

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on 275/92 (AFR 43/03/92, 2 September 1992) - Legal concern/Fear of ill-treatment

NIGER: Mohamed Moussa, Minister of Transport, trade and tourism
 Akoli Daouel, founder and leader of the Union pour la
 démocratie et le progrès social (UDPS), Union for
democracy and social progress
 Moctar el Incha, *Préfet*, Governor, head of the local
administration of Agadez
 Alhassane Dogo, *provincial sous-Préfet*, deputy head of the
local administration of Arlit
 Elias el Mahadi, captain in the Armed Forces
 Alhadji Kane, director of the Tourist Bureau in Agadez and
 member of the UDPS
 Rabdouane Mohamed, teacher

 and many others including some children

In response to appeals generated by this action [UA 275/92 (AFR 43/03/92, 2 September 1992)], the head of the armed forces, Issa Maazou, assured participants that detainees were being well-treated and were the subject of investigations. However, Amnesty International remains concerned that the above mentioned people of Tuareg origin, arrested in Niger between 27 and 31 August 1992, are among at least 100 other Tuareg, who are still detained outside of any legal framework for their alleged connections with the Tuareg rebel movement. It is still not clear where they are held.

These arrests started as an unofficial policy by some members of the army, but Prime Minister Amadou Cheffou has since issued a statement in which he said that "all means would be put at the disposal of the security forces in order to safeguard the security of all citizens". On 6 October 1992 he announced that he would hold a "forum for national reconciliation" at the end of November 1992 to discuss and try to find a peaceful settlement to the Tuareg question. He stated that all representatives of the Tuareg movement would be invited to attend this conference.

Since the beginning of September 1992, the Front de libération de l'Air et de l'Azaouagh (FLAA), the Air and Azaouagh Liberation Front, has intensified attacks on civilian targets in northern Niger. On 15 September 1992 a Tuareg chief apparently suspected of cooperating with security forces was killed by Tuareg rebels. Earlier in August another Tuareg chief was killed in similar circumstances. Most Tuareg chiefs of northern Niger met in Agadez at the beginning of October 1992. They called for the release of all the innocent civilian Tuaregs and they also condemned all

the recent attacks carried out by Tuareg rebels.

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

- inquiring about the place of detention of above mentioned people including all other Tuareg held since August 1992;
- inquiring about the reasons and legal basis for their detention;

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- calling again for their immediate and unconditional release if they have not committed a recognizably criminal offence nor used or advocated violence, stating that they appear to be held as prisoners of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

1. Prime Minister:

Monsieur Amadou Cheffou
Premier Ministre
La Primature
NIAMEY
Niger

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Niamey, Niger

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre/Dear Prime Minister

2. Head of the Army:

Monsieur le Colonel Issa Maazou
Chef de l'état-major des forces armées
Forces armées nationales
BP 745
NIAMEY
Niger

Telegrams: Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Niamey, Niger

Salutation: Monsieur le Colonel/Dear Colonel

3. Minister of the Interior:

Monsieur Daouda Rabiou
Ministre de l'intérieur
Ministère de l'intérieur
NIAMEY
Niger

Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Niamey, Niger

Telexes: 5214

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

4. Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Abdou Tiouso
Ministère de la Justice
NIAMEY
Niger

Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Niamey, Niger

Telexes: 5214

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Le Républicain (Newspaper)
Nouvelle imprimerie du Niger
Place du Petit Marché
BP 12015
NIAMEY
Niger
Faxes: 227 73 41 42

Haské (Newspaper)
BP 297
Niamey
Niger

and to diplomatic representatives of Niger accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 December 1992.