

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST TO STAND TRIAL FOR PLANNING PROTEST

Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam was arrested and detained on 4 April for his participation in organising a peaceful demonstration that took place on 5 April in N'Djamena, Chad calling on the authorities to release four activists detained in Chad. His trial was scheduled for 11 April but has been adjourned to 18 April.

Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam, one of the leaders of the civil society organisations platform 'Ça suffit' (It's enough) received a written summon from the Public Prosecutor Alghassim Khamis on Saturday 2 April, requesting him to report to the judicial police headquarters in N'Djamena for questioning as part of an ongoing investigation.

Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam and his lawyer went to the judicial police headquarters on Monday 4 April. When they arrived, Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam was arrested and taken into custody without being charged.

Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam was brought before the Office of the Public Prosecutor on 7 April in the presence of his lawyer. The Public Prosecutor charged him with 'incitement to an unarmed gathering', 'disturbing public order' and 'disobeying a lawful order'. He was also accused of organising an unlawful demonstration which took place on 5 April without the authorisation of the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration. The peaceful demonstration was held to call on the authorities to release four detained activists, Mahamat Nour Ibedou, Younous Mahadjir, Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Celine Narmadji on trial for planning to organise peaceful demonstrations to protest against President Idriss Deby's re-election bid. He was transferred to the Amsinene prison after being charged.

Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam's trial was scheduled for 11 April but has been adjourned to 18 April. Amnesty International considers him to be prisoner of conscience detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Calling on Chadian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam and drop all charges against him;
- Urging authorities to ensure that, pending his release, Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam is not subjected to torture and other ill-treatment and has access to a lawyer of his choice, to family visits and to all basic necessities;
- Urging them to end all forms of intimidation and harassment against human rights defenders and political activists;
- Urging them to respect, protect and ensure the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for all in conformity with Chad's international human rights obligations and commitments.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 MAY 2016 TO:

Minister of Justice and Human Rights

Dr. Ateib Idriss Halawlaw
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights
N'Djamena, Chad

Salutation: Dear Minister

Public Prosecutor

Alghassim Khamis
Office of the Public Prosecutor
Tribunal de Grande Instance
P.O. Box: 426
N'Djamena, Chad
Email: alghassimk21@gmail.com

Salutation: Dear Public Prosecutor

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security and Immigration
Ahmat Mahamat Bachir
Ministry of Public Security and Immigration
N'Djamena, Chad
Email: bachiram62@gmail.com

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY Mr OUSMANE MATAR BREME, Embassy of the Republic of Chad, Boulevard Lambert 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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

From 21 to 23 March, four human rights defenders, Mahamat Nour Ibedou and Younous Mahadjir, spokespersons of the civil society organisations platform 'Ça suffit', Nadjo Kaina Palmer, coordinator of the youth movement 'Iyina' and Celine Narmadjji, spokesperson of the civil society movement 'Trop c'est trop!' were arrested for planning to organise peaceful demonstrations against President Idriss Deby's re-election bid. They were detained at the judicial police headquarters before being transferred to the Amsinene prison on 24 April. The four are on trial charged with 'incitement to an unarmed gathering', 'disturbing public order' and 'disobeying a lawful order'. The current urgent action on them is available at

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr20/3809/2016/en/>

On 30 March, a request for a peaceful demonstration organised by civil society organisation to call on authorities to release the four defenders was denied by the Ministry of Public Security and Immigration.

On 5 April, two groups of protesters decided to peacefully demonstrate and call on the Chadian authorities to release the five activists including Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam. The venue of the rally by the first group was invaded by security forces who fired tear gas to disperse the protesters. The second group of protesters who were planning to demonstrate peacefully in front of the USA embassy were intercepted by the police. It was reported that at least two protesters were arrested and at least one was injured.

During the four human rights defenders' trial session on 7 April, the Public Prosecutor in the closing statement requested for a six months prison term for the four defenders. The verdict is expected on 14 April. The court denied a bail request mainly motivated by the deteriorating health of Mahamat Nour Ibedou, Younous Mahadjir and Celine Narmadjji.

During the four defenders' trial, there was heavy presence of security forces in and outside the Court building. Hundreds of people showed up at the court grounds in support of the four on trial. Due to space limitation, many of them stayed outside the court. They were singing and shouting slogans calling on the authorities to release the four human rights defenders. Many of the supporters were wearing t-shirts with images of the four defenders and/or holding placards with slogans.

When taking the defenders back to prison, supporters refused to give passage to the prison car. Security forces fired live rounds and tear gas to disperse them, triggering a panic in which at least two people were injured.

Amnesty international published two press releases calling for the immediate release of the four activists -

<https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2016/03/tchad-les-autorites-doivent-liberer-deux-activistes-arrets-pour-avoir-prepare-une-manifestation-pacifique/> and <https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2016/04/tchad-le-maintien-en-detention-de-quatre-activistes-est-une-injustice/>

Name: Dr. Albissaty Salhe Alazam

Gender m/f: m

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