



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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<b>The Board</b>		8 November 2004
About the Board	<b>TCD43131.FE</b>	
Biographies		
Employment		Chad: Update to TCD40509.F of 20 November 2002 on forced marriage, particularly when the parents of a young girl are against the marriage; application of the law of March 2002; whether there are any organizations that provide support for women who are forced to marry (2002-November 2004)
Legal and Policy References		Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa
Organization Chart		
Publications		
<b>Tribunal</b>		
Decisions	The following information was provided during a 2 November 2004 telephone interview with the president of the Chadian Association for Promotion and Defense of Human Rights (Association tchadienne pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme, ATPDH).	
Forms		
Immigration Appeal Division	Forced and early marriages are still practised in Chad. The law of March 2002 which prohibits any form of sexual violence against women, including forced marriage, is too recent for it to have had an effect of Chadian society, especially since the majority of the population is not aware that this law exists. Since 2002, there has been no improvement in the general human rights situation, which is still [translation] "catastrophic."	
Immigration Division		
Refugee Protection Division		
Statistics		
<b>Research</b>		
Research Program	The ATPDH president said that, to her knowledge, a forced marriage could not take place without the consent of the young girl's parents. Forced and early marriages are generally arranged by the parents of the bride- and groom-to-be.	
National Documentation Packages	The ATPDH president also said that there are various organizations fighting for women's rights in Chad, such as the Association of Women Jurists. However, she stated that there is no organization dedicated specifically to women who are forced by their families to marry.	
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets		
Responses to Information Requests	The president of the Chadian League for Human Rights (Ligue tchadienne des droits de la personne, LTDH) provided the following information during an 8 November 2004 telephone interview. Forced and early marriages are widespread in Chad, particularly in the northern regions, which are predominantly Muslim. However, in the southern and predominantly Christian regions, the practice is rare, if it exists at all. The law of March 2002 has not had any direct impact on the situation of young girls forced to marry. The law is in effect, but is generally not enforced, since the Chadian population, which is mostly illiterate, is unaware of its rights. Moreover, those responsible for enforcing the law must be willing to do so.	
Recent Research		
<b>Media Centre</b>		
News		
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
<b>Proactive Disclosure</b>		
	The LTDH president added that young girls are forced into marriage by their parents. The parents of the bride and groom agree to arrange their children's marriage. Like the ATPDH president, the LTDH president said that various	

organizations are dedicated to women's rights in Chad, such as the Association of Women Jurists. However, most young girls forced to marry accept their parents' decision and do not know their own rights.

*Country Reports 2003* indicated that forced and early marriages were still being practised in Chad in 2003, and that "although the law prohibits sexual relations with a girl under the age of 14, even if married, this law rarely was enforced" (25 Feb. 2004).

No additional information on forced marriage in Chad could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

#### Reference

Association tchadienne pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme (ATPDH), N'Djamena. 2 November 2004. Telephone interview with the president.

*Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003*. 25 February 2004. United States Department of State. Washington, DC.  
<<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27719.htm>> [Accessed 1 Nov. 2004]

Ligue tchadienne des droits de la personne (LTDH), N'Djamena. 8 November 2004. Telephone interview with the president.

#### Additional Sources Consulted

Unsuccessful attempts to contact the Association for the Promotion of Fundamental Liberties in Chad (APLFT) and the Association of Women Jurists.

**Internet sites, including** : AllAfrica, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Save the Children, Women Living Under Muslim Laws, Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, World News Connection.

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