



REPUBLIC OF CHAD : VIOLATION OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND DEMONSTRATION,  
POLICE VIOLENCE, ARBITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION, INHUMANE AND DEGRADING  
TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, MEMBERS OF THE TRANSFORMERS  
PARTY BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES DURING THE DIALOGUE

Douala-Cameroon: REDHAC Statement N°008/2022

Douala-N'djamena, September 2, 2022: The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its Chad Country Coalition have learned from reliable sources of the arbitrary arrest and detention of more than 91 young people from the party "Les Transformateurs", led by the opponent Succès Masra, by the national police.

The "inclusive and sovereign national dialogue," which has been postponed several times, opened on August 20, 2022 in Chad, with the aim of leading to democratic elections and returning power to civilians in order to "turn the page" on the transition and allow for "free and democratic elections. Since then, tensions continue to grow around this dialogue, which is why several members of civil society and opponents are not participating.

The Transformers party is part of a coalition that brings together the majority of opposition movements and Chadian civil society organizations boycotting the National Inclusive and Sovereign Dialogue (DNIS).

**Facts:**

On September 1, 2022, the police arrested more than 91 young activists of the opposition party "Les Transformateurs", as they urged the inhabitants through a "caravan" that crisscrossed the streets of the capital to attend their meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 3, 2022. They were taken into custody for "disturbing public order" and "failure to comply with the texts governing demonstrations on the public highway".

**From the above,**

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

- Remain concerned about the current climate and the increasing deterioration between the civilian population and the ruling junta;
- condemn the arbitrary arrest and detention of the youth of the party "Les Transformateurs";
- Protest against the violations of all the rules of law applicable to the facts of torture;
- Denounce the methods of intimidation as well as the reprisals against Human Rights Defenders in general and in particular the youth of the party "Les Transformateurs" in Chad.

**To the authorities of Chad, REDHAC and its Coalition-country Chad**



**Demand the immediate and unconditional release of the youth of the party "LesTransformateurs" as soon as possible.**

- 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 Coalition-country Chad, 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 Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-trial Detention in Africa;
- the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and the Press 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, by adopting the law on the "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa".

Me Alice Nkom, Co-PCA Cameroon	Me Bruno Gbiegba, Vice President CAR	Rostin Manketa 2nd Vice President DRC	Marc Ona Osangui 3rd Vice President Gabon	Roch Euloge N'Zombo, Advisor Congo Brazzaville
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Pyrrhus Boguel Advisor Chad	Philippe Nanga Advisor Cameroon	Lucie Boalo, Secretary CAR	Hon. Annie Bambe Communicator DRC	Alfredo Okenve 2nd Secretary Equatorial Guinea	Maximilienne Ngo Mbe Executive Director Cameroon
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REDHAC - Permanent Secretariat

Phone : Office (+237)233 42 64 04

MOB : (+237) 691 23 89 96/ 697 61 81 95

Facebook : RedhacRedhac

Twitter : @RedhacRedhac

Website: [www.redhac.info](http://www.redhac.info)

REDHAC: Coalition- Country Chad

Coordinator: (+235) 66651551

Secretary General: (+235) 66488385