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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

December 12, 2022

General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno  
Presidence de la Republique du Tchad  
C/o Ambassador Gali Ngote Koutou  
Embassy of the Republic of Chad  
2401 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20008

General Mahamat Deby:

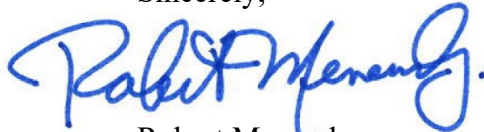
I write with deep concern about the violence that occurred on October 20, and urge you to take steps to ensure accountability by inviting a credible independent international body with demonstrated capacity and a proven record to investigate the events of what Chadians are now referring to as “Bloody Thursday.” I also urge you to reduce tensions by announcing that you will not run in upcoming elections in accordance with the African Union principles prohibiting transitional leaders from participating as candidates in elections they organize.

According to some accounts, security forces under your control killed more than 100 people protesting the extension of your time in office and your unwillingness to recuse yourself as a presidential candidate. Several protesters were killed in front of the U.S. Embassy. Security forces reportedly rounded up as many as one thousand more people in the days following the protest, and those people are still being held incommunicado. The whereabouts of many of these civilians, including more than 20 opposition party members arrested at the headquarters of an opposition party on October 21, remain unknown. The use of deadly force against civilians protesting the outcome of a national dialogue that was tightly controlled and not inclusive was a tragic turning point in Chadian history. The response of your security forces, as well as your recent proposal to ban political parties whose members participated in the protests, is a troubling signal of a willingness to use fear, violence, and repression to crush dissenting views, and raises serious doubts about your commitment to allow free and fair elections.

A sound investigation is essential for holding accountable those responsible for the deaths and disappearances that culminated in the worst single day of bloodshed in Chad in decades. I note your support for an investigation conducted by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). To ensure that this investigation uncovers all the facts and meets evidentiary standards for eventual prosecutions, ECCAS should partner with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, or another institution with experience investigating and documenting mass atrocities.

Additionally, given that the events on and immediately following October 20th were precipitated by the decision of the junta to extend its mandate and to allow for members to run in upcoming elections, I urge you to announce that you will not stand for elections in two years, and/or step aside and allow someone else to lead the transition. Taking such actions would not only assure the Chadian people that the transition is laying the groundwork for a truly competitive election without a predetermined outcome, it would also lessen tensions, and may prevent another outbreak of violence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "R".

Robert Menendez  
Chairman