



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	Chad
Main subject	Land disputes – ethnic discrimination and violence
Question(s)	<p>1. Severity and diffusion of land disputes in the central and South-Eastern area of Chad, especially Guera region.</p> <p>2. Documented cases of ethnic clashes between Ouaddai, Zaghawa and other groups (ie. Hadjaray) across the country, with a particular focus on Ndjamena</p> <p>3. Effectiveness of State's redress mechanisms in place, as well as State's capacity to take action on these matters.</p>
Date of completion	6 February 2020
Query Code	Q2-2020
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	

Disclaimer

This response to a COI query has been elaborated according to the [Common EU Guidelines for Processing COI](#) and [EASO COI Report Methodology](#).

The information provided in this response has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. All sources used are referenced. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

The information in the response does not necessarily reflect the opinion of EASO and makes no political statement whatsoever.

The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on the 6 February 2020. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.



COI QUERY RESPONSE

1. Severity and diffusion of land disputes in the central and South-Eastern area of Chad, especially Guera region.

In this query, 'land dispute' is mainly characterised by the conflict between the cattle herders and settled farmers across Chad.

Landlinks observed that in Chad:

'Overgrazing, deforestation, inappropriate farming practices, and the pressure of increased numbers of people and livestock have caused substantial land degradation. Open access land-use practices threaten the sustainability of forests and pastureland. Clearance of natural vegetation as a short-term strategy for food production has led to rings of desertification and deforestation around population centers. Land-use conflicts between pastoralist and agricultural interests have intensified, adding to migration pressure and undermining social cohesion.'¹

The above source also stated that:

'Continuous cropping, poor land- husbandry practices, and wind and soil erosion are degrading Chad's land and depleting the soil's native fertility. Crop yields are declining. Prolonged drought has dried up water courses and reduced the amount of quality pastureland. Herders and sedentary farmers compete for land and access to water and put increasing pressure on forest resources'.²

The following consulted sources provide information on the severity and diffusion of land disputes in the eastern and southern area of Chad, however, limited information on land disputes in central area, in particular in Guera region could be found:

In 2018, USDOS (United States Department of States) observed a continued conflict between herders and farmers in the Southern area of Chad, which caused deaths and injuries. The source further indicated that 'herders are largely members of majority Muslim tribes, while farmers are largely minority Christian, and conflict tends to coalesce along religious lines'.³

In the east of the country, in Ouaddai and Sila regions, hundreds of people have been killed in 2019 in a surge of intercommunal violence. According to the International Crisis Group 'these conflicts flow in part from established rivalries between herders and farmers, but also derive from deeper identity-based competition over land, traditional authority and local political positions'.⁴

France24 indicated that 'migratory herders benefit from pasture on which to feed their animals, and farmers benefit from the animals, whose droppings fertilise the soil. And farmers and herders mutually

¹ LANDLINKS, countries profile, Chad, n/a, [url](#)

² LANDLINKS, countries profile, Chad, n/a, [url](#)

³ USDOS, Chad 2018 Human Rights Report, 13 March 2019, [url](#) p. 19

⁴ International Crisis Group, Avoiding the resurgence of intercommunal violence in Eastern Chad, 30 December 2019, [url](#)



benefit from trading with each other for food.⁵ Another source observed that for decades, herders commuted through the Ouaddai region between summer and winter pastures.⁶ The reason why nomadic herders from the north are set to continue moving to the south is partly due to the climate change.⁷

In most of the scenarios, accessing grazing land or trampling crops are often the cause of the eruption of violence between the farmers and the nomadic Arab herders, which continued for years in the regions.⁸

Guera is a land of seasonal transhumance for the cattle, which fuels the conflict between herders and farmers. Refugee installation in the South of Guera contributes to demographic pressure on the land. Refugee fleeing conflicts in Nigeria, Central African Republic (CAR), and violence from Boko Haram.⁹ The region has a population of 622 190 people including 89 756 individuals who suffer from food insecurity.¹⁰

