

URGENT ACTION

THREE CHADIAN ACTIVISTS HELD INCOMMUNICADO

Three Chadian activists have been arrested by agents of the National Security Agency in N'Djamena. Nadjo Kaina Palmer, Bertrand Sollo and Dingamnayal Nely Versinis are being held in secret and incommunicado. They are prisoners of conscience.

On 6 April, at around 6 pm, **Nadjo Kaina Palmer**, spokesperson of the citizen movement IYINA ('We are tired' in local Arabic), was arrested while at the National Security Agency (NSA) in N'Djamena. Nadjo Kaina Palmer was responding to a summons by the Agency's Director regarding a peaceful demonstration set for 10 April to protest against corruption and impunity. The authorities have refused to disclose his whereabouts despite repeated requests from his family and lawyer. He has not been seen since his arrest.

Nadjo Kaina Palmer's lawyer brought the case to the attention of the Public prosecutor's office and was informed that no information was available about him.

On 15 April, **Bertrand Sollo**, the Francophone National Rapporteur of IYINA, was arrested by NSA agents on his way to attend an interview meeting with a journalist.

Amnesty International considers that they may have both been subjected to enforced disappearance.

On 12 April, another activist, **Dingamnayal Nely Versinis**, president of "Collectif Tchadien Contre la Vie Chère", was arrested by NSA agents at the N'Djamena city hall, after being summoned to this venue. His arrest took place ahead of Dingamnayal Nely Versinis' call to the traders of the N'Djamena Millet Market to take part in a strike to protest against the increase of the market booth fees. He has not been charged of any offence and his whereabouts are unknown. Since his arrest, neither his lawyer nor his family have had access to him.

Please write immediately in French, Arabic, English or your own language:

- Calling upon the Chadian authorities to immediately disclose their fate and whereabouts;
- Urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Nadjo Kaina, Bertrand Sollo and Dingamnayal Nely Versinis, as they are prisoners of conscience arrested and detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to ensure, pending their release, that Nadjo Kaina, Bertrand Sollo and Dingamnayal Nely Versinis are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment and are allowed regular access to their lawyers, to family visits and to all basic necessities;
- Urging the authorities to end all forms of intimidation and harassment, in particular by the National Security Agency (ANS), against all other human rights activists and defenders in Chad.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 May 2017 TO:

Minister of Security

Ahmat Mahamat Bachir

Email: bachiram62@gmail.com

or abdeldjelilali9@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Ahmat Mahamat Hassan

Email: ahmatconseiller@yahoo.fr

or angarboa@gmail.com /

coofoui@yahoo.fr /

droittchad@yahoo.fr

Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

THREE CHADIAN ACTIVISTS HELD INCOMMUNICADO

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International considers Nadjo Kaina Palmer, Bertrand Sollo and Dingamnaya Nely Versinis to be prisoners of conscience solely detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

On 3 April, during a press conference, Nadjo Kaina Palmer called on Chadians to observe an "IYINA day" on 10 April, marking the anniversary of the 2016 presidential election. They were encouraged to dress in red or wear a red scarf on their heads to express their discontent with the government's mismanagement and "say no to bad governance, impunity and humiliation".

Ahead of the Presidential elections in April 2016, the government led several attempts to muzzle criticism. On 19 March, the Minister of Public Security and Immigration, Ahmat Mahamat Bashir, announced that, for security reasons, all public demonstrations that were not part of the election campaigns were forbidden.

From 21 to 23 March, four human rights activists, Mahamat Nour Ibedou and Younous Mahadjir, spokespersons of the civil society organizations platform "Ça suffit", Nadjo Kaina Palmer, coordinator of the youth movement "IYINA" and Celine Narmadji, spokesperson of the civil society movement "Trop c'est trop!" were arrested for planning to organize peaceful demonstrations against President Idriss Deby's re-election bid. They were detained at the judicial police headquarters before being transferred to the Amsinene prison on 24 April. The four were found guilty of "incitement to an unarmed gathering" and received a four-month suspended prison sentence on 14 April. They have also been prohibited from "engaging in subversive activities".

The activists had been summoned by the Public Prosecutor to answer questions relating to two peaceful demonstrations they were planning to organize on 22 and 29 March, to protest against the current President Idriss Deby's bid for re-election for a fifth mandate.

On 30 March, a peaceful demonstration request from civil society organizations calling on authorities to release the four activists was denied by the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration.

Name: Nadjo Kaina, Bertrand Sollo and Dingamnaya Nely Versinis
Gender m/f: Males

UA: 92/17 Index: AFR 20/6077/2017 Issue Date: 19 April 2017