

URGENT ACTION

PROMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER DETAINED

On December 3, 2024, Moussa Tchangari, a human rights defender and secretary general of the civil society organization, Citizens' Alternative Spaces, was arrested in Niamey, Niger's capital. He was at his home when at least three gunmen in plain clothes, who claimed to be policemen, arrested him. For nearly two days, Moussa Tchangari's whereabouts remained unknown. On December 5, 2024, he was located at the Central Service for Combating Terrorism and Organized Transnational Crime, in Niamey. He has been charged, amongst other things, with advocating terrorism and criminal association in connection with terrorism. Niger's authorities must drop all charges and immediately release Moussa Tchangari, who is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 103.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

General Abdourahamane Tiani
**President of the National Council for the Safeguard
of the Homeland**
Boulevard de la République, Niamey, BP: 622, Niger
Emails: pneniger@gmail.com

CC: Embassy of Niger in the United States
Ambassador Mamadou Kiari Liman-Tinguir
2204 R Street, NW,
Washington DC 20008
Email: communication@embassyofniger-usa.org
Phone: (202) 483-4224

Dear General Abdourahamane Tiani,

I am writing to bring to your attention the case of human rights defender, **Moussa Tchangari**, secretary general of the civil society organization, 'Citizens' Alternative Spaces' (Alternatives Espaces Citoyens, AEC), who was arrested without a warrant on December 3, 2024.

For nearly two days, Moussa Tchangari's whereabouts remained unknown. On December 5, 2024, his lawyers finally located him at the Central Service for Combating Terrorism and Organized Transnational Crime in Niamey, where he had been transferred. He has been charged, amongst other things, with "advocacy of terrorism, undermining state security and criminal association in connection with terrorism". If found guilty, he could be jailed between five and ten years and stripped of his Nigerien citizenship.

The arrest and detention of Moussa Tchangari appears to be linked to a pervasive crackdown on the political opposition, media, and peaceful dissent carried out by the Nigerien authorities since they took power by military coup in July 2023.

I urge you to ensure all charges against Moussa Tchangari, who is being arbitrarily detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights, are dropped and that he is released immediately.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On July 26, 2023, President Mohamed Bazoum was removed from power following a palace coup engineered by his Presidential Guard. Military officers behind the coup announced the establishment of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) on July 26, 2023 through a declaration on national TV which justified the takeover on the “continued worsening of the security situation and to the poor economic and social governance” of the deposed regime. On July 28, 2023, the head of the presidential guard, Abdourahamane Tiani, declared himself president of the country.

Since the 2023 military coup, instead of a path toward respecting human rights and the rule of law, the military authorities are tightening their grip on opposition, civil society, and independent media. Freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression, has been severely restricted in Niger. The authorities have threatened, harassed, and arbitrarily arrested human rights defenders and journalists; many of whom – like **Moussa Tchangari** - say they are self-censoring amid fear of reprisals.

Since the 1990s, Moussa Tchangari has been known as an activist and human rights defender, working to advance human rights and the rule of law in Niger. He had been detained for his human rights work in the past, on different occasions, such as in May 2015 and in 2018. Days before his arbitrary arrest on December 3, 2024, he had told a colleague that he was worried, carefully weighing their words and actions to be able to continue defending human rights, despite the constant risk of arrest. He also expressed concerns about the risk of arbitrary arrest and detention looming over many Nigeriens, especially those publicly criticizing the military authorities, including himself.

The charges against Moussa Tchangari, including advocating terrorism and criminal association in connection with terrorism, fall into the broad list of offenses that could lead to citizens being deprived of their citizenship even prior to conviction, according to the August 2024 order establishing the terrorism database.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: French, English, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: June 16, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Moussa Tchangari (he/him/his)