

STOP ACTION

CHADIAN ACTIVIST RELEASED AND CHARGES DROPPED

Djeralar Miankeol, Chadian land rights activist and Amnesty International prisoner of conscience, was released on the 28 July. The Court of Appeal of Moundou overturned an earlier High Court verdict that had found him guilty of insulting the judiciary.

The Moundou Court of Appeal, after re-examining all the evidences and interviewing **Djeralar Miankeol**, handed down a not guilty verdict on 28 July. All charges against the activist were dropped and he was released the same day. The President of the Court said, "Djeralar may go to his family and be taken care of. He is free. There is nothing to fear."

This decision comes after a wide mobilisation of Amnesty International movement and a strong lobbying by the organisation and other partners. This case was covered widely by national and international media.

Djeralar Miankeol, land rights activist and Director of Association Ngaoubourandi (ASNGA), was arrested on the 7 June by the Public Prosecutor of Moundou after questioning the competence of Chadian judicial officials in a radio interview with FM Liberte on 7 June. The next day, he was charged with 'insulting the judiciary' and transferred to the prison of Moundou. On the 30 June, the trial against Djeralar began and on the 7 July, he was sentenced to two years in prison and a fine of 100,000 Cfa francs (around 167USD) by the High Court of Justice of Moundou. Djeralar, through his lawyers lodged an appeal immediately after his sentencing.

Djeralar Miankeol's wife says, 'Thank you very much to all of you for the release of my husband. The court's decision to release him and cancel all the charges against him is an act of justice in a sea of injustice. My deepest and sincere appreciation and gratitude for your efforts, actions taken and prayers as well as your daily commitment to the defence of the rights of the voiceless.'

No further action is requested of the UA network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.

This is a second update of UA 138/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR20/2063/2015/en/>

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