

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 119/93 Extrajudicial executions

20 April 1993

CHAD: At least 100 unarmed civilians reportedly killed by government soldiers in southern Chad's Logone Oriental province (prefecture)

Amnesty International has just received disturbing reports of the extrajudicial execution of at least 100 unarmed civilians in southern Chad's Logone Oriental province. These killings are reported to have been carried out on 5 April 1993 by members of the Garde républicaine, Republican Guard, a unit of the Armée nationale tchadienne (ANT), Chadian National Army. The Republican Guard is directly responsible to President Idriss Déby.

The killings are reported to have occurred in the villages of Kouh, Kobiteye and Bekolo. A government minister said in a radio interview that according to commanders in the region the numbers of those killed were exaggerated. However, the Prime Minister is reported to have announced that a commission of inquiry composed of representatives of the government and independent non-governmental organizations would be sent to the area to investigate the killings. He apparently did not specify when the inquiry would take place or what its duration would be.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The killings on 5 April 1993 are some of the latest in the current wave of killings by the ANT which began in the south of Chad on 21 January 1993 when at least 45 civilians were extrajudicially executed near Goré town (see UA 32/93, AFR 20/06/93 of 10 February 1993). The Republican Guard was also responsible for the extrajudicial execution of more than 100 civilians in Doba in August 1992.

In February 1992 an opposition group led by a breakaway officer attempted to overthrow the government. This marked the start of an armed rebellion and the Chadian authorities deployed thousands of troops to southern Chad to counter it. It is in this context that the troops have continued to carry out atrocities, sometimes, as appears to be the case in these latest killings, without any provocation.

In January 1993 a National Conference attended by representatives of political and social organizations was convened to discuss Chad's political future and make specific recommendations on how to bring an end to human rights violations. The Conference's working group on Human Rights, Freedoms and Communication made a series of recommendations regarding the protection and promotion of human rights including the setting up of a national commission to carry out inquiries and establish responsibility for cases of abduction, "disappearances" and embezzlement since Chad's independence in 1960. These recommendations also include bringing to justice all members of the security forces and insurgents responsible for human rights violations, such as extrajudicial executions and torture, since 1960. The working group also demanded the dissolution of the security police known as the Centre de recherche

et de coordination de renseignements and the destruction of secret detention centres and an end to unlawful detentions and arbitrary arrests.

These decisions have so far not been implemented and it is unclear whether any steps have been taken to ensure their implementation. The transitional constitution requires the Prime Minister to supervise the activities of the security forces but it remains unclear how much control, if any, he has over them.

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

- expressing concern that least 100 unarmed civilians in southern Chad's Logone Oriental province were reportedly killed on 5 April 1993 by members of the Garde républicaine;

- expressing concern that, despite earlier appeals, the government has failed to prevent members of the ANT and the Republican Guard from committing extrajudicial executions and other human rights violations in this part of Chad;

- welcoming reports that the government has announced a commission of inquiry to investigate the killings of 5 April 1993 and inquiring whether the commission has already carried out its work and, if so, requesting that the commission makes its findings public;

- requesting that if the inquiry has not begun, the commission be given powers to protect and oblige witnesses, including members of the security forces, to testify and make recommendations on how to prevent a repeat of the killings, including strict guidelines on rules of engagement;

- calling on the government to end the impunity which the security forces continue to enjoy and to ensure that those found responsible for extrajudicial executions are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) President:

Colonel Idriss DEBY
Président de la République
Présidence de la République
N'DJAMENA, République du Tchad
**Telegrams: Président Déby, N'Djaména,
Chad**

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

Faxes: + 235 51 45 01

N'Djaména, Chad

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

Faxes: + 235 51 45 01

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

**Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la
République / Dear President**

2) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Fidel MOUNGAR
Premier Ministre
Présidence de la République
N'Djaména, République du Tchad
Telegrams: Premier Ministre MOUNGAR,

3) Minister of Defence:

Monsieur Loum Hinassou LAINA
Ministre délégué auprès de la Présidence
de la République chargé de la défense
nationale

Ministère de la Défense

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

**Telegrams: Ministre Défense, N'Djaména,
Chad**

Faxes: + 235 51 45 01

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

4) Commander of army, Moundou region:

COM-Zone 2 Etat-Major
Armée nationale tchadienne
Moundou

République du Tchad

Telegrams: Com-Zone 2, Moundou, Chad

Telephone: + 235 69 14 59

**Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant /
Dear Commander**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Human Rights Organization:

Madame Delphine Kemneloum

Président

Association tchadienne pour la
promotion et la défense des
droits de l'homme

BP 4082

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

and to diplomatic representatives of Chad accredited to your country

2) Newspaper:

Rédacteur en Chef

N'Djaména-Hebdo

BP 760

N'Djaména, République du Tchad

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 June 1993.