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Chad: Unlawful transfer and detention of four human rights defenders

On 20 May 2022, human rights defenders **Gounoung Vaima Gan Fare**, **Youssef Korom Ahmat**, **Koude Mbainaissem**, and **Max Loalngar** were transferred to Mossoro prison from Klessom prison in N'Djamena, where they had been detained for about a week. Mossoro is a city located in northern Chad. The four human rights defenders began a hunger strike on 20 May 2022, to denounce the unlawful nature of their transfer to Mossoro prison, 300 km from N'Djamena, making access to their families and lawyers difficult.

On 14 May 2022, several protesters were arrested during a peaceful protest organized by the citizen movement, WAKIT TAMA. The peaceful protests denounced human rights violations, lack of consultation and inclusion of human rights defenders in the transition and French military presence in the country. Among those arrested were human rights defenders [Gounoung Vaima Gan Fare](#), secretary general of the Union des Syndicats du Tchad; [Youssef Korom Ahmat](#), secretary general of the Syndicat des commercants fournisseurs du Tchad, and; [Koude Mbainaissem](#), a lawyer and president of Association Tchadienne pour la Libre Parole à la Jeunesse (ATLPJ). They were presented before the N'Djamena Court of First Instance on 16 May 2022 and the hearing is scheduled for 6 June 2022. They are currently being detained at the Mossoro prison.

On 17 May 2022, human rights defender, lawyer and coordinator of the citizen movement WAKIT TAMA, [Max Loalngar](#), was abducted from his mother's house by unknown men in two vehicles with tinted windows, following a summons from the judicial police. No trial date has been scheduled to date, and Max Loalngar has no access to his family. The bar association began a peaceful strike on 17 May 2022 to protest against the detention of the human rights defender. On 19 May 2022, Max Loalngar was transferred from General Intelligence Services to Klessom prison, where the other human rights defenders were being held.

On 20 May 2022, human rights defenders Gounoung Vaima Gan Fare, Youssef Korom Ahmat, Koude Mbainaissem, and Max Loalngar were transferred to Mossoro prison in northern Chad from Klessom prison in N'Djamena, where they had been detained for about a week. As reported by the [Convention Tchadienne pour la Défense des Droits Humains \(CTDDH\)](#) in 2018 and by [FIDH](#) in 2012, Mossoro prison has a record of poor holding conditions, including overcrowded cells and a lack of food for detainees. The four human rights defenders still haven't been officially charged with any crimes, despite their ongoing detention. It is unclear whether the hearing scheduled for 6 June 2022 will be held. Furthermore, Front Line Defenders is unable to ascertain the holding conditions of the human rights defenders.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned by the ongoing and unlawful detention of human rights defenders Gounoung Vaima Gan Fare, Youssef Korom Ahmat, Koude Mbainaissem and Max Loalngar, as it believes that they are being targeted solely as a result of their legitimate and

peaceful work in defence of human rights. Furthermore, it is concerned by the unlawful transfer of the four human rights defenders, which impacts their access to their families and lawyers.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities of Chad to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Gounoung Vaima Gan Fare, Youssouf Korom Ahmat, Koude Mbainaissem, and Max Loalngar, as Front Line Defenders believes that they are being held solely as a result of their legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;
2. Ensure that the treatment of Gounoung Vaima Gan Fare, Youssouf Korom Ahmat, Koude Mbainaissem, and Max Loalngar, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the *'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment'*, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;
3. 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 judicial harassment.