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Your Excellency,

I am writing to you about the case of Baradine Berdei Targuio.

Baradine Berdei Targuio is the president of the Chadian Human Rights Organisation. On 24 January 2020, he was arrested at his house by masked and armed individuals, in front of his wife and children, and reportedly taken to the National Security Agency (ANS). He has not been heard from since. His family have not seen him since and have not been able to make contact with him. Arrest and detention in this manner constitutes an enforced disappearance and is unlawful under international human rights law.

Chad's Criminal Procedure Code provides that defendants should be brought before a court within 48 hours following arrest, renewable only once, or else released. Baradine Berdei Targuio has not been brought before a court at all, and the maximum detention of four days has been exceeded. International human rights law requires that a detained person is brought promptly before a court after their arrest, and has the opportunity to challenge their detention.

In this regard, I ask you to immediately and unconditionally order the release of Mr Baradine Berdei Targuio. In the meantime, I ask you to ensure that he is protected from torture and other ill-treatment and he has access to his family and lawyers.

Yours sincerely,