rights activists and journalists and to repeal the provisions of Ordonnance No 5 of 20 February 2008 which violate freedom of expression, and especially impede press freedom.
- To improve measures to protect women and girls living in IDP sites and refugee camps in eastern Chad, especially from rape and other forms of violence.

¹ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic review, Chad, paragraph 82

² *Ibid*, paragraph 84

Amnesty International welcomes the initiative by the government to hold a Forum on human rights³ and its efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission and that of the ministry in charge of human rights.

Background

The 12th session of the UN Human Rights Council today adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Chad. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

Public Document

International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK

www.amnesty.org

³ A/HRC/WG.6/5/TCD/1, paragraph 91