

29 October 1998

Further information on UA 166/98 (AFR 20/06/98, 29 May 1998) and follow-ups (AFR 20/07/98, 19 June 1998 and AFR 20/08/98, 22 July 1998) - Fear for safety / Medical concern / Legal concern / Prisoner of conscience

CHADNgarléjy Yorongar le Moïban, (formerly spelt Ngarléjy) - leader and sole parliamentary representative of the opposition party, *Front d'action pour la République-Fédération (FAR)*, Action front for the Republic-Federation

There are concerns for the health of Ngarléjy Yorongar, who urgently requires hospitalization as a result of contracting malaria and typhoid fever in detention. Prison conditions in Chad are extremely harsh, amounting to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Ngarléjy Yorongar is serving a three year sentence in N'djaména Central Prison for defamation of President Idriss Déby and the President of the National Assembly, Wadal Addelkader Kamougué. Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

Ngarléjy Yorongar has a high public profile in Chad as a major critic of the government and the president. As such, he has been victim to politically motivated arrests on several occasions, in a country currently experiencing a grave human rights situation.

On 20 July 1998, after an unfair trial, Ngarléjy Yorongar was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 CFA (Central African Francs).

In an interview with a Chadian newspaper *l'Observateur*, published on 9 July 1997, Ngarléjy Yorongar accused Wadal Addelkader Kamougué of accepting 15 million French francs from the Elf oil company to finance his election campaign to become president of the National Assembly. Elf, which has a large operation in the country, is due to start construction of a controversial 1,050 km pipeline through Chad and Cameroon.

Madame Sy Koumbo Singa Gali, director of *l'Observateur*, and Polycarpe Togamissi, a journalist on the paper, were also arrested and charged with complicity in the defamation. They were provisionally released on 12 June but ordered to pay large fines. Amnesty International also considered them prisoners of conscience.

Lawyers for the defence have submitted appeals which are due to be heard at N'Djaména Court of Appeal, although the date of the hearing is not yet known.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the deteriorating health of Ngarléjy Yorongar and asking that he be hospitalized immediately for treatment of typhoid and malaria;
- asking for his immediate release as a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of his views;
- expressing concern at the irregularities in trial and pre-trial proceedings in the cases of Ngarléjy Yorongar, Madame Sy Koumbo Singa Gali and Polycarpe Togamissi and requesting that all charges against them be dropped;
- reminding the government of Chad of its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular Article 19: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression".

APPEALS TO (Fax tones to Chad are difficult to obtain. If you experience problems, please try later).

President of the Republic

Président Idriss DEBY

Président de la République

Présidence de la République

BP 74 N'djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: President Déby, N'Djaména, Chad

Faxes: + 235 51 45 01

Salutation: Monsieur le Président / Dear President

Minister of Justice

Monsieur Limane MAHAMAT

Ministre de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux

Ministère de la Justice

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Ministre Justice, N'Djaména, Tchad

Faxes: + 235 52 58 85

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

Director of the prison service

Directeur de l'Administration Pénitentiaire

Ministère de la Justice

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Directeur Administration Pénitentiaire, N'Djaména, Tchad

Faxes: + 235 52 58 85

Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur / Dear Director

State Public Prosecutor

Procureur Général de la République

Palais de Justice

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Procureur Général, N'Djaména, Tchad

Salutation: Monsieur le Procureur Général de la République / Dear State Public Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

Le Rédacteur en chef

N'Djaména-Hebdo

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 9 December 1998.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression"

Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Visit the Amnesty International UDHR campaign website on <http://www.amnesty.excite.com>