

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS GIVEN SIX-MONTH SUSPENDED SENTENCE
Two Chadian activists Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo have received a six-month suspended prison sentence. They are appealing this judgment. The two activists were arrested and charged with conspiracy and calling an unauthorized gathering.

Nadjo Kaina Palmer, spokesperson of the citizen movement IYINA ('We are tired' in local Arabic) and **Bertrand Sollo**, the Francophone National Rapporteur of IYINA, were found guilty of "attempt of gathering" by the High Court of N'Djamena on 4 May. The court handed down a six-month suspended prison sentence. The public prosecutor had requested that they be jailed for five years. Their lawyers have lodged an appeal.

Dingamnayal Nely Versinis, president of "Collectif Tchadien Contre la Vie Chère" who was also arrested on 12 April was acquitted and released on 27 April on the grounds that there was no sufficient evidence that he committed the offense he was accused of. The public prosecutor had requested that he be imprisoned for six months for the charges of fraud and usage of a false title.

Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo were arrested on 6 and 15 April respectively. Together with Dingamnayal Nely Versinis, they were arrested by National Security Agency (ANS) agents and were held incommunicado until they were brought to the Judicial Police headquarters in N'Djamena on 24 April. They were interrogated by the judicial police in the absence of their lawyers on the same day. Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo were detained at the Am Sinene prison while waiting for the sentence.

During their detention, Amnesty International considered them to be prisoners of conscience who were arrested and sentenced solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

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

- Calling on Chadian authorities to immediately quash the convictions and sentences of Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo, ensuring that they are not detained, as they have been sentenced solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association;
- Urging them to end all forms of intimidation and harassment, in particular by the ANS, against human rights activists and defenders in Chad;
- Urging them to protect and ensure the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for all in conformity with Chad's international human rights obligations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 JUNE 2017 TO:

Minister of Justice

Ahmat Mahamat Hassan
 Ministry of Justice
 P.O. Box 2100
 N'Djamena, Chad
 Email: ahmatconseiller@yahoo.fr or
 angarboa@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear Minister

Prime Minister

Albert Pahimi Padacké
 P.O. Box 463
 N'Djamena, Chad
 Twitter: @PrsidenceuTcha
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Public Prosecutor

Mahamat Saleh Youssouf
 P.O. Box 1702
 N'Djamena Chad
 Email: msyoussouf6@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY Mr OUSMANE MATAR BREME, Embassy of the Republic of Chad, Boulevard Lambertmont 52 1030 Brussels, 0032 2215 1975, Fax 0032 2216 3526, ambassade.tchad@chello.be

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the third update of UA 92/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr20/6148/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nadjo Kaina Palmer was arrested after he showed up to see the ANS Director who had summoned him regarding a peaceful demonstration that had been set for 10 April to protest against corruption and impunity. Bertrand Sollo was arrested while on his way to attend a media interview. Dingamnayal Nely Versinis was arrested at the N'Djamena city hall, after being summoned to the venue by city hall officials. His arrest occurred after he called on the traders of the N'Djamena Millet Market to take part in a strike to protest against an increase in the market booth prices.

During a press conference on 3 April, Nadjo Kaina Palmer called on Chadians to observe an "IYINA day" on 10 April, marking the first anniversary since the 2016 presidential election. He encouraged them 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".

Further information on UA: 92/17 Index: AFR 20/6184/2017 Issue Date: 8 May 2017