



COI QUERY

Country of Origin

CHAD

Title

Treatment of former and current Military Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic (CCMSR) rebels/members

Reference period

January 2022 to April 2023

Topic(s)

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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Chad

Treatment of former and current Military Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic (CCMSR) rebels/members

1. Treatment of former and current CCMSR rebels by state and non-state actors

1.1 Brief background information on the CCMSR

After the death of Idriss Déby Itno in April 2021, President of Chad since 1990, Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, the son of the deceased president, 'seized power and declared himself head of the Transitional Military Council'.¹ The council, comprised of senior military officers, took control of the country in a coup d'état.² In 2022, the council held peace talks with rebel groups in Qatar, leading to a peace agreement in August. The agreement was signed by more than 40 rebel

¹ HRW, World Report 2023 – Chad, 12 January 2023, [url](#)

² Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2022 - Chad, 24 February 2022, [url](#)



groups, to end a decades long conflict and to launch a national dialogue. Nine armed groups rejected the deal.³ The CCMSR (the Military Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic), was amongst the groups that rejected the agreement;⁴ stating on its Facebook page that ‘principles we are fighting for do not allow us to be part of a dialogue whose objectives we do not know’, as reported by the local news source Africa News.⁵ The Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) further described that a ‘pre-dialogue’ was held with the rebels in Qatar between March to August 2022, which ‘concluded with a peace agreement signed by 43 out of 52 participating groups’.⁶ This same source described FACT and CCMSR, two of the groups that rejected the agreement, as the ‘only two organisations with notable firepower’⁷ whilst an online journal called the Conversation, described FACT and CCMSR as ‘the two strongest military movements’.⁸

The CCMSR was a rebel group created in 2016, after splitting with FACT.⁹ As reported in an April 2022 news article by Anadolu Agency, the current president of the CCMSR is Rachid Mahamat Tahir.¹⁰ According to Le N’Djam Post, a French-language news source, during the peace talks in Qatar in 2022, another faction was created within the CCMSR, called the CCMSR/R (Conseil de Commandement Militaire pour le Salut de la République Renouveau). The president of the newly created faction, Gassim Cherif, has been in favour of signing the peace agreement, which was proposed in Qatar, to continue the national dialogue.¹¹

According to the 2022 Bertelsmann Stiftung’s Transformation Index (BTI) country report on Chad, covering the period 1 February 2019 to 31 January 2021, the CCMSR was founded in Libya and after referring to a February 2020 attack by the CCMSR, the source stated that ‘the conflicts tend to relate to access to state resources and are not ideologically driven.’¹²

As reported by the news outlets Voice of America and HeartBeat Africa News in August 2022, the armed group had claimed to have killed 10 soldiers in the north of the country, a claim in

³ HRW, World Report 2023 – Chad, 12 January 2023, [url](#)

⁴ VOA, Chad Rebels Say Killed 10 Soldiers, Government Denies Claim, 27 August 2022, [url](#) ; Africa News, Meet rebel groups in Chad’s peace deal, 8 August 2022, [url](#) ; SWP, Chad’s Crisis-Prone Transition, November 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁵ Africa News, Meet rebel groups in Chad’s peace deal, 8 August 2022, [url](#)

⁶ SWP, Chad’s Crisis-Prone Transition, November 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁷ SWP, Chad’s Crisis-Prone Transition, November 2022, [url](#), p. 2

⁸ Conversation (The), Chad is making a huge effort to find peace: Chadians aren’t convinced it will work, 25 August 2022, [url](#)

⁹ OFPRA, Libye:Le Conseil de commandement militaire pour le salut de la République(CCMSR) dans la bataille de Tripoli (avril 2019-octobre 2020) [The Military Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic (CCMSR) in the Battle of Tripoli (April 2019-October 2020)], 9 September 2022, [url](#), p. 3-4 ; Africa News, Meet rebel groups in Chad’s peace deal, 8 August 2022, [url](#) ; VOA, Chad Rebels Say Killed 10 Soldiers, Government Denies Claim, 27 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁰ Anadolu Agency, Tchad : le mouvement politico-militaire CCMSR suspend sa participation aux négociations de Doha [Chad: the politico-military movement CCMSR suspends its participation in the Doha negotiations], 1 April 2022, [url](#)

