

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Ill-treatment

8 November 1991

HAITI:

Aldajuste PIERRE

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Aldajuste Pierre, president of a local cooperative and a member of the *Mouvement Paysan de Papaye* (MPP), Papaye Peasant Movement in Hinche, Central department. He was arrested on 16 October 1991 and has reportedly been ill-treated by the soldiers.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Aldajuste Pierre was arrested by soldiers from the military base of Hinche. He was accused of being in possession of a clandestine newspaper (clandestine news sheets have been circulated in Haiti following the overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the closure of many independent radio stations). He was reportedly severely ill-treated in army custody, and as a result is reportedly seriously ill, but is being refused adequate medical attention in custody.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Troops overthrew the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who took office in Haiti on 7 February 1991, in a coup d'Etat on Monday 30 September. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including a large number of extrajudicial executions, beatings and mass arrests without warrant. Many of the victims included supporters of President Aristide and members and leaders of grassroots organizations.

The MPP, a grassroots peasant movement in the region of Papaye, Hinche, Central department, has been a long term target of human rights violations under successive military governments.

On 1 October, one day after the coup d'Etat, the armed forces reportedly went looking for Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the founder of the MPP and its President. There were also reports that soldiers were drafted in from Hinche the departmental capital to seek out and arrest the leadership of the MPP. Many of the leaders were alerted and went into hiding, but the offices of the MPP were ransacked and destroyed by soldiers and substantial community funds reportedly stolen. These incidents were later compiled in a report and presented to the competent judicial authorities. The next day, orders for the arrest of those signing the report were reportedly issued, and they went into hiding. Several days later, Aldajuste Pierre was arrested by soldiers.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/telephone calls/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment in custody of Aldajuste Pierre;
- asking that he be provided with immediate and adequate medical treatment while in custody;
- asking for an investigation into allegations of ill-treatment, that the results of the investigation be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- asking for clarification of his legal situation and if detained for the exercise of his freedom of expression, not involving the advocacy of violence, urge that he be immediately and unconditionally released;

- asking for guarantees for the safety of other MPP members and leaders.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT  
Premier Ministre, Ministre  
des Affaires Etrangères

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre**  
**Dear Prime Minister**

Présidence de la République de Haïti  
Palais National  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre Honorat, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Faxes: + 509 22 1147**

2) Minister of Interior and Defence:

M. le Colonel Gracia JEAN  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
et de la Défense Nationale

**Monsieur le Ministre**  
**Dear Minister**

Palais des Ministères  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur Jean, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 9198 or 22 1090**

**Telexes: 20515 Dptindn**

3) Commander of the Centre Military Department:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS  
Commandant-en-Chef des Forces  
Armées d'Haïti

**Monsieur le Général**  
**Dear General**

Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti  
Rue Geffrard

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Forces Armees Cedras, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 3935**

**Telexes: 20391 GQFADH**

**Faxes: + 509 23 9007 or + 509 23 9407**

4) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Antoine LÉCONTE  
Ministère de la Justice  
Cité de l'Exposition  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Monsieur le Ministre**  
**Dear Minister**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Leconte, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 45 0474 or 45-1626**

**Telexes: 20166 Justice**

**COPIES TO: at least one of the following:**

Minister of Public Health:  
Monsieur Greger JEAN-LOUIS  
Ministre de la Santé  
Publique et de la Population  
Ministère de la Santé Publique et  
de la Population  
Palais des Ministères  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

President of the Senate:  
Maître Eudrice RAYMOND  
Président du Sénat  
Assemblée Nationale  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Chamber of Deputies:  
Monsieur le Président  
Chambre des Députés  
Assemblée National  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Haiti en Marche (newspaper)  
173 N.W. 94 St.  
Miami  
FL 33150, USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haïti in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section if sending appeals after 20 December 1991.