

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 21/92 Extrajudicial execution concern

15 January 1992

CHAD: Ahmed Seid Ali, trader

Bisso Mamadou, Director of state-owned Société tchadienne d'électricité et de l'eau (STEE), Chadian Electricity and Water Company

Moussa Mahamat, founding member of the opposition Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès (RDP, Rally for Democracy and Progress)

The three people mentioned above died during the night of 11 January 1992 in the Chadian capital, N'Djamena, from injuries sustained after they were shot by members of the Chadian security forces, particularly the security police known as the Centre de recherche et de coordination des renseignements (CRCR), Centre for Investigation and Coordination of Intelligence. The authorities have claimed that those killed were shot at a private residence in an exchange of fire with members of the security forces who were trying to arrest them on suspicion of supporting armed government opponents. Independent sources in N'Djamena indicate that the security forces opened fire without provocation while they were breaking into the homes of those they wanted to arrest. At least 15 people were subsequently arrested.

Amnesty International is investigating reports that, in addition to these three, others were also shot dead by members of the security forces. Independent sources in N'Djamena have suggested that most of those killed or arrested are members of the opposition Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès (RDP), Rally for Democracy and Progress, who have been targeted because of their peaceful opposition to the government.

Amnesty International is concerned that the three people named above appear to have been shot solely because they protested against their arrest, at night, by armed men who had no arrest or search warrants. Chad's laws impose strict limits on the circumstances in which arrests can be carried out, but these have been routinely ignored by both the present security police, and the security police of the previous government which was in power until December 1990. Several dozen people were killed in October 1991 following an alleged coup attempt. Although the government set up a commission of inquiry into the October 1991 events, the authorities have not yet carried out a full investigation into reports that they were extrajudicially executed by members of the security forces nor taken any other action to restrict the use of firearms or lethal force by the security forces. Amnesty International is concerned that the government's failure in bringing those responsible for extrajudicial executions to justice may lead to members of the security forces to think that they can continue to violate human rights with impunity.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the beginning of January 1992 rebels, believed to be supporters of former President Hissein Habré, clashed with government soldiers in the Lake Chad region in the west of the country. Most of those arrested after the rebel attack are former officials in President Habré's government. Many former officials in the government and security forces, including the defunct state security service known as the Direction de la documentation et de la

sécurité (DDS), Directorate for Documentation and Security, which was responsible for gross human rights violations during President Habré's rule, are reported to have been integrated in the new government's institutions such as the CRCR security police. Reports from Chad suggest that, as in October 1991, the recent arrests may be yet another move by President Deby's supporters to get rid of even peaceful government opponents by claiming they are linked to violent opponents of the government.

Although the authorities, who took power in December 1990, criticised the massive abuses of human rights committed by the previous government, they took no action to introduce safeguards or procedures which would prevent similar abuses. In particular, no action has been reported to oblige the security police to observe the arrest or detention procedures laid down in the Code of Penal Procedure, or to restrict the use of firearms or lethal force.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that on the night of 11 January 1992 members of the security forces shot and killed unarmed civilians in circumstances which appeared to be extrajudicial executions (name the three victims);
- urging the authorities to order an independent and impartial investigation into killings to establish if they were lawful or not, to bring anyone responsible for unlawful killings to justice and compensate the families of those extrajudicially executed;
- requesting the authorities to issue clear public instructions to all members of the security forces that the killing of unarmed civilians who do not pose a life-threatening danger to them is a criminal offence and that those found to be responsible will be brought to justice;
- pointing out that despite numerous requests by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations that clear guidelines on the use of firearms be issued to members of the security forces, the authorities have not taken measures to put an end to extrajudicial executions, as appears to have been demonstrated by the killings on 11 January 1992;
- in some appeals, recommending that new standing orders on the use of force and firearms be prepared and introduced, based on the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, (adopted by the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders on 7 September 1990 and welcomed by the UN General Assembly in Resolution 45/121 on 14 December 1990).

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Son Excellence Général Idriss DEBY
Président de la République du Tchad
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad
**Telegrams: President Deby, N'Djamena,
Chad**
**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or
5307 PRESIREP KD**
Faxes: + 235 51 4501
**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la
République / Dear President**

**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or
5307 PRESIREP KD**
Faxes: + 235 51 4501
**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre /
Dear Prime Minister**

2) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Jean Alingue BAWOYEU
Premier Ministre
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad
**Telegrams: Premier Ministre Bawoyeu,
N'Djamena, Chad**

3) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Youssouf TOGOIMI
Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux
Ministère de la Justice
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad
**Telegrams: Ministre Justice, N'Djamena,
Chad**
Telexes: c/o 5328 MINAFFET KD
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

4. Minister of the Interior:

Monsieur Ahmat Hassaballah SOUBIANE
Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité
Ministère de l'Intérieur
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad
**Telegrams: Ministre Intérieur, N'Djamena,
Chad**
Telexes: c/o 5328 MINAFFET KD
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

COPIES TO:

1) Minister of Defence:

Nadjita BEASSOUMAL
Ministre de la Defense
Ministère de la Defense
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

2) Editor of N'Djamena-Hebdo:

Le Rédacteur-en-chef
N'Djamena-Hebdo
11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle
BP 760, N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

3) Human Rights Organizations:

Monsieur Djondang TCHAKNONE
Président
Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'Homme
BP 2037, N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

and to diplomatic representatives of Chad
in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section
office, if sending appeals after 26 February 1992.