¹¹ Le N’Djam Post, Gassim Chérif : « La particularité de ce dialogue c’est qu’il est beaucoup plus basé sur la sincérité » [Gassim Chérif: "The particularity of this dialogue is that it is much more based on sincerity"], 19 September 2022, [url](#)

¹² Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI, Country Report for 2022 – Chad, 23 February 2022, [url](#)



which the government denied.¹³ The Conversation in August 2022 further reported that ‘the CCMSR has repeatedly confronted the Chadian military near the Libyan border’.¹⁴

No other information on security incidents involving the CCMSR was found from January 2022 to April 2023 in the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

1.2 Information on treatment of former and current CCMSR rebels by the state

Information on the treatment of former and current CCMSR rebels by the state could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. The following information, explaining the relationship between the current Chadian Government and the FACT and CCMSR rebel armed groups, may be relevant.

In December 2021, the Transitional Military Council passed two laws granting amnesty to nearly 300 members of armed rebel groups.¹⁵ The amnesty ‘was considered a key demand by opposition groups’¹⁶ invited to participate in the pre-dialogue forum convened in March 2022 among ‘Déby’s junta and armed opposition groups in Doha, Qatar’.¹⁷ Freedom House reported that ‘civil society organizations criticized the amnesty for only applying to a small sub-set of rebels and political dissidents’.¹⁸ In August 2022, various rebel and opposition factions signed a peace pact with Chad’s transitional authorities. However, the FACT and CCMSR groups, refused to join the accord.¹⁹ The CCMSR president Rachid Mahamat Tahir explained in a press release the decision to suspend their participation in the Doha negotiations²⁰, accusing the government of “taking actions which leave the impression of a hidden agenda animated by bad intentions.”²¹

The US Department of State (USDOS) mentioned in its annual report on human rights in 2021 that ‘there were reports of disappearances by or on behalf of government authorities’ and ‘the government made no efforts to prevent, investigate, and punish such acts’.²² Similar accusations also regard members of armed groups. The FACT group accused the government security forces of having killed its rebels, Ali Ibrahim and Wongoto Ngarial

¹³ HeartBeat Africa News, Rumors of Rebel Attack in Northern Chad On Social Media, 26 August 2022, [url](#); VOA, Chad Rebels Say Killed 10 Soldiers, Government Denies Claim, 27 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁴ Conversation (The), Chad is making a huge effort to find peace: Chadians aren’t convinced it will work, 25 August 2022, [url](#)

¹⁵ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2022 - Chad, 24 February 2022, [url](#);

¹⁶ Anadolu Agency, Chad frees former rebels under amnesty law, 19 January 2022, [url](#)

¹⁷ Africa Center for Strategic Studies, “Transition” Orchestrated by Chad’s Military Goes Awry, 15 November 2022, [url](#)

¹⁸ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2022 - Chad, 24 February 2022, [url](#)

¹⁹ CIA, The World Factbook Chad, Last updated 21 December 2022, [url](#).

²⁰ Anadolu Agency, Tchad : le mouvement politico-militaire CCMSR suspend sa participation aux négociations de Doha [Chad: the politico-military movement CCMSR suspends its participation in the Doha negotiations], 1 April 2022, [url](#)

²¹ HumAngle, Disorder Trails Chadian Peace Talks in Doha, 4 April 2022, [url](#)

²² USDOS, 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Chad, 12 April 2022, [url](#)



Modeste, while in detention. In May 2021, Mahamat Nour Ibedou, leader of the civil society organization Chadian Convention for the Defense of Human Rights (CTDDH), claimed that 27 prisoners from the FACT group died after being tortured.²³

Freedom house added the following on forced disappearance: ‘Chadian human rights groups reported that members of certain ethnic groups were targeted for arbitrary arrest and forcibly disappeared by security forces due to perceived complicity with FACT rebels’.²⁴

No other information on forced disappearance could be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

1.3 Information on treatment of former and current CCMSR rebels by society and other non-state actors

Information on the treatment of former and current CCMSR rebels by society and other non-state actors could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints.

