



**Chad: CCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 143rd Session
(03 Mar 2025 - 28 Mar 2025)**

• **Introduction**

The Committee for Justice (CFJ) submits this report to assist the Human Rights Committee in its review of Chad's compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) during its 143rd session in March 2025. This report analyzes the current human rights situation in Chad, with a particular focus on concerns related to the rule of law, civil and political rights, and the protection of vulnerable groups. Chad continues to experience a deterioration of fundamental freedoms, exacerbated by prolonged political instability, a restrictive legal framework, and systematic repression of dissent. Despite its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Chadian government has persistently curtailed basic rights, including freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and due process guarantees. The findings are based on firsthand documentation, analysis, and engagement with local human rights defenders.

General Human Rights and Rule of Law Concerns

1. State of Emergency and the Erosion of Rule of Law (Article 4)

Chad has frequently resorted to emergency measures, citing security concerns. However, such measures have led to disproportionate restrictions on fundamental freedoms, raising serious concerns about compliance with Article 4 of the ICCPR. Emergency measures are often used to suppress dissent, violating due process and fundamental rights¹. For instance, the National Agency for Security (ANS) was expanded in January 2017 and granted its agents an increased authority to target HRDs under the pretext of national security. The ANS has been implicated in illegal arrests and detentions in unofficial facilities, often denying detainees access to legal representation and family. Amnesty International noted in a report that in 2017 over 40 activists received anonymous threatening phone calls warning them from speaking². Protests erupted in N'Djamena and other cities, denouncing the extension of the transitional period and demanding a transfer of power to civilians. Security forces responded with excessive force, firing live ammunition at demonstrators, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries. Hundreds of protesters were arrested, with reports of

¹ Amnesty International. 2018. Chad: Crackdown on Fundamental Freedoms. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/AFR2086532018ENGLISH.pdf>

² Amnesty International. 2017. Chad: Increasing use of repressive laws amid brutal crackdown on human rights activists. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/09/chad-increasing-use-of-repressive-laws-amid-brutal-crackdown-on-human-rights-activists/>



torture and ill-treatment during detention. We recommend that Chad should establish clear legislative and judicial oversight mechanisms to prevent abuses during states of emergency and ensure compliance with Article 4 of the ICCPR.

2. Independence of Judiciary and Access to Justice (Articles 14 and 2)

Chad's judicial system continues to suffer from political interference, corruption, and a lack of independence. Access to justice remains severely limited, especially for marginalized communities. The judiciary lacks autonomy and remains vulnerable to executive influence, violating the right to a fair trial (Article 14 ICCPR) and equal protection under the law (Article 2 ICCPR). In 2021, following the controversial extension of military rule after President Idriss Déby's death, opposition politicians and civil society activists who criticized the junta were swiftly detained and subjected to unfair trials. The judiciary failed to uphold due process, and many were denied legal representation. We recommend that Chad should undertake comprehensive judicial reforms to ensure an independent and impartial judiciary, including strengthening the autonomy of judicial oversight bodies.

Civil and Political Rights Violations

3. Freedom of Expression, Assembly, and Association (Articles 19, 21, and 22)

There has been a systematic crackdown on civil society organizations, opposition figures, journalists, and human rights defenders through arbitrary arrests, legal harassment, and excessive use of force against protesters. Freedom of expression (Article 19), peaceful assembly (Article 21), and association (Article 22) are severely restricted, with activists facing harassment and arbitrary detention. For instance, online activist Tadjadine Mahamat Babouri (Mahadine), was detained in September 2016 after posting videos on Facebook criticizing the government's management of public funds. He was charged with undermining the constitutional order, threatening territorial integrity and national security, and collaborating with an insurrection movement. If convicted, he faced life imprisonment. In 2016, ahead of the presidential election, the government banned social media platforms, including WhatsApp and Facebook, for much of the year. At least 10 websites critical of the government remained blocked until March 2017. In October 2022, thousands of demonstrators gathered in the capital, N'Djamena, and southern towns to protest against the military administration's failure to transfer power to a civilian government, as initially promised. This demonstration marked yet another instance in which the transitional government violently repressed demands for democratic civilian rule, continuing its pattern of using force against dissent³. The National Human Rights Commission published a report in February 2023 indicating

³ Human Rights Watch. Chad: Events of 2023. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/chad>



that at least 125 people were killed and 517 injured during the crackdown. The commission further highlighted that security forces had systematically violated multiple fundamental human rights and employed disproportionate force to suppress the protests. We recommend that the government must immediately cease the repression of civil society actors and repeal all restrictive laws that limit fundamental freedoms.

