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**This is a free hand**  
**and approximate translation**

**H. E. Mr. Alpha Oumar KONARÉ**  
**Chairman African Union**  
**African Union Headquarters**  
**P.O. Box 3243**  
**Addis Ababa**  
**Ethiopia**

**Paris, 10th December 2007**

**Joint letter to the Chadian President, the African Union Chairman**  
**and the Secretary General United Nations Organisation**  
**Concerning: Children Rescue / Arche de Zoé scandal**

Excellency,

The conflicting declaration that characterised the revelation of Children Rescue scandal prompted me into writing, right from Monday 29th October, 2007, a petition published on Africa-Radio-Programme.com web site, several days ahead of the scandal blow-up. The purpose of the petition was to uncover the truth in what looked like the stealing of children in conflicts areas. The petition received 200 signatures and 600 written comments.

I am therefore honoured, in my personal name as an African and a pan-African journalist resident in France, to bring the various resulting comments to your considered attention and to seek any action or decision that you may deem fit considering the seriousness of the issue.

President Idriss DEBY publicly expressed his fears about the possible destination of children wrongly labelled as Darfur orphans. The Office of the Chadian President did not match this public declaration with corroborating evidences. However, one of the non executive Directors of Children Rescue / Arche de Zoé did sent to me quasi pornographic pictures. I have no explanation to the rational of a communication of that nature.

The French President, in concert with Reporters Without Borders and the General Manager of France3, the third French Network TV, went to Chad to extradite arrested journalists and members of the flight crew. Among them was a journalist named Marie Agnès PELLERAN. This person was not in Chad on a professional assignment as a journalist. She was on unpaid leave and, more than that, she was a member of COFOD, an acronym for Committee of Families for Darfur Orphans and, as such, was a prospective adoption

family. To shield such a person from due process of law is a worrisome development in terms of relationships among sovereign Nations.

Whereas the French Authorities, through the voice of the Minister for Human Rights Mrs Rama YADE, ended by admitting that “***Children Rescue / Arche de Zoé operation in Chad was an illegal one***”, on Wednesday 27th November, 2007 a delegation of the French political class comprising M. Jean Louis BIANCO, Member of the House of Representatives, M. Claude DOMEIZEL, Senator, Messrs Gilbert SAUVRAN et Jean-Yves ROUX, the equivalent of State Governors, met H. E. Hissein Brahim TAHA, the Chadian Ambassador in France, to deliver a letter to Chadian authorities seeking the release of Mr Philippe VAN WINKELBERG from custody because is the latter is a medical doctor. Many religious and Ecclesiastic dignitaries are also very actively militating for the release of Dr Winkelberg.

The signatories to this petition are surprised because those agitating for the release do not care to find out whether Dr Winkelberg approves or disapproves the charges against Children Rescue / Arche de Zoé whereas those agitating for the release are well aware of the fact that French authorities have declared that the operation carried out in Chad is an illegal one. From his Chadian prison, Eric BRETEAU wrote a letter to the French Minister of Justice. In that letter, the accused literally claims that those who “sold” the children to him are Chadians and that the “sellers” are not parents of the involved children. The letter is hand written.

Considering what is written above, the success of the pressure brought upon the Chadian Ambassador, in a case of children snatched from their parents by ruse including that of medical treatment of schooling opportunity with intention of their deportation from their country is an indictment of rules enacted by the United Nations towards the protection and the rights of children. The signatories are however worried about the continued detention of the 103 children in an orphanage.

Under a declaration made the his Secretary General Mr François HOLLANDE, the French Socialist Party expressed its support for the trial of the arrested thefts in France or, in the case of a trial and prison sentences pronounced by the Chadian Judges, for the eventual prisoners be extradited to France to serve their prison sentences. Those types of declarations contravene the spirit and the letter of the Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights voted by the United Nations General Assembly on the 16 December 1966 and entered into force 23 March 1976. Are events like these of a sufficient nature to prompt African Union into open discussion about possible denunciation or global review of the bilateral treaties born out of liberation struggles and which application are subversive to self determination of countries which have become independent? Such a question clearly comes on top of comments sent by the signatories of the petition.

The signatories of that petition call African and international authorities attention to the cause of the Darfur problem.

If the international community has any evidence upon which it blames Sudan for genocide or mass killing of her own population, it would then be logical to demilitarise Sudan and give protection to people to whom it has so far being denied leading to such a high number of deaths and population displacement.

Excellency, you may wish to take every necessary disposition towards ensuring that the judicial and/or political solution of the Children Rescue / Arche de Zoé scandal does not give a colonial posture to the presence of humanitarians in conflict areas and so that child theft does not become the hidden practice of groups with questionable intentions. Such a result, even if undesired, would not be amenable with the idea of bringing help to endangered populations.

I remain at your disposal for any follow up that you may wish as a result of this communication.

Accept, Excellency, the expression of my high and respectful consideration.

