

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS GIVEN SIX-MONTH SUSPENDED SENTENCE

Two Chadian activists Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo have received a six-month suspended prison sentence. They are appealing this judgment. The two activists were arrested and charged with conspiracy and calling an unauthorized gathering.

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 found guilty of "attempt of gathering" by the High Court of N'Djamena on 4 May. The court handed down a six-month suspended prison sentence. The public prosecutor had requested that they be jailed for five years. Their lawyers have lodged an appeal.

Dingamnayal Nely Versinis, president of "Collectif Tchadien Contre la Vie Chère" who was also arrested on 12 April was acquitted and released on 27 April 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 were arrested on 6 and 15 April respectively. Together with Dingamnayal Nely Versinis, they were arrested by National Security Agency (ANS) agents and were held incommunicado until they were brought to the Judicial Police headquarters in N'Djamena on 24 April. They were interrogated by the judicial police in the absence of their lawyers on the same day. Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo were detained at the Am Sinene prison while waiting for the sentence.

During their detention, Amnesty International considered them to be prisoners of conscience who were arrested and sentenced solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet.

- Calling on Chadian authorities to immediately quash the convictions and sentences of Nadjo Kaina Palmer and Bertrand Sollo, ensuring that they are not detained, as they have been sentenced solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and association;
- Urging them to end all forms of intimidation and harassment, in particular by the ANS, against human rights activists and defenders in Chad;
- Urging them to protect and ensure the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly for all in conformity with Chad's international human rights obligations.

Contact these two officials before 19 June, 2017:

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

His Excellency Mr Ambassador Mahamat Nasser Hassane
Embassy of the Republic of Chad
2401 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008
Phone: (202) 652-1312 | Email: info@chadembassy.us
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 92.17*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

ACTIVISTS GIVEN SIX-MONTH SUSPENDED SENTENCE

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".

Name: Nadjo Kaina, Palmer and Bertrand Sollo
Gender m/f: M

Further information on UA: 92/17 Index: AFR 20/6184/2017 Issue Date: 8 May 2017