Al Jazeera quoted the Chadian President, stating that since the beginning of 2019, conflict over land has spread from Ouaddai to other regions. The source also noted that the diffusion of violence is partly due the influx of guns from the neighbouring countries: Libya, Central African Republic and Sudan.¹¹ Another source noted that in 2019, conflict between the traditional herders and farmers have been observed throughout the country.¹²

2. Documented cases of ethnic clashes between Ouaddai, Zaghawa and other groups (ie. Hadjaray) across the country, with a particular focus on Ndjamen

Limited information on clashes between Ouaddai, Zaghawa and other groups could be found in the consulted sources:

On 18 March 2018, Le Visionnaire (a local media) observed that 11 persons have been killed due to the clashes between the cattle herders and farmers in Tandjilé region. The source also stated that the governor of Tandjilé region suggested to the parties in conflict to resolve the conflict through the

⁵ France24, Farmers and nomads take to violence in drought-stricken Chad, 7 April 2019, [url](#); Le Point, Tchad : la société civile et opposition dénoncent la 'défaillance' du régime [informal translation : 'Chad : The civil society and opposition denounce failure of the regime'], 5 June 2019, [url](#); France24, Chad declares emergency in the east after dozens die in ethnic violence, 18 August 2019, [url](#); Franceinfo, Tchad: des violences intercommunautaires inquiétantes dans la province de Ouaddaï [informal translation: 'Chad: worrying intercommunal violence in Ouaddai region'], 5 April 2019, [url](#)

⁶ France24, Chad declares emergency in the east after dozens die in ethnic violence, 18 August 2019, [url](#)

⁷ International Crisis Group, Avoiding the resurgence of intercommunal violence in Eastern Chad, 30 December 2019, [url](#)

⁸ The National, State of emergency lifted in north and eastern Chad, 26 January 2020, [url](#); Le Temps, l'état d'urgence instauré dans l'est du Tchad après des violences intercommunautaires, [informal translation: 'state of emergency declared in east of Chad following intercommunal violence'] 19 August 2019, [url](#)

⁹ FICD, Tchad: Sécurité alimentaire et résilience au Guéra [informal translation : 'Chad : food safety and resilience in Guera'], 6 March 2019, [url](#)

¹⁰ OCHA, Profile humanitaire de la province du Guéra (décembre 2018) [informal translation : 'humanitarian profile of Guera region (December 2018)'], 23 December 2018, [url](#)

¹¹ Al Jazeera, Chad : intercommunal conflict 'national concern' after 37 killed, 9 August 2019, [url](#)

¹² IRC, 2020 Emergency Watchlist, 7 January 2020, [url](#)



traditional practice of paying *Diya*¹³ ('blood money' paid as compensation by the culprit's family to the victim's family).¹⁴

On 3 October 2018, commander of the Chadian National Nomadic Guard who operates in Ngouri allegedly arrested 15 village chiefs after they refused to sign a document to renounce their right of land ownership.¹⁵

On 9 August 2019, Al Jazeera observed the killing of 37 people in the eastern province of Ouaddai region during clashes between the nomadic camel herders, from the Zaghawa ethnic group to which President Deby belongs and the sedentary farmers from the Ouaddian community.¹⁶

There are approximately 180 ethnic groups in Chad and the Hadjaray ethnic group constitutes 7 percent of the Chadian population.¹⁷ The Hadjaray ethnic group is comprised of around 40 clans.¹⁸

3. Effectiveness of State's redress mechanisms in place, as well as State's capacity to take action on these matters.

Landportal indicated that:

'Three Laws (Law Nos. 23, 24 and 25 of 1967) predominantly regulate land tenure in Chad and a most recent Law No.7 of 2002, gives more powers and rights to rural communities for the management of natural resources and a Decree No. 215 2001, provides for a National Land Observatory with the aim of resolving land related issues and develop new policies and legislation for improving the national land tenure system'. The source further noted that:

'The problem with these institutional regulations is that they are not widely disseminated among, which is one of the reasons why customary and Islamic laws regulates land access and use both in rural and urban areas. And land disputes between rural users are often settled at the local level by traditional leaders who apply customary law and use traditional conciliatory methods of dispute resolution'.¹⁹

