



# AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU AFRICAIN

نقابة المحامين الافارقة

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## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **THE DIRE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD AND THE ENTIRE SAHEL REGION**

The **African Bar Association** is deeply saddened by the reported **killing of the President of the Republic of Chad, Mr. Idris Derby**.

While the Association may not be a supporter of the regime of the Late President on account of several disagreements including Constitutional reforms, Free and Fair Elections, his Commitment to the Security and Preservation of the territorial integrity of Chad was never in doubt.

The African Bar Association also recognizes the Late President's contributions to African Unity and the cohesion of the **ECOWAS Sub-region**.

It is in this regard that we totally condemn the circumstances which lead to his death and the Unconstitutionality in his Succession. The chaos and uncertainty following these events are a pointer that Africa needs to imbibe the Principles of the Rule of Law and Constitutionality in Governance at every level.

The African Bar Association wishes to draw the attention of the **African Union** and the **International Community** to the suspicious death of **President Idris Derby**, the role played by the Military and the Succession.

However, this present sad event does not detract our attention away from the severe and dire Security situation in **Chad, Niger Republic and the Sahel region**.

Terrorists, Bandits and organized armed gangs supported by International Criminal Gangs and internal Political Collaborators are killing, maiming and unleashing terror daily on the people of the region with little help coming for the helpless Civilians. In the same vein, homes are being destroyed through deliberate Arson and

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other forms of destruction. The African Bar Association has also received credible reports of rampant rapes, abuse and killing of Children, Women and the elderly. Abductions and other forms of War Crimes and Crimes against humanity including the desecration of Holy sites and destruction of Heritage sites are also rife.

**It is the view of the African Bar Association that the situation now calls for full intervention by the United Nations and other International World Bodies.**

We strongly call on the **Prosecutor of International Criminal Court particularly the in-coming Prosecutor of the Court Mr. Karim Khan, QC** to take full note of these heinous atrocities, those behind and sponsoring them.

It is important that early warnings are sent out and framework for arresting the situation worked out before the region is entirely destabilized leading to large scale displacements and human catastrophe.

Once again, the African Bar Association condemns these Crimes as unacceptable and those behind them must be brought to account.

**Lagos, Nigeria. 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021**



**Hannibal Uwaifo  
President**