

URGENT ACTION

CHADIAN ACTIVIST GRANTED PROVISIONAL RELEASE

Chadian activist Maoundoe Decladore Djikoldingam has been granted provisional release by an investigating judge pending an investigation into his case, and so that he can receive medical treatment.

Maoundoe Decladore Djikoldingam was transferred from N'Djamena to the research brigade of the gendarmerie of Moundou on 30 May for a hearing. He was then transferred, on the same day, to the public prosecutor's office who brought the case to the investigating judge who charged Decladore with disturbing public order. The investigating judge also granted him provisional release pending an investigation into the case so that Decladore, upon the insistence of his lawyer and given his health condition, could see a doctor. He was taken to hospital on 30 May as he suffers from a herniated disc of his spinal column that requires him to take medication daily and he had not been receiving proper medical care while in detention. The doctor diagnosed Decladore with typhoid fever and recommended that he be moved to Ndjamena on Monday 12 June to a hospital that can give him the appropriate medical treatment he requires.

Decladore, the spokesperson of the civil society platform "ça doit changer" ('things must change'), was arrested by four armed men in plainclothes at the bus station of Moundou while he was with a friend on 5 May at around 9pm. According to his lawyer, after his arrest in Moundou, Decladore was transferred to an Agence Nationale de la Sécurité (ANS) detention center in N'djamena on 9 May.

A few weeks prior to his arrest, Decladore had fled to a neighbouring country as he believed he was being sought by security agents. According to his family and lawyer, this was linked to statements Decladore made in the media about the security situation in Chad and reports on human rights violations he shared with diplomatic missions in N'Djamena. Decladore had alleged that security forces had killed six people and wounded a dozen others in Goré, near the Central African Republic border, on 26 February. In addition, on 15 April he called for a national day of mourning and asked people to stay home to denounce the high rate of youth unemployment in Chad and the arrest of two leaders of the citizen movement, IYINA. Decladore returned to Chad on 26 April as he thought the situation had calmed down and it was safe for him to return home.

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

- Calling upon Chadian authorities to drop the charge and close the investigation against Maoundoe Decladore Djikoldingam;
- Urging them to ensure that he is not subjected to any intimidation or harassment during his provisional release;
- Urging the authorities to end all forms of intimidation and harassment, in particular by the ANS, against all other human rights activists and defenders in Chad.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 JULY 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

Minister of Security
Ahmat Mahamat Bachir
Ministry of Security
Email: bachiram62@gmail.com or
abdeldjelilali9@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 first update of UA 118/17. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/af20/6348/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Maoundoe Decladore Djikoldingam is the spokesperson of the civil society platform "ça doit changer", which aims to contribute to good governance and advocates for greater transparency and respect for fundamental rights by Chadian authorities together with Chad's international partners. Decladore publicly denounced the arrest of civil society leaders Nadjo Kaina Palmer, Bertrand Sollo and Dingamnaval Nely Versinis in April 2017.

Nadjo Kaina Palmer was arrested on 6 April after he went 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. 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". Bertrand Sollo was arrested on 15 April while on his way to attend a media interview. Dingamnayal Nely Versinis was arrested on 12 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. The three Chadian activists appeared before a judge of the High court of Ndjamenena on 27 April. Dingamnayal Nely Versinis was acquitted and released 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 charged with attempted conspiracy and calling an unauthorized gathering on 26 April. They were given a six months suspended sentence for incitement to revolt on 4 May. six months with suspended jail for incitement to revolt.

Decladore has also documented some killings in Gore, near the border with Central African Republic. Decladore claimed that on Sunday 26 February 2017 security forces fired on a crowd when trying to intervene in a conflict between two families, killing six people and wounding a dozen others.

Further information on UA: 118/17 Index: AFR 20/6420/2017 Issue Date: 7 June 2017