According to the Chadian League for Human Rights, the intercommunal conflict, which causes deaths and destruction of goods, is due to the lack of an effective governance system driven by injustice, and lack of transparency in local governance. The source also observed that 'local authorities act partially

¹³ France, OFPRA, DIDR, La pratique de *Diya au Tchad* [informal translation : 'practice of *Diya* in Chad'], 27 September 2017, [url](#) p. 2

¹⁴ Le Visionnaire, Conflit agriculteurs/éleveurs : les 50 francs qui ont fait 11 morts à Delbian [informal translation : 'conflict between Herders and farmers: 50 Cents that killed 11 persons in Delbian'], 12 April 2019, [url](#)

¹⁵ Regard d'Afrique de France, Tchad: La CTDDH rappelle au Général Mahmat Saleh Brahim que le fait qu'il soit l'oncle de Deby ne lui donne pas le droit de disposer d'un droit de vie et de la mort sur les Tchadiens [informal translation : 'Chad : CTDDH reminds General Mahmat Saleh Brahim that being Deby's uncle does not give him the right of life and death over Chadians'], 4 October 2018, [url](#) ; USDOS, Chad 2018 Human Rights Report, 13 March 2019, [url](#) p. 3

¹⁶ Al Jazeera, Chad : intercommunal conflict 'national concern' after 37 killed, 9 August 2019, [url](#)

¹⁷ WorldAtlas, Largest ethnic groups of Chad, 27 February 2017, [url](#)

¹⁸ FICD, Tchad: Sécurité alimentaire et résilience au Guéra [informal translation : 'Chad : food safety and resilience in Guera'], 6 March 2019, [url](#)

¹⁹ Landportal, Chad – context and land governance, n/a, [url](#)



and maintain intercommunal conflicts in order to benefit from the *Diya* money, from which they receive a percentage'.²⁰

International Crisis Group observed that the country's political and security situation undergoes internal crisis where the power is monopolised by a Zaghawa military clan.²¹ Several sources noted that the majority of the herds belong to Zaghawa, the ethnic group to which the Chadian President, Idriss Deby, belongs.²²

In the South of Chad, the state agencies ('police, gendarmerie or military'), allegedly back the herders against the farmers over land ownership related conflicts, which leads to violation of farmers' rights, and causes conflict.²³ Another source stated that people believe that authorities take sides in local disputes and therefore, people do not trust the government any longer.²⁴

In August 2019, several sources indicated that Chad's President, Idriss Deby, declared the state of emergency in the eastern provinces of Ouaddai and Sila after 50 people have been killed due to the clashes between cattle herders and settled farmers.²⁵ According to the sources, the government pledged to deploy military forces to ensure the security of civilian population, and to disarm civilians holding weapons.²⁶ Two sources observed that in January 2020, the state of emergency was lifted by the government after allegedly seizing 10,000 weapons during the state of emergency period.²⁷

Al Jazeera quoted the Chadian President stating that 'the government has created special disarmament units. We take away weapons, but the next day more arrive'.²⁸ Another source observed that across the country everyone seems to have a gun, and a dispute over grazing land and trampled corps rapidly turns into violence.²⁹

²⁰ LTDH, Rapport sur la situation des Droits de l'Homme au Tchad 2018, [informal translation: 'Report on the situation of Human Rights in Chad, 2018'], 28 December 2018, [url](#) p. 37 - 38

²¹ International Crisis Group, Chad: A new Conflict Resolution Framework, 24 September 2008, [url](#); MRGI, World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People, n/a, [url](#)

²² France24, Farmers and nomads take to violence in drought-stricken Chad, 7 April 2019, [url](#); Le Point, Tchad : la société civile et opposition dénoncent la 'défaillance' du régime [informal translation: 'Chad: The civil society and opposition denounce failure of the regime'], 5 June 2019, [url](#); France24, Chad declares emergency in the east after dozens die in ethnic violence, 18 August 2019, [url](#); Franceinfo, Tchad: des violences intercommunautaires inquiétantes dans la province de Ouaddaï [informal translation: 'Chad: worrying intercommunal violence in Ouaddai region'], 5 April 2019, [url](#)

