

URGENT ACTION

CHADIAN ACTIVIST FREED, TWO OTHERS ON TRIAL

Chadian activist Dingamnayal Nely Versinis has been released. Fellow activists Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo, detained at Amsinene prison, are on trial for their role in calling for peaceful protests. A verdict on their case is expected on 4 May. They are prisoners of conscience.

Three Chadian activists appeared before a judge of the High court of Ndjamené on 27 April. **Dingamnayal Nely Versinis** was acquitted and released on the grounds that there was no sufficient evidence that he committed the offense he was accused of. The public prosecutor had requested that he be imprisoned for six months for the charges of fraud and usage of a false title. **Nadjo Kaina Palmer** and **Bertrand Sollo** remain detained at Amsinene prison awaiting a verdict on their case to be delivered on 4 May. Both were charged with attempted conspiracy and calling an unauthorized gathering on 26 April. The public prosecutor requested that they be jailed for five years.

Nadjo Kaina Palmer, spokesperson of the citizen movement IYINA ('*We are tired*' in local Arabic) and Bertrand Sollo, the Francophone National Rapporteur of IYINA were arrested on 6 and 15 April respectively, while Dingamnayal Nely Versinis, president of "Collectif Tchadien Contre la Vie Chère" was arrested on 12 April. All three were arrested by National Security Agency (ANS) agents and were held incommunicado until they were brought to the Judicial Police headquarters in N'Djaména on 24 April. They were interrogated by the judicial police in the absence of their lawyers on the same day.

Amnesty International considers Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo to be prisoners of conscience solely detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Please write immediately in French, Arabic, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Nadjo Kaina and Bertrand Sollo as they are prisoners of conscience arrested and detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression;
- Urging them to ensure that Nadjo Kaina and Bertrand Sollo are not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment pending their release, and are allowed regular access to their lawyers, to family visits, to medical attention and to all basic necessities;
- Urging the authorities to end all forms of intimidation and harassment, in particular by the ANS, against all other human rights activists and defenders in Chad

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 JUNE 2017 TO:

Minister of Justice
 Ahmat Mahamat Hassan
 Ministry of Justice
 P.O. Box 2100
 N'Djaména, Chad
 Email: ahmatconseiller@yahoo.fr or
 angarboa@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear Minister

Public Prosecutor
 Mahamat Saleh Youssouf
 P.O. Box 1702
 N'Djaména Chad
 Email: msyousouf6@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY Mr OUSMANE MATAR BREME, Embassy of the Republic of Chad, Boulevard Lambermont 52 1030 Brussels, 0032 2215 1975, Fax 0032 2216 3526, ambassade.tchad@chello.be

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 92/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr20/6114/2017/en/>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nadjo Kaina Palmer was arrested after he showed up to see the ANS Director who had summoned him regarding a peaceful demonstration that had been set for 10 April to protest against corruption and impunity. Bertrand Sollo was arrested while on his way to attend a media interview. Dingamnayal Nely Versinis was arrested at the N'Djamena city hall, after being summoned to the venue by city hall officials. His arrest occurred after he called on the traders of the N'Djamena Millet Market to take part in a strike to protest against an increase in the market booth prices.

During a press conference on 3 April, Nadjo Kaina Palmer called on Chadians to observe an "IYINA day" on 10 April, marking the first anniversary since the 2016 presidential election. He encouraged them to dress in red or wear a red scarf on their heads to express their discontent with the government's mismanagement and "say no to bad governance, impunity and humiliation".

Further information on UA: 92/17 Index: AFR 20/6148/2017 Issue Date: 28 April 2017