

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "disappearance" /
Fear for Physical Safety

13 December 1991

HAITI

Félix LAMY
Ives-Marie CHANEL

Amnesty International is concerned at the abduction by unidentified armed men and subsequent "disappearance" of Félix Lamy, Director of Radio Galaxy, and for the safety Ives-Marie Chanel, a reporter for the Inter Press Service Third World News Agency (IPS).

According to the information received by Amnesty International, on 7 December 1991, Ives-Marie Chanel filed a story for IPS about a possible rebellion within the military. The story was used by two Haitian radio stations, *Radio Galaxy* and *Tropiques FM*. At about 9.00 pm on 10 December 1991, seven unidentified men forcibly entered the offices of *Radio Galaxy*, damaged part of the premises and equipment and took away Félix Lamy to an unknown destination. His whereabouts are, since then, unknown. The army and the police have reportedly denied holding him. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

The next day, the Assistant Director and two journalists of *Tropiques FM* were reportedly summoned to Police headquarters and questioned about the source of the news item broadcasted by *Tropiques FM* and *Radio Galaxy*, which they reportedly revealed. Reliable sources in Port-au-Prince have reported that Ives-Marie Chanel is being looked for by the Haitian security forces. Fearing for his personal safety, he has now gone into hiding.

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. These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, in some occasions, by men in civilian clothes.

Journalists have been particularly targeted under the new regime. On the night of 29 to 30 September, Radio Nationale director Michel Favard was arrested by seven men in military dress who demanded to know where he had obtained information for a report broadcast that day warning of a coup attempt. On Monday 30 September soldiers arrived at the home of Radio Caraïbe Director, Jacques Gary Siméon, beat him in the presence of his family, and took him away to an unknown destination. His dead body was later found (see Haiti: Human Rights Violations in the Aftermath of the Coup d'Etat, October 1991, AI Index: AMR 36/09/91). Journalists Nicolas Sorenville and

Jean Mario Paul were arrested in early November. Nicolas Sorenville was released days later, Jean-Mario Paul, who was severely ill-treated, remains in detention (see UA 393/91, AMR 36\26\91 of 12 November, and its follow-up, AI Index AMR 36\30\91, of 19 November 1991).

On 4 December 1991 a group of Haitian journalists, including Ives-Marie Chanel, signed a statement protesting against repression and censorship of the press.

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

- expressing concern at the reported abduction of Félix Lamy;
- urging the government to open an immediate, impartial investigation to establish Félix Lamy's fate and whereabouts, and that those found responsible for his abduction be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Ives-Marie Chanel and asking that measures are taken to ensure that he is not being subjected to illegal arrest and ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT
Premier Ministre, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Présidence de la République de Haïti
Palais National
Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Telegrams: Premier Ministre Honorat, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Faxes: + 509 22 1147

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / 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, Haïti
Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Forces Armees Cedras, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Telephone: + 509 22 3935
Telexes: 20391 qqfadh
Faxes: + 509 23 9007

Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear General

3) Head of the Police:

Monsieur le Majeur
Michel FRANÇOIS

Chef de la Police Nationale
Grand Quartier Général de la Police
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: Chef de la Police Nationale, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Salutation: Monsieur le Majeur / Dear Major

COPIES TO:

<u>President of the Chamber</u> <u>of Deputies:</u>	<u>President of the Senate:</u>	Haïti en Marche
Maître Duly BRUTUS	Maître Eudrice RAYMOND	(<u>newspaper</u>)
Président de la Chambre des	Président du Sénat	173 N.W. 94 St.
Députés	Assemblée Nationale	Miami
Assemblée Nationale	Port-au-Prince, Haïti	Fl 33150, USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haïti in your country. [Please note: Haïti's diplomatic representatives still represent the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.]

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 January 1992.