

- The Tchintabaraden massacre of May 1990 in which a large number of Touareg people were arrested, tortured and killed by the military at a time of conflict between the army and armed Touareg opposition groups;
- Human rights violations committed under the regime of President Baré Maïnassara from 1996 to 1999, including the arrest and torture of political opponents and the discovery of 150 corpses at a grave site in Bouloungoure in January 1999.

Although the Niger authorities have held inquiries into some of these incidents most of the suspects detained following judicial decisions were released as a result of pressure from the military.

Amnesty International calls on the government to hold independent and impartial investigations into all cases of serious human rights violations committed during the past decade, including the killings of 18 July 1999, and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

In addition, the organization urges the military government to amend the constitution to ensure that those responsible for human rights violations during the two coups of January 1996 and April 1999 are brought to justice.

"As long as those responsible for committing human rights violations remain unpunished there can be no serious hope for establishing a rule of law in Niger."

ENDS.../

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**For more information or to obtain a copy of the report, *Niger: Impunity enshrined in the constitution*, please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 171 413 5566 or visit our website at <http://www.amnesty.org>**

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