

UA 310/94 Extrajudicial Executions / Fear for safety

24 August 1994

CHAD Fear of further killings after security forces extrajudicially execute more than 25 civilians including:

Belelem Laoukoumnda, peasant, aged 48
Philippe Mbaissei, peasant, aged 47
Justin Helkom, aged 15
Raymond Ekoudjewa, aged 16
Joachim Meimbo, aged 50
Eugène Mbayom, aged 38
Mamanodji (first name unknown), pregnant woman
Benam (first name unknown), village chief
Laoundo (first name unknown) and his three sons

Fears for the safety of civilians in the Logone district of southern Chad have been raised by the reported extrajudicial execution by the Chadian army of more than 25 villagers on 13 August 1994. The likelihood of further killings and other human rights violations being committed against civilians fleeing the Kaga district for Moundou will increase if the government fails to immediately put an end to the impunity currently enjoyed by its armed forces.

Between 12 and 14 August, after fighting between the army and the *Forces Armées Pour la République Fédérale*, (FARF), Armed Forces For a Federal Republic, the army launched attacks on civilians in the district of Kaga, apparently in reprisal for the death of five soldiers on 12 August. The army torched several villages, including Korotrois, Bemboura, Mbala, Kagain and Heuri. In each village they forced the inhabitants to assemble, selected civilians, and in total killed more than 25 of them, including those named above.

In Kaga, the main town in the district of the same name, the head of the town (*Responsable du chef-lieu du Canton*), Djekoubam Bolbe, and some village chiefs, were tied up and beaten by soldiers. One of them reportedly remains paralysed as a result.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

More than 800 people, many of them unarmed civilians have been killed since President Déby came to power in December 1990. Many of them have been extrajudicially executed in custody or during attacks by members of the security forces on known or suspected government opponents or members of their ethnic groups.

Despite commitments by both the presidency and the government to protect human rights, the authorities are not known to have taken any action to investigate reported human rights violations and bring those responsible to justice.

The *Forces Armées Pour la République Fédérale* (FARF), Armed Forces For a Federal Republic, headed by Laokein Bardé, is a dissident group of the *Comité de Sursaut National Pour la Paix et la Démocratie* (CNSDP) led by Moïse Ketté. Laokein Bardé did not take part in negotiations between the Chadian government and the CNSDP held in August 1994 in Bangui. On the 10 August, the CNSDP and the government agreed an immediate ceasefire to the fighting which had continued between them since 1992. The CNSDP was subsequently recognised as a political party.

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

- expressing concern at reports that more than 25 civilians were extrajudicially executed on 13 August 1994 in the Logone district by members of the security forces, apparently in reprisal for the killing and wounding of army personnel on 12 August;
- expressing concern for the safety of the surviving inhabitants of Logone district, and urging the authorities to take all measures to guarantee their safety;
- urging that full and impartial investigations are undertaken including the naming of all those extrajudicially executed, that the results of the investigations are made public and those responsible be brought to justice;
- urging President Idriss Déby to implement his commitment to protect human rights by ending the effective impunity from prosecution of the security forces.

APPEALS TO :

1. Général Idriss Déby

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djamena, Chad

Telexes: 5201 PREDIREP KD or 5307 PRESIREP KD

Faxes: + 235 51 45 01

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République /Dear President

2. Monsieur Delwa Kassire Koumakoye

Premier Ministre

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Premier Ministre Koumakoye, N'Djaména, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

3. Monsieur Loum Hinassou Laina

Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Ministre Justice Laina, N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

4. Monsieur Ali Absakine

Ministre des Armées

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Minstre des Armées Absakine, N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO :

Newspaper:

Rédacteur-en-chef

N'Djamena-Hebdo

11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle

BP 760, N'Djaména, République du Tchad

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 5 October 1994.