



REPUBLIC OF CHAD : FIRING OF TEAR GAS AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PARTY "LES TRANSFORMATEURS" BY THE RIOT POLICE

DOUALA-CAMEROON : REDHAC STATEMENT N°008/09092022

N'Djamena, September 09, 2022 : The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its Chad Country Coalition remain concerned about the human rights situation, particularly of human rights defenders, activists and some leaders of opposition political parties, which continues to deteriorate in Chad since the announcement of the inclusive and sovereign national dialogue. Are concerned about serious human rights violations, attacks on fundamental rights and freedoms of leaders of opposition political parties, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and the firing of tear gas as is currently the case with the party "Les Transformateurs".

The facts:

On September 09, 2022, the president of the party "The Transformers", Dr. Succes Masra, on his way to honor the summons that day, to the prosecutor's office accompanied by thousands of citizens. The procession was stopped near the police station of the 7th district by firing tear gas. The president of the Transformers, Dr. Succes Masra, and his supporters then turned back and returned to the party headquarters.

Shortly thereafter, riot police deployed to the Abena neighborhood near the Transformers' headquarters to disperse the crowd. They used tear gas and water cannons, rekindling tensions in the neighborhood.

In an audio message relayed on social networks and WhatsApp groups, Dr. Succes Masra appealed for help. Asphyxiated by tear gas, he claims to be holed up in his headquarters with several of his activists.

The motorcycles of the members of the transformers party were seized by the forces of order for a destination still unknown and the space was transformed into a military camp. Several dozen vehicles of the police, the gendarmerie, and the army are parked in this space.

From all of the above, The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central Africa (REDHAC) and its Chad Country Coalition :

- denounce the disproportionate use of force against demonstrators and opposition leaders with their bare hands
- denounce all forms of intimidation, police violence, acts of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment of members of the Transformers Party;



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

- To the authorities of Chad, REDHAC and its Coalition Pays Tchad: demand that all forms of intimidation of human rights defenders, in particular Dr. Succès Masra, president of the opposition party "Les Transformateurs" and its members, cease;
- urge continued compliance with 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 (ACHPR) ;
- 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 statement 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 "Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Central Africa".

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