

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 171/92 Extrajudicial executions/fear of torture

21 May 1992

MALI: Rhissa Ag Intekel
Ibrahim Ag Emarwel, engineering student
Abdou Ag Ibrahim)
Alhassane Ag Baye) Norwegian Church Aid employees
Bijiki Ag Intekna)
Cheick Ag Bendeche)
Ahamadou Ag Hamad
Inamoud Ag Amaye, secondary school teacher
Intalou Ag Ekawel
Abdel Khader
Mouaji Ag Attiyoub

At least two and possibly all of the above eleven people are reported to have been extrajudicially executed following their arrest on 16 May 1992 by the armed forces. They are all members of the Tuareg ethnic group. They appear to have been killed solely because of their ethnic origin and in reprisal for an earlier attack by Tuareg rebels in which they are believed not to have been involved.

On 13 May 1992 an armed Tuareg group seized a Norwegian Church Aid vehicle near Gossi in the Timbuktu Region. Leaving eight of its occupants - five Malians and three Norwegians - in the bush, the group took one Malian hostage with them and attacked Gossi the next day, killing a security guard at the Norwegian Church Aid offices and four local officials, including the local gendarmerie chief and the Sub-Prefect. They apparently told their captives that they did not agree with the peace accord signed on 11 April 1992 by the Government of Mali and the Mouvements et fronts unifiés de l'Azawad (MFUA), Unified Movements and Fronts of Azawad, an umbrella organization for four Tuareg opposition groups. After attacking Gossi, they fled the area, taking the Malian hostage with them.

On 16 May 1992 an army unit arrived in Gossi and arrested 11 Tuareg civilians, allegedly killing two of them there, **Rhissa Ag Intekel** and student **Ibrahim Ag Emarwel**, before taking the rest to Gourma Rharous, about 150 kilometres northwest of Gossi. However, reports suggest that some or all of the other prisoners never reached their destination but were executed at Tinharra, about 25 kilometres from Gourma Rharous. The detainees included **Alhassane Ag Baye** and three other employees of Norwegian Church Aid, **Inamoud Ag Amaye**, a teacher, and four other Tuareg residents of Gossi.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following similar extrajudicial executions of Tuareg civilians in Timbuktu and Léré in May 1991, the government said that armed forces officers had been removed from their posts and punished, although no details were made available. However, peace agreements in January 1991 and April 1992 have been thwarted by continuing

attacks by Tuareg rebels, in which Malians have been killed and vehicles stolen from foreign aid agencies and tourists, and by reprisals by the armed forces, in which Tuareg and Moors have been extrajudicially executed or detained for long periods without charge or trial. Thousands of refugees have fled into neighbouring countries.

Following Presidential elections in April 1992, the President-elect, Alpha Oumar Konaré, is expected to take office and appoint new ministers in the coming weeks. The new civilian government will replace the interim government, in power since the March 1991 military coup which overthrew the 23-year government of General Moussa Traoré.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:
(Please note if you are writing in French that Tuareg = Touareg, Timbuktu = Tombouctou)

- expressing concern at reports that Rhissa Ag Intekel and Ibrahim Ag Emarwel were extrajudicially executed in Gossi on 16 May 1992 and that some or all of the nine other detainees arrested in Gossi may have been later executed in Tinharra, near Gourma Rharous;
- expressing concern that members of the Tuareg ethnic group have apparently again been victims of extrajudicial executions on account of their ethnic origin and in reprisal for attacks by Tuareg rebels;
- calling for an end to such extrajudicial executions and an immediate judicial inquiry to examine these incidents with a view to bringing to justice those responsible for human rights violations;
- urging that anyone arrested solely because of their ethnic origin be released immediately and that any of those arrested in Gossi and accused of a criminal offence be guaranteed a fair trial and safeguarded from torture or other ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

Monsieur le Lieutenant-Colonel
Amadou Toumani Touré
Président
Comité de transition pour le salut du
peuple

La Présidence, BP 1463, Bamako, Mali

**Telegrams: Comité de transition,
Bamako, Mali**

Faxes: + 223 22 3980

Telexes: 2521 PREMALI MJ

**Salutation: Monsieur le Lieutenant-
Colonel /**

Dear Lieutenant-Colonel

2) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Soumana Sako
Le Premier Ministre
et Chef du Gouvernement
Cabinet du Premier Ministre
Koulouba, Bamako, Mali

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Bamako,
Mali**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier
Ministre /**

Dear Prime Minister

3) Minister of Defence:

Monsieur le Lieutenant-Colonel
Kanfougouna Koné
Ministre de la Défense nationale
et de la Sécurité nationale
Ministère de la Défense nationale
BP 215, Bamako, Mali

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Defense
nationale, Bamako, Mali**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Lieutenant-
Colonel / Dear Minister**

3) Minister of the Interior:

Monsieur le Colonel Birama Siré Traoré
Ministre de l'Administration
territoriale
Ministère de l'Administration
territoriale
Bamako, Mali

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Administration
territoriale, Bamako, Mali**

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

COPIES OF SOME OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

the following newspapers:

<u>Les Echos</u>	<u>Aurore</u>	<u>L'Essor</u>	<u>Le Cafard</u>	<u>Le Républicain</u>
BP 2043	BP 3150	BP 141	<u>Libéré</u>	BP 12.015
Bamako, Mali	Bamako, Mali	Bamako, Mali	BP 7292	Niamey, Niger
			Dakar, Senegal	

and Human Rights Organization:

Monsieur Demba Diallo
Président
Association Malienne des Droits de l'Homme
BP 367, Bamako, Mali

and to diplomatic representatives of Mali in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 July 1992.