



### Press release on the imprisonment of Marou Amadou

The West African Human Rights Defenders Network (ROADHH / WARDHN), follows closely the situation of human rights in Niger and is particularly concerned by that of the Human Rights Defender **Marou Amadou** for whom he had initiated various actions, including referral to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Defenders in Africa (September 2009).

Indeed, the West African Human Rights Defenders Network (ROADHH / WARDHN) heard of the condemnation of Mr. Marou Amadou, President of Front Uni pour la Sauvegarde des Acquis Démocratiques (FUSAD), to three months of imprisonment with remission of sentence by the Court of Appeal of Niamey, January 25, 2010, for "regionalist propaganda."

Mr. Amadou Marou is also charged because he attended the creation and/or to the administration of an undeclared collective of associations and provocation to disobedience of the armed forces and undermining the security of the State ".

The ROADDH/WAHRDN considers that all these charges stem from a clear determination of harassment against Mr. Marou Amadou, consequence of his opinions on the questioning of the constitutional order established previously that plunged Niger into a serious political crisis.

The ROADDH / WAHRDN wishes to express its deep concern and anxiety for this condemnation which violates the articles **5**, **6**, **9** and **10** of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, respectively, the rights not to be tortured whether physically or morality (5); the rights to liberty and security of person (6); the rights to freedom of expression (9) and freedom of association (10).

This also demonstrates that the state of Niger has failed in its obligations to protect its citizens by encouraging a sanction against a person wishing to participate in the conduct of state affairs as guaranteed by Article 13 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and the relevant provisions of various international and regional instruments freely ratified by the Republic of Niger.

The WAHRDN / ROADDH condemns this new attack on the rights of human rights defenders in Niger, and request the authorities of Niger:

- The cancellation of the sentence and stay of further proceedings against Mr. Amadou Marou.
- To respect the provisions of the Declaration on human rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 9, 1998.

Particularly, in the same context, the article 9 (3a) states:

3) Everyone has the rights, individually or in combination with others, especially:  
a) to complain about the policies and actions of individual officials and State agencies that have committed violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, by petition or other appropriate means, with judicial, administrative or legislative authorities or any other competent authority.

- Ensure the human rights defenders, the rights to freely exercise their activities in promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with the provisions contained in the regional legal instruments and international's freely ratified by Niger.

**Done in Lomé, January 28, 2010.**

**ROADDH/WAHRDN**