



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC : REBELS CONVICTED OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY BY SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT

Douala-Cameroon: REDHAC Press Release N°0030/02/11/2022

Douala-Bangui, October 31, 2022: Three rebels, Issa Sallet Adoum, Ousman Yaouba, and Tahir Mahamat, were sentenced by the Special Criminal Court to 20 years to life for crimes against humanity for participating in an attack by the armed group 3R in May 2019 during which 46 civilians in the northwestern region of the country were massacred.

As a reminder,

According to sources, the tribunal set up in 2005 with the support of the United Nations to try war crimes and crimes against humanity committed since 2003 was composed of local and international judges.

Six months after the opening of the trial, one of the convicts, Mahamat Tahir, claims his innocence and has begun a hunger strike.

Since 2013, the Central African Republic has been the scene of a civil war, very deadly, which in the early years opposed militias with a Muslim majority coalesced within the Séléka alliance, to others, the anti-balakas, dominated by Christians and animists, but which has decreased in intensity since 2018.

From all of the above,

The Network of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its its CAR Country Coalition :

- Welcome the fight for the establishment of a special criminal jurisdiction in the peace process in the Central African Republic;
- thank all stakeholders who have mobilized to make this jurisdiction effective.

The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its its CAR Country Coalition :

- speak out against the killings and dehumanization of women and children in a war they did not want.

Consequently, REDHAC and its its CAR Country Coalition :



- Calls on all parties to the conflict to scrupulously respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its articles 3 and 5, which stipulate: article 3: " Every individual has the right to life, liberty and security of person", article 5 "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

To the Government of the Central African Republic, REDHAC and its its CAR Country Coalition :

- Recall once again that its regalian responsibility is the protection of civilians, human rights defenders, religious and traditional authorities and the security of the territory in all circumstances;
- Recommend that all appropriate and urgent measures be taken to ensure the security of civilians, human rights defenders, and religious authorities, including humanitarian workers, in conflict areas.

To the United Nations, the African Union, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (UN, AU, ACHPR) REDHAC and its its CAR Country Coalition recommend :

- to call on the Central African State and the rebels to scrupulously respect the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- the Maputo Protocol on the Protection of Women;
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)
- the Principles and Guidelines on Human and Peoples' Rights in the Fight against terrorism in Africa.

Finally, for REDHAC and its its CAR Country Coalition :

- the TRUTH-JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION, remains the ideal, peaceful and sustainable solution for national reconciliation: a guarantee of sustainable development and human security in the Central African Republic.

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