

URGENT ACTION

SULTAN AT RISK OF TORTURE

Haroun Mahamat Abdoulaye, a Sultan in eastern Chad, was arrested from his home in the Chadian capital N'Djamena on 20 July. He is being detained without charge and, his family members and lawyers have not been allowed to visit him. There are fears for his safety as he is at risk of being tortured and/or suffering other ill-treatment.

Haroun Mahamat Abdoulaye, Sultan of the Department of Dar Tama, Wadi Fira region, eastern Chad was arrested at his home by a director of the Chadian judiciary police. He was taken to the Renseignements Généraux (Chadian security services cells in N'Djamena) where he remains in detention.

Haroun Mahamat Abdoulaye was first arrested in November 2007 in Guereda town, Dar Tama department after being accused by the Chadian authorities of being involved in the activities of the United Front for Democratic Change (Front Uni pour le Changement Démocratique, FUC), a former armed opposition group. He was released in May 2008 but remained under house arrest at his home in N'Djamena until 20 July. He has not been charged with any criminal offence.

The Chadian minister of internal affairs and public security dismissed Sultan Haroun from his position as the Dar Tama sultan in November 2007. The Sultan later appealed against the decision at the Chadian Supreme Court. On 16 July, the Supreme Court nullified minister's decision and decided that the Chadian government should reinstate him to the position of Sultan of Dar Tama and also pay him 20 million CFA Francs (around 40,000 USD) as compensation.

The Chadian president, Idriss Deby Itno, disregarded the Supreme Court decision by signing a Decree that dismissed the Sultan from his position on 21 July.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in French or your own language:

- Calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Sultan Haroun Mahamat Abdoulaye unless he is a charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- calling on the Chadian authorities to guarantee that he is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated;
- urging the Chadian authorities to give him access to his lawyers, medical treatment and his relatives;
- call on the Chadian authorities to respect the Chadian supreme court decision and avoid any interference in the Judiciary.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 03 September 2009 TO:

Présidence de la République
Son excellence Idriss Deby Itno
BP 74, N'Djamena, Tchad
Fax: +235251 45 01
Email: presidence@tchad.td
Salutation: Dear President

Minister of Justice and Keeper of the
Seal Jean-Bawoyeu Alingué
BP 1122
N'Djamena, Tchad
Fax: +235252 21 39
Salutation: Dear Minister
And copies to:

Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Sécurité
publique
Ahmat Mahamat Bashir
N'Djamena
BP 742 N'Djamena
Fax : 002352522139
Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sultan Haroun Mahamat Abdoulaye was arrested on 30 November 2007 along with seven men from the Tama ethnic group in the eastern town of Guéréda. The men arrested with him are Colonels Youssouf Abdelkerim Abdulaye, Yacoub Oumar and Ibrahim Idriss Ibrahim, Abdel Aziz Moussa, Abdel-Kerim Mahamat Toraye, prefet (Governor) of the department of Dar Tama and Ali Kaikit .They are currently held at Korotoro detention center. Amnesty International is monitoring the situation of the men and will notify the network if campaigning is required.

They have been accused by the Chadian authorities of involvement in the former armed opposition group, the United Front for Democratic Change (*Front Uni pour le Changement Démocratique, FUC*). However, they have not been charged with any offence.

An Amnesty International delegation met him in May 2008 and May 2009 in N'Djamena. He was than very concerned about his own safety and that of the 7 other people who were arrested with him in Guereda in November 2007.

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