

17 March 2021

Chad: Threats against human rights defender Jacques Saham Ngarassal

On 6 March 2022, human rights defender **Jacques Saham Ngarassal** received a series of anonymous phone calls threatening him while on his way to church. The human rights defender filed a complaint with the Ndjamena prosecutor on 9 March, as he is currently feeling unsafe.

Jacques Saham Ngarassal is a human rights defender and the Coordinator of the Tournons La Page's branch in Chad. The human rights defender is a prominent figure in Chad promoting civil and political rights and advocating against corruption and bad governance.

On 6 March, human rights defenders Jacques Saham Ngarassal received a series of anonymous phone calls threatening him while on his way to attend a church service. According to the defender, he received these series of calls days after an interview he gave on 27 February 2021 to FM Liberte concerning the human rights situation in the country and the release of a new report by Tournons La Page and AEDH on the current military transition titled "Chad: A hereditary repression". The human rights defender filed a complaint with the Ndjamena prosecutor on 9 March against the unknown individual.

The human rights defender previously sustained injuries when he attended a peaceful protest which was violently dispersed by security forces on 2 October 2021. The protest was organized by the citizen movement "Wakit Tama", striving for justice and inclusion amidst the current military transition in Chad. The protest, which was originally authorised, led to the arrest and injury of several protesters, including Jacques Saham Ngarassal.

Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned about the threats against human rights defender Jacques Saham Ngarassal and believes the threats are directly linked to his peaceful and legitimate work in defence of human rights.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Chad to:

1. Strongly condemn the threats against human rights defender Jacques Saham Ngarassal, as it is believed to be directly motivated by his peaceful and legitimate human rights work;
2. Ensure that the human rights defender is not subject to further threats or acts of intimidation for his human rights work; and that his physical and psychological integrity are protected;
3. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the threats against human rights defender Jacques Saham Ngarassal, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
4. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in Chad are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including harassment, threats and intimidation.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights

defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw your attention to Article 12 (1 and 2): *“(1) Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. (2) The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.”*

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Anderson
Executive Director