

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 373/90 (AFR 20/10/90, 17 September 1990) - Fear of Torture/Extrajudicial Execution

CHAD: Lieutenant Laoukein BARDÉ, army officer
Souleymane KABO, 16-year-old pupil
Youssef KABO, unemployed
Joseph MADJIMBANG, former Ambassador to Egypt
Zakaria MOURSAL, bank employee
Ahmed NAHOR, trader, former prefect (governor) of Moyen-Chari
Gali Gatta N'GOTHÉ, lecturer, former adviser to the President
Edouard SAILLY, former presidential press director
Hissein Seydou THIAM, trader

The nine people named above were arrested, most of them in mid-August 1990, following the distribution in N'Djamena of leaflets criticizing the government and calling for democracy in Chad. Recent reports received by Amnesty International indicate that most of them were tortured after their arrest, that they are being held in secret places of detention and that they are at risk of dying or being killed in custody.

One of these prisoners, Gali Gatta N'Gothé, is believed to be seriously ill in custody, apparently as a result of torture. He is aged 41, married with two children. He was previously a political adviser to former President Goukouni Oueddei. He lived in exile in France from 1982 to 1986, when he returned to Chad after negotiations with President Hissein Habré. He was then offered the post of Adviser to President Habré. In August 1987 he was apparently briefly detained. Following press reports about his arrest, and inquiries from Amnesty International to the Chadian authorities about these reports, the security personnel forced him to read a statement on Chad's official radio indicating that he was not detained. Since then and until his arrest on 14 August 1990 he was not allowed to travel abroad or within the country and was also under constant surveillance by the security service. At the time of his arrest he was working on a voluntary basis as a lecturer in economics at N'Djamena University after he had resigned from a director's post at Cotonchad, a state company. Amnesty International believes that he is a prisoner of conscience detained without charge or trial because of his peaceful pro-democracy views.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

More than 400 people have been detained for political reasons in Chad since mid-1987. These include more than 180 people from the Hadjeraï ethnic group arrested in mid-1987, at least 20 supporters of former President Goukouni Oueddei, who returned voluntarily to Chad but were arrested in June and July 1988, along with more than 200 other prisoners belonging to the Zaghawa ethnic group detained in April and May 1989. Most of these prisoners appear to have been arrested and detained arbitrarily by Chad's security service because of their ethnic origin and their family connections with other government opponents. The Chadian government has failed to account for what has happened to these prisoners and refused to disclose any information about their fate or their whereabouts. There have

been reports from unofficial sources that many of them have been subjected to torture or executed extrajudicially. Most have effectively "disappeared" while in the custody of the security service.

Dozens of prisoners, including civilians and soldiers, were killed by government forces in March 1990 in north-east Chad, in the towns of Bahai, Tine and Iriba near the frontier with Sudan, an area affected by armed conflict between government troops and insurgents belonging to the Front Patriotique du Salut (FIS), the Patriotic Front of Salvation, a coalition of armed opposition groups led by Idriss Deby.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing continued concern at the arrest of the people named above and about reports that they are being held incommunicado in secret detention;
- expressing deep concern at reports that Gali Gatha N'Gothé and other prisoners were tortured while detained in secret, and calling for government action to prevent the use of torture;
- asking for information about the prisoners' state of health, urging that they be given adequate medical treatment and access to legal counsel and other visitors;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Gali Gatha N'Gothé, whom Amnesty International believes is a prisoner of conscience;
- expressing concern that those held with him may also have been detained solely on account of their political views, and urging the government to release them immediately and unconditionally if they are not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence Monsieur Hissein Habré
Président de la République du Tchad
N'Djamena, République du Tchad

Telegrams: President Habré, N'Djamena, Chad
Telexes: 5201 PRESIREP KD or 5307 PRESIREP KD
Faxes: + 235 51 4501

Monsieur Acheikh Ibn Omar
Ministre des affaires étrangères
N'Djamena, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Ministre affaires etrangeres, N'Djamena, Chad
Telexes: 5238 MINAFFET KD

Monsieur Koré Guini
Directeur
Direction de la documentation et de la sécurité (DDS)
N'Djamena, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Directeur DDS, N'Djamena, Chad

Telexes: 5343 DIPOL KD

Monsieur Djimet Togou
Ministre de l'intérieur et de l'administration du territoire
Ministère de l'intérieur et de l'administration du territoire
N'Djamena, République du Tchad

Telegrams: Ministre interieur, N'Djamena, Chad

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Chad in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 December 1990.