

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 08/93 (AMR 36/01/93, 12 January 1993) - Legal concern/Fear of torture

HAITI:Gisèle SAINT-FIRMIN, female (previously known as Joseph St-FIRMIN)
Raymond AMAZAN
Maxime HORACIUS
Morpeau (second name unknown)
and five others (names unknown to Amnesty International)

Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Gisèle Saint-Firmin is being beaten in custody and that the authorities are refusing her access to her lawyer.

Gisèle Saint-Firmin is the mother of Marie-Josée Saint-Firmin, who is the local branch secretary of Lavalas, the political movement that supported deposed President Jean Bertrand Aristide. On 8 January 1993 members of the security forces reportedly arrived at Gisèle Saint-Firmin's home looking for her daughter, who is in hiding. The latter had apparently attended a commemorative mass in memory of Jean-Claude Museau, a school teacher who died a year earlier as a result of torture suffered in detention (see AMR 36/03/92 *Haiti: Human rights violations since the coup*). The security forces reportedly searched the house and arrested Gisèle Saint-Firmin after she told them that she did not know of her daughter's whereabouts.

The military in Les Cayes have apparently stated that they would only free Gisèle Saint-Firmin if her daughter gave herself up. Gisèle Saint-Firmin, who is 53, suffers from high blood pressure and cirrhosis.

Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of Gisèle Saint-Firmin.

The organisation has no further information as to the fate of the other above mentioned people arrested in Les Cayes. Please continue sending appeals on their behalf.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in French, English or your own language:

- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment in custody of Gisèle Saint-Firmin;
- asking that her physical integrity be guaranteed while in custody and that she be given immediate access to her lawyer and any appropriate medical care;
- asking that allegations of ill-treatment be investigated and those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking that she be immediately brought before a judge and charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released.

APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN

Premier Ministre

Palais National

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Premier Ministre BAZIN, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister / Dear Prime Minister

2) Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS

Commandant-en-Chef des Forces Armées d'Haïti

Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti

Rue Geffrard

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Armees d'Haiti Cedras, Port-au-Prince,
Haiti

Telephone: +509 22 3935

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh

Faxes: +509 23 9007, 23 9407

Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear General

3) Military Commander of the South department:

Monsieur le Colonel

Mondésir BEAUBRUN

Commandant du Département Militaire du Sud

Rue Mgr. Maurice

Les Cayes

Département du Sud

Haiti

Telegrams: Commadant du Departement du Sud BEAUBRUN, Les Cayes, Haiti

Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant / Dear Commander

4) Chief of Les Cayes Police

Monsieur le Chef de la

Police des Cayes

Quartier Général de la

Police des Cayes

Département du Sud

Haïti

Telegrams: Chef, Police des Cayes, Les Cayes, Haiti

Salutation: Monsieur le Chef de la Police / Dear Chief of Police

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Haïti en Marche (News weekly)
173 N.W. 94 St
Miami
FL 33150, USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 March 1993.