

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 376/92 Fear of torture/extrajudicial execution

30 November 1992

CHAD: Mahamat Khaled - Member of an armed opposition group known as the Mouvement pour la Démocratie et le Développement (MDD), Movement for Democracy and Development
Mahamat Issak - Member of the MDD
and at least 13 other suspected or known members of the MDD

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Mahamat Khaled, Mahamat Issak and at least 13 other Chadian nationals. They are reported to have been arrested by Nigerian police in Borno State, Nigeria, during the last two weeks and forcibly repatriated to Chad. They are believed to be currently detained by Chad's security police known as the Centre de recherches et de coordination de renseignements (CRCR), Centre for Research and Coordination of Intelligence, in the capital, N'Djamena.

The persons concerned are known or suspected members of the Mouvement pour la Démocratie et le Développement (MDD), Movement for Democracy and Development and were living as political exiles in the Nigerian state of Borno, close to the Chadian border.

In February 1992, Amnesty International learned that more than 200 Chadian nationals had been forcibly returned from the capital of Nigeria's Borno State, Maiduguri, to N'Djamena, where they were held in detention. Many of them were blindfolded and tortured during the transfer to Chad and the subsequent interrogation in Chad by members of Chad's security forces. They were kept in cramped cells and starved; at least three of them died as a result of torture or extrajudicial execution (see UA 139/92, AFR 20/08/92 of 5 May 1992). Amnesty International is concerned that Chadian nationals, including those named above, who have been forcibly returned from Nigeria to Chad may be subjected to similar human rights violations.

Many of the detainees forcibly returned in February 1992 were later transferred to military barracks in north-east Chad and held in very poor conditions. Several more died on the way to, and in the detention centres, especially in Iriba, from insanitary conditions or disease. The surviving detainees were finally freed in July 1992 following the intervention of French government authorities. None of those detained were ever charged with any offence or referred to a judicial authority.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sporadic fighting between government forces and armed rebels belonging to the MDD, believed to be supporters of the former Chadian President Hissien Habré has been occurring throughout the year. The repatriations which occurred in February apparently took place after the Chadian authorities requested their counterparts in Borno State to hand over Chadian nationals suspected of responsibility for the attacks.

Following reports of intensified fighting between MDD supporters and members of the Chad National Army in Lake Chad region in recent weeks, it is feared that further

human rights violations, including torture and extrajudicial executions are likely to occur.

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

- expressing concern at reports that, as in February 1992, Chadian nationals have been forcibly returned from the Nigerian state of Borno and are being held in secret by members of Chad's security forces, particularly the CRCR;

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- requesting the authorities make public the identities of those held and their places of detention,

- requesting the authorities to urgently take adequate steps to protect those who may be detained at the CRCR or any other branch of the security forces from human rights violations by granting them immediate access to legal and medical attention as well as visits by their families and members of human rights groups;

- requesting the authorities to release them immediately, unless they have been charged with a recognizably criminal offence and are to be promptly brought to a fair trial;

- urging the authorities to ensure that those whose detention is ordered by a judicial authority are promptly transferred to prisons under the control of the judiciary.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Général Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djamena, Chad

**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or
5307 PRESIREP KD**

Faxes: + 235 51 4501

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République/Dear President

2) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Jean Alingue BAWOYEU
Premier Ministre
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Premier Ministre Bawoyeu, N'Djamena, Chad

**Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or
5307 PRESIREP KD**

Faxes: + 235 51 4501

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre/Dear Prime Minister

3) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Youssouf TOGOIMI
Ministre de la Justice,
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 Defence:

Ministre de la Défense nationale
Ministère de la Défense nationale
N'DJAMENA
République du Tchad

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, N'Djamena, Chad

Faxes: c/o + 235 51 4501

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/
Dear Minister**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Interior:

Monsieur Ahamat HASSABALLAH SOUBIANE
Ministre d'Etat à l'Intérieur et à la Sécurité
Ministère de l'Intérieur
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad

2) Human Rights Organization:

Monsieur Djondang TCHAKNONE

Président

Ligue tchadienne des droits de l'homme

BP 2037, N'Djamena, République du Tchad

3) Newspaper:

Rédacteur-en-Chef

N'Djamena-Hebdo

11 Avenue Charles de Gaulle

BP 760, N'Djamena, 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 11 January 1993.