



# TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

---

Date Release: March 2009

Programme No. 1173

Duration: 4'28"

Language: English, French, Spanish, Russian

### ONE WOMAN'S BATTLE: FIGHT FOR JUSTICE IN NIGER

#### VIDEO

M/S NIGER WOMEN WEAVING  
CART PULLED BY COW  
LOADED W/ STRAW

MAN ON MOTORCYCLE  
ARRIVING

INTRO TO HADIJATOU

HADIJATOU MANI ON CAMERA

VAR. SHOTS OF NIGER  
WOMEN

PEOPLE AT OUTDOOR  
MARKET

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

Slavery flourishes here on the Niger-Nigeria-Chad border in a region known as the "Triangle of Shame. (7")

In this village in Niger, a man named Prince Almo, is here to see 25-year-old Hadijatou Mani. Now free, she was sold into slavery at the age of twelve, for \$250 U.S. dollars. (13")

##### HADIJATOU MANI: (Local Dialect) **F**

*"I worked the fields and cared for my master's first four wives. I cooked all the food, did all the laundry, took care of the animals. I was a slave and my owner called me a slave." (11.5")*

##### NARRATION

There are tens of thousands of female slaves in Niger. They are called "fifth wives" because they are bought after men already have four wives, legal under Islamic tradition. Many men can and do have more than one so-called "fifth

wife"...a practice that is illegal...but not uncommon in this country. (20")

CU. COOKING POT  
HADIJATOU MASHING GRAIN

Hadijatou wasn't even a teenager when a family friend took her and sold her to a man known as the Charlatan. (7.5")

HADIJATOU WALKING  
TOWARDS CAMERA

HADIJATOU MANI: (Local Dialect) **F**  
*"I was the seventh one. My life was one of misery, of beatings, of inhumane treatment. He hit me with his hands and with shoes made of leather."* (10")

HADIJATOU ENTERS HUT

NARRATION

Hadijatou was also repeatedly raped and had two children. (4")

M/S HADIJATOU TALKING

What she didn't know was that in 2003, the Niger government passed an anti-slavery law. (6.5")

PRINCE ALMO ARRIVING ON  
MOTORCYCLE

Prince Almo, working for a local anti-slavery organization, came and confronted the Charlatan, insisting that he release Hadijatou.

PHOTO OF THE CHARLATAN

The Charlatan agreed, but never told her. She finally heard the news from her brother months later. (15")

HADIJATOU ON CAMERA

HADIJATOU MANI: (Local Dialect) **F**  
*"The only way I'd go back to the Charlatan was as a corpse."* (4")

HADIJATOU NOW LIVING WITH HER NEW HUSBAND	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>Liberated, she married a local farmer but the Charlatan went to the authorities to charge Hadijatou with bigamy. (7")</p>
HADIJATOU WITH HER SON, PREPARES FOOD	<p>Although six months pregnant, a county court threw her in jail for two months. (5")</p>
INT'L. HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS DISCUSSING HADIJATOU'S CASE	<p>Hadijatou's plight caught the attention of two international human rights organizations... (5") ... and in a bold legal move they approached the highest court in the West African region – charging that the government of Niger had failed to enact <u>its own</u> law forbidding slavery and had <u>not</u> protected Hadijatou. (13.5")</p>
HIGH COURT HEARING HADIJATOU'S SLAVERY CASE	<p>The court heard the case in April 2008. Six months later, the judge read the verdict. (6")</p>
JUDGE READING THE VERDICT	<p><u>JUSTICE MALLE:</u> (French) <b>F</b></p> <p><i>"Hadijatou has been a victim of slavery and the Niger government is responsible for this."</i> (8")</p>
THE JUBILANT HADIJATOU AFTER THE VERDICT	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>Hadijatou won....and made history. This former slave – bought as a child – had waged a battle whose outcome could now affect <u>hundreds of thousands</u> of women across West Africa. (11.5")</p>

HADIJATOU SWARMED BY THE  
MEDIA

HADIJATOU MANI: (Local Dialect) **F**  
*"I am so happy. All the slave owners who hear  
this verdict will now be scared."* (4")

EXTERIOR SHOT OF THE HIGH  
COURT BUILDING

NARRATION  
It's a verdict that sends a clear message admits  
Niger's Minister of Regional African Affairs,  
Saidou Hachimou. (7")

SAIDOU HACHIMOU ON  
CAMERA

MINISTER HACHIMOU: (French) **M**  
*"The court believes that our actions were not  
sufficient and it is good that we are told this. We  
will ensure that such actions are not repeated in  
Niger."* (12")

UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER,  
CRAIG MOKHIBER IN HIS NY  
OFFICE

NARRATION  
Senior UN Human Rights Official Craig  
Mokhiber says this victory is the first step. (5")

CRAIG MOKHIBER ON CAMERA

CRAIG MOKHIBER: (English) **M**  
*"Here you have a ruling, you have a  
government that has accepted that ruling, but  
there is much more that needs to be done for  
sure. Simply freeing someone from slavery is  
not sufficient. Perpetrators have to be held to  
account. Victims need to build a life of dignity in  
which all of their human rights can be realized."*  
(16.5")

HADIJATOU WITH HER SON  
COURT HEARING

CRAIG MOKHIBER ON CAMERA

HADIJATOU WORKING IN HER  
VILLAGE

NARRATION  
Today Hadijatou is back in her village....and  
she knows she's been given a great reward.

(6")

C/U TO M/S.HADIJATOU  
CLEARING HER GARDEN

HADIJATOU MANI: (Local Dialect) **F**

*"I am pleased; because of me other women will  
get their freedom."* (5.5")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Andi Gitow and  
Edith Champagne for the United Nations. (4")