

# URGENT ACTION

## FOUR RELEASED ON BAIL, FIVE STILL DETAINED

**Two prisoners of conscience and two other men have been released on bail in Dapaong, Northern Togo. Five other men who had been detained with them in relation to protests held in Mango in November 2015 and April 2016 remain at the Prison of Dapaong.**

Prisoners of conscience **Adamou Moussa** and **Zékeria Namoro**, as well as two other men **Issa Issaka** and **Baba Awali**, were released on bail after more than five months in detention on 6 September. The two prisoners of conscience should however have been released unconditionally with all charges against them dropped. Five other men who were detained together with them remain at the Prison of Dapaong. All nine were detained in relation to the protests that happened in November 2015 and April 2016. Security forces killed seven people and wounded at least 117 others during protests in Mango in November 2015. No one has been held accountable for the deaths.

Issa Issaka and Baba Awali were arrested on 1 April in relation to protests held concerning the arrest of Adamou Moussa and Zékeria Namoro. However, they claim not to have taken part in the demonstrations.

Adamou Moussa and Zékeria Namoro were arrested on 1 April after they questioned the commemoration of Togo's Independence Day and called for justice for the people killed, ill-treated and arbitrarily detained following the November 2015 protests in Mango. They were charged with 'incitement to commit a crime'.

After their release, Adamou Moussa and Zékeria Namoro sent the following message to Amnesty International, " We express our deep gratitude to all people of goodwill who, from near or far, fought with us after our arrest on April 1 in Mango in Togo. We especially thank the members of Amnesty International who tirelessly defend justice in our country and around the world. You reached out to us during these difficult times as we were walking on the dangerous thorns of injustice. You were with us, supporting us morally, legally and wiping the tears our families".

### Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Calling on the Togolese authorities to drop all charges against Adamou Moussa and Zékeria Namoro as the charges are related to the exercise of their right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to ensure that the seven other men are promptly brought to trial in proceedings that meet international fair trial standards and that the five men still in detention are accorded their right to be released on bail pending the determination of their case;
- Urging them to investigate the reports of torture and other ill-treatment and to bring those suspected to be responsible to justice and offer full reparations to the victims in accordance with international fair trial standards;
- Calling on the authorities to bring those suspected to be responsible for the killing of the seven demonstrators to justice.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 22 NOVEMBER 2016 TO:

Président of the Republic of Togo

Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé

Boulevard du Mono, Lomé, Togo

Email: dircomprtogo@gmail.com

Twitter : @FEGnassingbe

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Pius Kokouvi Agbetomey

Ministry of Justice

3 rue de l'OCAM,

BP 121, Lomé, Togo

Email: minjusticetogo@yahoo.fr

Salutation: Your Excellency

**And copies to:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Robert Dussey

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BP 900, Lomé, Togo

Email: maeirtgce@hotmail.fr

Twitter: @rdussey

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.** HIS EXCELLENCY Mr YACKOLEY KOKOU JOHNSON  
Embassy of the Republic of Togo, 8 Rue Alfred Roll 75017 Paris, (00) 331 43 80 12 13, Fax (00) 331 43 80 06 05

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 94/16. Further information:  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr57/4419/2016/en/>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The arrest of Adamou Moussa and Zékeria Namoro in April 2016 sparked spontaneous demonstrations in Mango which were met with violence as security forces used tear-gas and batons against demonstrators. According to medical sources, 13 civilians and three members of the security forces were wounded. Issa Issaka and Baba Awali were arrested on 1 April in relation to these demonstrations, though both of them claim not to have taken part in the demonstrations. Issa Issaka was arrested as he was leaving town and was hit with belts and forced to stare at the sun for about 15 minutes before being taken to the Gendarmerie of Mango. Baba Awali was arrested on his way to the mosque and was hit with batons on the way to the police station in Mango. Both Issa Issaka and Baba Awali have been charged with 'disrupting public peace', including by taking part in an assembly without undertaking the required administrative formalities.

In November 2015, security forces killed seven people and wounded at least 117 others, including pregnant women and children, in Mango in northern Togo, during demonstrations against plans to create a nature reserve in the area. A policeman was killed on 26 November 2015 in clashes with protesters who resorted to violence after security forces opened fire during their peaceful demonstration.

During the November 2015 demonstrations in Mango, Ousmane Naba, Mama Kakarafou, Rabiou Souleymane, Ablaye Cheregneme and Alimiyaou Abdou were arrested and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. They remain in detention. Alimiyaou Abdou told Amnesty International that he did not take part in the demonstrations. While the other four organized the demonstrations, they claim they did not advocate violence. They were charged with taking part in an assembly without undertaking the required administrative formalities, committing acts of violence during such assemblies and destroying private and public property. They were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, including beatings with belts, batons and rifle butts or being handcuffed with their hands behind their back over 10 hours, at the time of their arrest and during transfers to different detention centers. They were asked to sign statements which they did not understand.

When Amnesty International visited the five men in detention in December 2015, Alimiyaou Abdou still had open wounds on his backs, legs and hands from the torture and other ill-treatment he was subjected to.

Further information on UA: 94/16 Index: AFR 57/4951/2016 Issue Date: 11 October 2016