



REPUBLIC OF CHAD: VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND MANIFESTATION, POLICE VIOLENCE, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT, KILLING OF CIVIL PEOPLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS BY THE POLICE

Douala-Cameroon: REDHAC Declaration N°0010/20/10/2022

Douala-N'djamena, October 20, 2022 : The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its Chad Country Coalition remain worried about the situation of human rights defenders, activists, journalists and political opponents.

The facts

On October 20, 2022, some opposition parties and civil society organizations planned a peaceful manifestation to complain about the extension of the transition for two more years and to demand the transfer of power to civilians.

After the Minister of Public Security and Immigration banned the meeting by order No. 130/PT/PM/MSPI/SG/2022 of Wednesday, October 19, 2022, hundreds of people gathered at the call, particularly in the Chadian capital. The police violently repressed this manifestation by firing live ammunition at the demonstrators, according to reliable sources, resulting in numerous victims, including more than fifty (50) dead and approximately five hundred (500) injured.

It is important to note that on the day before the meeting, gunfire was heard around the headquarters of the political party called "Les Transformateurs" led by Mr. Succès Masra.

On the same day, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to peaceful assembly and association, Mr. Clément Voule, published on his official Twitter page his exhortation to the Chadian authorities to guarantee and protect the said demonstration, particularly with regard to the political transition period.

As a reminder,

On September 1, 2022, law enforcement officials arrested more than 91 young activists from the opposition political party "Les Transformateurs" as they urged residents in a "caravan" through the streets of the capital to attend their meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 3, 2022. They were subsequently arrested and placed in police custody for "disturbing public order" and "failure to comply with the texts governing demonstrations on the public highway".

On September 8, 2022, Mr. Succès Masra, president of the opposition political party "Les Transformateurs", received a summons signed by the public prosecutor at the Tribunal de Grande Instance of N'Djamena to appear on September 9, 2022 at 8:00 a.m., failing which he would be prosecuted under article 139 of the penal code.

From all of the above,

The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its Coalition-Country Chad
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- heavily saddened by the current situation in Chad, strongly condemn these heinous crimes perpetrated by the police against demonstrators, and at the same time express their sincere condolences to the families who have suffered so much and wish a speedy recovery to all the injured;



- denounce and protest the repeated attacks on fundamental freedoms (associations, demonstrations, expression and information) in Chad in particular and in Central Africa in general.

To the authorities of Chad, REDHAC and its Chad Country Coalition:

- hold the Government of Chad responsible for the forced disappearance of Mr. Succès Masra, president of the opposition political party "Les Transformateurs" and human rights defenders;
- demand that the physical, psychological and moral protection and security of Mr. Succès Masra and other human rights defenders be assured;
- demand an end to all forms of intimidation of human rights defenders who are only doing their job to promote, protect and defend human rights;
- urge continued respect for freely ratified regional and international conventions and instruments relating to human rights, trade unions, political parties and human rights defenders in Chad.

To the African Union (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights) (ACHPR)

REDHAC and its Chad Country Coalition recommend calling on the State of Chad to scrupulously respect:

- the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- the Maputo Protocol on the Protection of Women;
- the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG);
- the guidelines on the conditions of arrest, custody and pre-trial detention in Africa.

Finally, REDHAC and its Chad Country Coalition:

Continue to encourage the government of Chad to ensure the legal protection of human rights defenders, journalists and activists by adopting the law on the "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa."

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