²³ BTI, 2018 Country Report Chad, 26 March 2018, [url](#) p. 15

²⁴ International Crisis Group, Avoiding the resurgence of intercommunal violence in Eastern Chad, 30 December 2019, [url](#)

²⁵ Al Jazeera, Chad declares emergency in east after ethnic killings, 18 August 2019, [url](#); France24, Chad declares emergency in the east after dozens die in ethnic violence, 18 August 2019, [url](#); rfi, Chad state of emergency over ethnic violence comes into effect, 20 August 2019, [url](#)

²⁶ Al Jazeera, Chad declares emergency in east after ethnic killings, 18 August 2019, [url](#)

²⁷ The National, State of emergency lifted in north and eastern Chad, 26 January 2020, [url](#); Le Monde, Tchad: l'état d'urgence levé dans les provinces de l'est et du nord [informal translation: 'Chad: state of emergency lifted in the eastern and northern provinces'], 27 January 2020, [url](#)

²⁸ Al Jazeera, Chad : intercommunal conflict 'national concern' after 37 killed, 9 August 2019, [url](#)

²⁹ France24, Farmers and nomads take to violence in drought-stricken Chad, 7 April 2019, [url](#)



SOURCES USED

Al Jazeera, Chad declares emergency in east after ethnic killings, 18 August 2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/08/chad-declares-emergency-east-ethnic-killings-190818142801954.html>, accessed 30 January 2020

Al Jazeera, Chad: intercommunal conflict 'national concern' after 37 killed, 9 August 2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/08/chad-intercommunal-conflict-national-concern-37-killed-190809151848419.html>, accessed 30 January 2020

BTI (Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index), 2018 Country Report Chad, 26 March 2018, https://www.bti-project.org/fileadmin/files/BTI/Downloads/Reports/2018/pdf/BTI_2018_Chad.pdf, accessed 30 January 2020

FICD (Fédération Interjurassienne de Coopération et de Développement), Tchad: Sécurité alimentaire et résilience au Guéra [informal translation: 'Chad: food safety and resilience in Guera'], 6 March 2019, <https://ficd.ch/component/content/article/66-projets/708-tchad-securite-alimentaire-et-resilience-au-guera.html?Itemid=82>, accessed 30 January 2020

France, OFPRA, DIDR, La pratique de *Diya* au Tchad [informal translation: 'practice of *Diya* in Chad'], 27 September 2017, https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/atoms/files/62_tch_diya.pdf, accessed 30 January 2020

France24, Chad declares emergency in the east after dozens die in ethnic violence, 18 August 2019, <https://www.france24.com/en/20190818-chad-declares-emergency-in-east-after-dozens-die-in-ethnic-violence>, accessed 30 January 2020

France24, Farmers and nomads take to violence in drought-stricken Chad, 7 April 2019, <https://www.france24.com/en/20190407-farmers-nomads-take-violence-drought-stricken-chad>, accessed 30 January 2020

Franceinfo, Tchad: des violences intercommunautaires inquiétantes dans la province de Ouaddaï [informal translation: 'Chad: worrying intercommunal violence in Ouaddai region'], 5 April 2019, https://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/afrique/tchad/tchad-des-violences-communautaires-inquietantes-dans-la-province-du-ouaddai_3266999.html, accessed 30 January 2020

International Crisis Group, Avoiding the resurgence of intercommunal violence in Eastern Chad, 30 December 2019, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/chad/284-eviter-la-reprise-des-violences-communautaires-lest-du-tchad>, accessed 30 January 2020

International Crisis Group, Chad: A new Conflict Resolution Framework, 24 September 2008, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/central-africa/chad/chad-new-conflict-resolution-framework>, accessed 30 January 2020



IRC (International Rescue Committee), 2020 Emergency Watchlist, 7 January 2020, <https://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/document/4343/ircemergencywatchlist2020c.pdf>, accessed 30 January 2020