(signed) Ibrahim Alabi ORIDOTA

**Partial list of the signatories of the petition  
as published on the web site of  
<http://www.africa-radio-programme.com>  
(in chronological order)**

Mme	L.	ORIDOTA	Paris	France
Mr	S.	ORIDOTA	Paris	France
Madame	E.	SPINOSA	LOUVRES	France
Monsieur	M.	MOUAMMAR	RICHMOND HILL	Canada
Mme	H.	HICKMAN	VANCOUVER	Canada
M.	S.	SHNIAD	VANCOUVER	Canada
Mme	A.	GRANT	VANCOUVER	Canada
Ms.	A.	JOHNSON	STAVANGER	Norway
Ms	A.	ASARU	ATHENS (GA)	USA
Mr.	M.	ATTIAH	Cairo	Egypte
Mr.	B.	OKOYA	New York	USA
Haji.	Z. M.	ABDI	London	UK
Mr.	Z.	JEEVA	Toronto	Canada
Mr.	L.	PERRYMAN	Columbus-Oh	USA
Mrs.	S.	NGENE	Jos	Nigeria
Ms	S.	DINI	Toronto	Canada
Ms.	S.	MYRIE	Kingston	Canada
Ms.	A.	WILLIAMS	Harlem	USA
Ms.	B.	DUPONT	Bronx	USA
Ms.	B.	MURAD	Toronto	Canada
Prof	T.	OLANIYAN	Madison	USA
Prof.	R.	OGUNSUYI	Chicago	USA
Rev	E.	PINKNEY	Benton Harbor	USA
Mr.	A.	MOHAMOUD	Toronto	Ontario
Mr.	M.	GEZO	Cormeilles	France

Miss	Y.	SAIYEDA	Toronto	Canada
Mme	A.	THIESSEN	Winnipeg	Canada
Prof.	I.	MORAIS	Macau	China
Miss	M.	FAGIOLI	New-York City	USA
Mme	N.	EL ASDOIDI	Alexandrie	Egypte
Prof	J.	OUELLET	Montréal	Canada
Ms	M.	FAGIOLI	NYC	USA
Mlle	I.	SAID	Le Caire	Egypte
Ms.	M.	AHMED	Toronto	Canada
Miss	R.	TAYLOR	Mississauga	Canada
MR	D.	AHMED	Breda	The Netherlands
Esq.	N.	KWABENA	Groningen	The Netherlands
Ms	M.	SHERWOOD	London	UK
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Mr.	G.	JULIET	Willemstad	Netherlands Antilles
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Miss	A.	FULLER-ARMAH	St James	Jamaica
Mme	E.	OCCANSEY	Tema	Ghana
Ms	Y.	PITTER	Zoetermeer	Netherlands
Mrs	W.	KOINANGE	Seattle	USA
Ms.	B.	DUPONT	New York	USA
Mme	C.	GENEST	Quebec	Canada
Prof.	K.	DRAME	Charlottesville	Virginia, USA
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Prof.	K.	AKURANG-PARRY	Shippensburg	USA
Mlle	G.	BECKER	Rotterdam	Netherlands
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Société		ARBORESCENCE		France
Monsieur	A.	ABAYSA	Amsterdam	Pays Bas
Ms.	A.	WILLIAMS	brooklyn	United States
Mr	S.	MAZOYER	RUOMS	France
M.	M.	DJIGO	Paris	France
Mr.	S.	ORIDOTA	Paris	France
Mr	M.	AHEHEHINNOU	Paris	France
Ms	S.	STOUT	Vancouver	Canada
Mme	L.	MANY	CONDE SUR VESGRE	France
Mme	V.	CISSÉ	Brampton	Canada
M.	G.	MERLIN	Merignac	France
Dr	G.	GANDON	MONTELIMR	France
Mrs	A.	ANSTETT	Gottenhouse	France
Monsieur	J. L.	HÉRIN	Rouville	France
Mme	J.	LINGLIN	Lapugnoy	France
Mlle	F.	SALERNO	monts	France
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Mlle	A.	GIRAUD	ANNECY	France

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Mme	D;	LEBOT	ORLY	France
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Mme	M.	ESPIRE	CHATEAU CHINON VILLE	France
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Mme	C.	LEVAVASSEUR	Hérouville-Saint-Clair	France
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Mr	J.	AZOOM	lille	France
Mme	V.	GALLIS	Borgo	France
Mr	B.	MEE	Lyon	France
Madame	V.	SAINT-PIERRE	trévoux	France
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Mlle	C.	LE BIHAN	QUIMPER	France
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mme	F.	JANIER	Annecy	France
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MLE	S.	PAOLETTI	AJACCIO	France/Corse
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Mlle	K.	VAN HEYNINGEN	Rotterdam	The Netherlands
Mlle	M.	MICHELS	Rotterdam	The Netherlands
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Mlle	C.	ASSAME		France
Mlle	M.	SIRUGUE--SALERNO	Monts	France
Mr	D.	MOINIER	Lyon	France
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Mme	C.	ANDRAUD	Bergerac	France
M.	C.	DEMET	Gray	France