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General Abdourahamane Tiani
President of the National Council for the
Safeguard of the Homeland
Boulevard de la République
Niamey, BP: 622
Niger

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Dear General Abdourahamane Tiani,

**I am writing to express concern about the arbitrary detention of human rights defender Moussa Tchangari.**

On 3 January 2025, two additional charges of «infringing on national defence» and «intelligence with enemy countries» were brought against Moussa Tchangari, secretary general of the civil society organization, «Citizens’ Alternative Spaces» (Alternatives Espaces Citoyens (AEC)). Following the new charges, he was transferred to Filingué prison, 180 km from Niger’s capital, Niamey.

Moussa Tchangari was arrested on 3 December 2024 when at least three gunmen in plain clothes, who claimed to be policemen, broke into his home in Niamey, seized his phone, laptop and suitcase, hooded him and took him away. When Moussa Tchangari asked them if they had a warrant, they replied that one was not compulsory. For nearly two days, Moussa Tchangari’s whereabouts remained unknown before he was located at Central Service for Combating Terrorism and Organized Transnational Crime in Niamey, where he met for the first time his lawyers. He has been charged, amongst other things, with «advocacy of terrorism, undermining state security and criminal association in connection with terrorism». If found guilty of the charges, he could be jailed between five and 10 years and stripped of his Nigerien citizenship.

Three weeks before his arrest, on 12 November 2024, Moussa Tchangari criticized the decision by Niger’s interior minister to withdraw the licenses of two humanitarian nongovernmental organizations, as well as the establishment by the authorities on 27 August 2024 of a terrorism database. On 28 November 2024, his organisation (the AEC) convened a meeting to discuss the 10 October 2024 presidential decree provisionally removing Nigerien nationality from nine people linked to former President Bazoum.

**I urge you, as President of the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, and the authorities to ensure that Moussa Tchangari is immediately released as he is being detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights, and all charges against him are dropped.**

Yours sincerely,

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**Copie**

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