4. Arbitrary Detention, Torture, and Extrajudicial Killings (Articles 6, 7, and 9)

We observed widespread use of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings by security forces, particularly targeting opposition figures, activists, and human rights lawyers. Violations of the right to life (Article 6), the prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment (Article 7), and protection against arbitrary detention (Article 9) remain prevalent. Human rights defenders in Chad encounter severe restrictions that hinder their ability to carry out their work safely and effectively. These challenges include torture, physical attacks, arbitrary arrests, prolonged detention, fabricated charges, judicial harassment, and intimidation. The government systematically bans protests by individuals or groups it perceives as critical of its policies. Civil society actors and trade unionists who organize unauthorized demonstrations frequently face police brutality, further suppressing their ability to advocate for human rights and democratic freedoms. The United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT), during its 75th session from November 1 to 3, 2022, expressed deep concern over Chad's persistent use of torture under the guise of addressing security challenges⁴. The CAT criticized the country's overcrowded prisons and inhumane detention conditions, particularly at the high-security Koro-Toro facility in the northern region. The Committee emphasized that Chad's national definition of torture remains incomplete and does not align with international conventions, contributing to a prevailing climate of impunity for such acts. Chad should establish an independent oversight body to investigate human rights violations by security forces and ensure accountability for perpetrators.

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

5. Rights of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (Articles 12 and 7)

Chad hosts a significant number of refugees and also faces challenges related to internal displacement due to conflict and environmental factors. The country hosts over 1.3 million IDPs, refugees and forcibly displaced persons⁵. Most of them face movement restrictions (Article 12) and

⁴United Nations. Committee Against Torture. 2022.

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CAT%2FC%2FTCD%2FCO%2F2&Lang=en

⁵UNHCR.Chad.<https://reporting.unhcr.org/operational/operations/chad#:~:text=Chad%20hosts%20more%20than%20one,waves%20of%20violence%20since%202005.>



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are vulnerable to violence and degrading treatment (Article 7). The ongoing conflict in Sudan, which erupted in April between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has led to widespread displacement, forcing over 734,000 Sudanese refugees to seek safety in Chad⁶. A total of 10,874 new arrivals have crossed into Chad in January 2025 only. The sudden influx of thousands of refugees since April 2023 has overwhelmed Chad's already limited resources, particularly in areas like Adre in Ouaddai province. In this region, they lack adequate basic services and now are facing exacerbated challenges due to the massive arrival of displaced individuals. Many refugees lack access to adequate shelter, clean water, sanitation, and healthcare, leading to deteriorating living conditions and increased vulnerability to diseases. Refugees arriving in Chad face limited food availability, and aid agencies are struggling to meet the nutritional needs of the displaced population. This scarcity has led to malnutrition, particularly among children. The government must implement policies aligned with international refugee protection standards and provide adequate resources to humanitarian agencies.

- **Recommendations**

The Committee for Justice urges the Human Rights Committee to raise the aforementioned concerns during Chad's review at the 143rd session. We call upon Chad to undertake substantial legal and institutional reforms to align its domestic framework and practices with ICCPR obligations. **Specifically, we urge the Committee to:**

1. Ensure that emergency powers are not used to undermine fundamental rights.
2. Demand reforms to safeguard judicial independence and access to justice.
3. Call for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and repression of civil society.
4. Ensure that refugees and IDPs receive the necessary legal and humanitarian support.

⁶ UNHCR. Sudan Situation. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>