

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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## **Amnesty International regrets Chad's failure to prevent, respect and protect fundamental human rights**

### ***Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Chad***

Amnesty International has a range of concerns about the human rights situation in Chad, specifically with regard to enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents and forced evictions. Amnesty International welcomes Chad's acceptance of 119 recommendations out of 174. However, Amnesty International notes with regret that many of the recommendations it rejected are indeed those addressing key human rights concerns and as such Chad has missed an important opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to protecting and promoting human rights.

With little progress on ending recruitment and use of child soldiers in recent years, Amnesty International welcomes Chad's support for recommendations to ensure implementation of the Action Plan and Roadmap on **ending the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict**<sup>1</sup> and looks forward to its swift implementation. However, Amnesty International is disappointed with Chad's rejection of recommendations to prevent and eliminate recruitment and use of children under 18 in armed conflict.<sup>2</sup> This rejection seems to be at odds with the commitments in the Action Plan it signed with the United Nations in June 2011.

Likewise, important recommendations relating to **prevention and investigation of torture and other ill-treatment**, including by law enforcement officers,<sup>3</sup> were rejected, despite consistent reports of torture and other ill treatment by members of the police and the security forces including in prisons and other detention facilities.

Amnesty International regrets Chad's failure to accept many recommendations related to **freedom of expression and in particular to protect journalists, human rights defenders and political opponents** against harassment.<sup>4</sup> This is again, in the face of well-founded reports of harassment against human rights defenders and political opposition. Amnesty International also regrets that Chad chose to reject recommendations addressing the problem of **arbitrary detention and conditions in detention** and to establish a system of independent monitoring in all detention facilities.<sup>5</sup>

Amnesty International has consistently raised concerns regarding lack of adequate investigation of **enforced disappearance** in particular into events in early 2008 and regrets

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/25/14, recommendations 110.70 (Cape Verde), 110.71 (France), 110.72 (Ireland)

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/25.14, recommendations 110.121 (Slovenia), 110.122 (Uruguay), 110.123 (Argentina), 110.124 (South Sudan), 110.125 (Australia), 110.126 (Maldives)

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/25/14, recommendations 110.78 (Uruguay), 110.79 (Mexico), 110.97 (Brazil), 110.96 (United States of America), 110.101 (Italy)

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/25/14, recommendations 110.80 (Canada), 110.136 (Australia), 110.137 (France), 110.138 (Switzerland), 110.139 (Czech Republic), 110.140 (Germany), 110.141 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 110.142 (Ireland), 110.143 (Netherlands), 110.144 (Spain)

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/25/14, recommendation 110.98 (Canada), 110.77 (United States of America), 110.99 (Czech Republic)

Chad's rejection of a recommendation to ensure implementation of the fact-finding Commission into these events.<sup>6</sup>

With violence against women and girls remaining widespread, Amnesty International welcomes and is encouraged by, Chad's support of recommendations to ensure that **women and girls** who are victims of rape and other forms of violence be given the medical assistance and psychological support that they need<sup>7</sup> as well as their commitment to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including female genital mutilation and forced marriage.<sup>8</sup> Amnesty International again looks forward to the swift implementation of these recommendations.

### **Background**

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Chad on 21 March 2014 during its 25<sup>th</sup> session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered an oral statement.

Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in the document published in March 2013 entitled [Chad: Time to narrow the gap between rhetoric and practices, Amnesty International Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review, October – November 2013](#) (AFR20/003/2013).

### **Links to Amnesty International's reports:**

- [Double misfortune: deepening human rights crisis in Chad](#), 18 December 2008, AFR20/007/2008,
- [A compromised future: children recruited by armed groups in eastern Chad](#), 10 February 2011, AFR20/001/2011,
- [Chad: "We are all dying here", Human rights violations in prisons](#), 10 September 2012, AFR20/007/2012,
- [In the name of security? Arrests, detentions and restrictions on freedom of expression in Chad](#), 24 October 2013, AFR20/007/2013,

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<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/25/14, recommendation 110.87 (Switzerland)

<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/25/14, recommendation 110.104 (Togo)

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/25/14, recommendation 110.102 (Netherlands), 110.103 (South Africa), 110.105 (Australia), 110.106 (Benin), 110.107 (Cape Verde), 110.109 (France), 110.111 (Maldives)