

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Threats to freedom of expression continued. Journalists were injured by police officers while covering protests and were targeted with tear gas and bullets. In March 2013, journalist Zeus Aziadouvo, who had reported on the use of torture in the market fires case, was charged with complicity in the case. A radio station - Radio Légende FM - was closed down by police in July 2013.

Student associations were forbidden from demonstrating. The Association of Victims of Torture in Togo (ASVITTO) was also forbidden from holding sit-ins. A sit-in protest in March 2014 to claim reparations ordered by the ECOWAS court in the case of the men convicted of participating in a 2009 coup plot (see above) was dispersed with tear gas. Reparations were paid later that month.

Amah Olivier, President of the ASVITTO, was arrested in September 2013 and charged with incitement to rebellion for speaking about the political situation during a demonstration. He was conditionally released in February 2014 but was again summoned by the investigating judge in September. He reportedly received death threats in detention.

1. Togo: Excessive use of force and death in custody (AFR 57/002/2013)
www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/af57/002/2013/en

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Head of state: **Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona**

Head of government: **Kamla Persad-Bissessar**

Killings by the security forces, and torture and other ill-treatment of detainees, including deaths in custody, remained a concern. People continued to be sentenced

to death. The state failed to tackle violence against LGBTI people.

BACKGROUND

A second round of consultations on the reform of the Constitution was carried out in 2014, following a report by the Constitution Reform Commission and nationwide consultations in 2013.

The country continued to face a serious public security crisis: homicide rate remained at a high level with 403 murders reported by the police compared with 407 in 2013. In response, joint police and military patrols were deployed. In August 2014 the army's Defence Force Reserves were called to assist with street patrolling until 7 January 2015, despite serious concerns that the force was not trained to carry out these duties.

Prosecutor and senior attorney Dana Seetahal was assassinated by unidentified men in May 2014. She had been investigating high-profile cases including the kidnapping and murder of a businesswoman. An investigation into her killing was immediately opened by the authorities.

In August, pre-trial detainees in two prisons went on hunger strike to protest against the slow progress of their cases in the courts. According to the International Centre for Prison Studies, 43% of the prison population was in pre-trial detention.

EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

Reports of killings by the security forces suggested that they may have been unlawful and contradicted the official claims of "exchange of gunfire" with criminal elements.

Hakeem Alexander, 16, and his cousin Tevin Alexander, 15, were killed on 9 June 2014 in Morvant, Port of Spain, when police were called to intervene in a shoot-out. Eyewitnesses alleged that the two boys were executed by police officers while on their knees with their hands up. An investigation into the incident was ongoing at the end of the year.

TORTURE AND OTHER ILL-TREATMENT

In December 2013, Jameson John allegedly suffered burns to his torso, leg and genitals while in police custody. Six police officers were charged with misconduct and were awaiting trial at the end of the year.

DEATHS IN CUSTODY

On 24 June, Jahwi Ghany died in police custody in Chaguanas. A first autopsy stated he had died from heart failure. A second autopsy ordered by his family found that his death had been caused by trauma to the head. An investigation by the Police Complaint Authority was ongoing at the end of the year.

RIGHTS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX PEOPLE

Although the Constitution Reform Commission recognized in 2013 the “high level of violence and abuse against LGBTI [people]”, it failed to formulate recommendations towards achieving equality and ending discrimination. Laws criminalizing same-sex consensual acts and barring homosexuals from entering the country remained in place.

DEATH PENALTY

The death penalty continued to be mandatory for murder and death sentences were handed down. No executions have taken place since 1999. The 2013 report of the Constitution Reform Commission recommended the retention of the death penalty. In December, in response to the high homicide rate, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar announced that she will seek to introduce new legislation to facilitate the resumption of executions.

TUNISIA

Republic of Tunisia

Head of state: **Beji Caid Essebsi (replaced Moncef Marzouki in December)**

Head of government: **Mehdi Jomaa**

A new Constitution adopted in January contained important human rights guarantees, but the authorities continued to restrict freedoms of expression and association. There were new reports of torture of detainees and at least two people were victims of apparently unlawful killings by police. The new Constitution contained improved safeguards for women’s rights but failed to end legal and other discrimination against women or to address violence against women. A new process was established to address past human rights violations; however, a military appeals court significantly reduced the sentences of former senior officials convicted of responsibility for hundreds of unlawful killings during the 2010-2011 uprising. Tunisia kept its borders open to refugees fleeing fighting in Libya. Armed groups carried out attacks and killed members of the security forces. At least two people were sentenced to death; there were no executions.

BACKGROUND

Following the political crisis in 2013 sparked by the assassinations in February and July of two left-wing politicians, Chokri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi, Tunisia’s political parties reached an agreement that resulted in a new Constitution and the appointment of a new interim government in early 2014. The new government lifted the state of emergency, in force since 2011, on 5 March.

On 26 January, the National Constituent Assembly (NCA) adopted a new Constitution by a large majority after months of deadlock and an agreement by NCA members to reach