LANDLINKS, countries profile, Chad, n/a, <https://www.land-links.org/country-profile/chad/>, accessed 4 February 2020

Landportal, Chad – context and land governance, n/a, <https://landportal.org/book/narratives/2017/countries-chad-context-and-land-governance>, accessed 5 February 2020

Le Monde, Tchad: l'état d'urgence levé dans les provinces de l'est et du nord [informal translation: 'Chad: state of emergency lifted in the eastern and northern provinces'], 27 January 2020, https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2020/01/27/tchad-l-etat-d-urgence-leve-dans-les-provinces-de-l-est-et-du-nord_6027342_3212.html, accessed 30 January 2020

Le Point, Tchad : la société civile et opposition dénoncent la 'défaillance' du régime [informal translation : 'Chad : The civil society and opposition denounce failure of the regime'], 5 June 2019, https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/tchad-societe-civile-et-opposition-denoncent-la-defaillance-du-regime-05-06-2019-2317239_24.php, accessed 30 January 2020

Le Temps, l'état d'urgence instauré dans l'est du Tchad après des violences intercommunautaires, [informal translation: 'state of emergency declared in east of Chad following intercommunal violence'] 19 August 2019, <https://www.letemps.ch/monde/durgence-instaure-lest-tchad-apres-violences-intercommunautaires>, accessed 30 January 2020

Le Visionnaire, Conflit agriculteurs/éleveurs : les 50 francs qui ont fait 11 morts à Delbian [informal translation : 'Herders/farmers conflict : 50 Cents that killed 11 persons in Delbian'], 12 April 2019, <https://levisionnairetchad.com/index.php/317-conflit-agriculteurs-eleveurs-les-50-francs-qui-ont-fait-11-morts-a-delbian>, accessed 30 January 2020

LTDH (The Chadian League for Human Rights), Rapport sur la situation des Droit de l'Homme au Tchad 2018, [informal translation : 'Report on the situation of Human Rights in Chad, 2018'], 28 December 2018, https://www.laltdh.org/pdf/rapport_dh_2018.pdf, accessed 30 January 2020

MRGI (Minorities Rights Group International), World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People, n/a, <https://minorityrights.org/country/chad/>, accessed 30 January 2020

OCHA (The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), Profile humanitaire de la province du Guéra (décembre 2018) [informal translation : 'humanitarian profile of Guera region (December 2018)'], 23 December 2018, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/chad/document/tchad-profil-humanitaire-de-la-province-du-guera-décembre-2018>, accessed 30 January 2020



Regard d'Afrique de France, Tchad: La CTDDH rappelle au Général Mahmat Saleh Brahim que le fait qu'il soit l'oncle de Deby ne lui donne pas le droit de disposer d'un droit de vie et de la mort sur les Tchadiens [informal translation : 'Chad : CTDDH reminds General Mahmat Saleh Brahim that being Deby's uncle does not give him the right of life and death over Chadians'], 4 October 2018, <http://www.regards-dafricains-defrance.com/2018/10/tchad-la-ctddh-rappelle-au-general-mahamat-saleh-brahim-que-le-fait-qu-il-soit-l-oncle-de-deby-ne-lui-donne-pas-le-droit-de-disposer>, accessed 5 February 2020

RFI (Radio France International), Chad state of emergency over ethnic violence comes into effect, 20 August 2019, <http://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20190820-chad-state-emergency-over-ethnic-violence-comes-effect-deby-troops-g5-sahel>, accessed 30 January 2020

The National, State of emergency lifted in north and eastern Chad, 26 January 2020, <https://www.thenational.ae/world/state-of-emergency-lifted-in-north-and-eastern-chad-1.969430>, accessed 30 January 2020

USDOS (United States Department of State), Chad 2018 Human Rights Report, 13 March 2019, <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1145786/download>, accessed 30 January 2020

Worldatlas, Largest ethnic groups of Chad, 27 February 2017, <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/largest-ethnic-groups-of-chad.html>, accessed 30 January 2020