2. Treatment of returnee members of the CCMSR, particularly lower ranked, in Chad by state and non-state actors

2.1 Treatment of returnee members of the CCMSR, particularly lower ranked, in Chad by the state

Information on the treatment of members of the CCMSR, specifically lower ranked, upon return to Chad after having fled the country previously, could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints. However, the following information may be relevant.

In 2019, the president of the CCMSR, Hassan Boulmaye, and the spokesperson of the group, Ahmat Yacoub Adam, were sentenced to life imprisonment accused of taking part in an insurrectional movement: both had refugee status in France and Egypt, respectively, until their detention at the end of 2017 in Niger when they were brought to Chad.²⁵ No further information was found in the consulted sources concerning the cases and the detention of these two CCMSR members.

Courrier International, a weekly newspaper in French collecting international articles, published the news collected by Agence France-Presse (AFP) in 2022 of the return to Chad of two leaders of rebel groups Timan Erdimi and Mahamat Nouri (UFR, Union des Forces de la

²³ USDOS, 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Chad, 12 April 2022, [url](#)

²⁴ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2022 - Chad, 24 February 2022, [url](#)

²⁵ RFI, Tchad: prison à vie pour deux responsables du groupe rebelle CCMSR [Chad: life imprisonment for two leaders of the rebel group CCMSR], 6 June 2019, [url](#)



Resistance and UFDD, Union des Forces pour la Démocratie et le Développement, respectively) to engage in the national dialogue.²⁶ The family of the former, Timan Erdimi, had accused the government of being involved in his arrest in Egypt in 2020²⁷ and 'the Chadian government, in response to the case, maintained that citizens arrested abroad are not the direct responsibility of the government'.²⁸ In 2022, the leader of the CCMSR/R, Gassim Chérif, section of the CCMSR in favor of the national dialogue, returned to Chad in order to participate in the national dialogue.²⁹

In an article published in December 2022, International Crisis Group mentioned that 'several rebel leaders and political activists returned to Chad after years of exile'.³⁰

2.2 Treatment of returnee members of the CCMSR, particularly lower ranked, in Chad by society and other non-state actors

Information on the treatment of members of the CCMSR, specifically lower ranked, who returned to Chad after having fled the country previously, could not be found among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints to complete the query response.

²⁶ Courrier International, Deux importants chefs rebelles de retour au Tchad après des années d'exil [Two important rebel leaders return to Chad after years in exile], 18 August 2022, [url](#)

²⁷ International Crisis Group, Getting Chad's Transition on Track, 30 September 2021, [url](#)

²⁸ USDOS, 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices: Chad, 12 April 2022, [url](#)

²⁹ DW, Le plan de table du dialogue national au Tchad [The plan of a national dialogue in Chad], 19 August 2019, [url](#); N'Djaména Actu, Tchad : Gassim Chérif justifie son retour au pays [Chad : Gassim Chérif justifies his comeback to the country], 18 Septembre 2022, [url](#)

³⁰ International Crisis Group, Chad's Transition: Easing Tensions Online, 13 December 2022, [url](#)



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ADDITIONAL SOURCES CONSULTED

Africa News; Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD); Asylum Research Center (ARC); Deutsche Welle (DW); Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime; Human Rights Watch; Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB); ECOL.net; European Union – EUAA COI Portal; Refworld; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United States Department of State (USDOS); United States Institute of Peace (USIP); World Organisation Against Torture (OMTC)