

UA /93 Fear for Safety

26 November 1993

HAITI

Arrests

Sergot METAYER, aged 17
Djobit CIUS, aged 17
Bertrand DORISMON
Anvi CHARITABLE
Chatte METAYER
Rosny (surname not known)
Aloud METAYER (pregnant female)
"Pinikrit" (nickname)
"Jean-Clou" (nickname)

Fear of Arrest

Amio METAYER
Mr. DIEUJUSTE
William CHARLES
Dodo METAYER
William JOSEPH
Romane TOUSSAINT
Marc-Antoine NICOLÁS

Amnesty International is concerned about a recent spate of arrests without warrant and attacks by the armed forces on inhabitants of Gonaïves, principally from the shanty town of Raboteau, Artibonite Department.

According to reports, on 20 November 1993 soldiers arrested three youths from Raboteau, who were in Port-au-Prince. The soldiers were apparently looking for local Raboteau leader, Amio Metayer, who they believed was in Port-au-Prince, but on not finding him, they arrested Sergot Metayer, Djobit Cius and Bertrand Dorismon instead. They were beaten on arrest and taken to the prison in Gonaïves.

Also on that day, Chatte Metayer was arrested in Raboteau. He was beaten by soldiers and threatened with death if he did not take them to the homes of certain people. Several houses were then searched, but only two people were found at home: Anvi Charitable was severely beaten and arrested in Raboteau and a young man by the name of Rosny was arrested in Cité Duvalier. Two days later Anvi Charitable and Chatte Metayer were reportedly tortured by the *djak* method (a bar is placed underneath the legs and above the arms while the prisoner is beaten) at the Gonaïves military barracks. They are still believed to be detained. Other homes in Raboteau were searched on 20 November for the following people: Mr. Dieujuste, William Charles, Dodo Metayer and William Joseph, but since they were not at home they were not arrested. One mother, Mary Kenol, was threatened with death if she did not hand over her son, Marc-Antoine Nicolás. As her son was not there the soldiers left.

The following day, members of the armed forces went to the home of Romane Toussaint in Raboteau. When his mother, Aloud Metayer, who was pregnant at the time, refused to give any information about her son, the soldiers beat her severely with a baton, particularly her stomach, and arrested her.

Also on 21 November a young man nicknamed "Pinikrit", who was attending a wake for his dead mother in Raboteau, was beaten before being arrested.

On 22 November a man nicknamed "Jean-Clou" from the shanty town of Sans Raison, Gonaïves, was reportedly arrested in Port-au-Prince. He was taken to the prison in Gonaïves where he was severely beaten.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

President Aristide was due to return to power on 30 October 1993, according to the 3 July 1993 agreement signed by him and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Raoul Cédras. However, this did not happen and there has been no indication of any other date being set for President Aristide's return. General Cédras and Police Chief Michel François are effectively ruling the country. As the date when President Aristide was to have returned drew nearer there was a marked upsurge in human rights violations, including the killings of Aristide supporter Antoine Izméry and Justice Minister Guy Malary. President Aristide's supporters continue to suffer widespread threats and attacks.

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

- expressing concern at reports of the arrest without warrant of the above listed people, as well as beatings of some of the detainees in Gonaïves;
- urging that their whereabouts be immediately clarified and that if held in detention, their physical security be guaranteed and that they be promptly brought before a competent court or else released;
- urging that the physical security of the other people listed above be guaranteed;
- asking that while in detention, they be granted access to a lawyer, a doctor and relatives;
- urging prompt and impartial investigations into these allegations, that the findings be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Générale Raoul CEDRAS
 Commandant-en-Chef des Forces Armées d'Haiti
 Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haiti
 Rue Geffrard
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Commandant-en-Chef des Armées d'Haiti Cedras,
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

Telephone: + 509 22 3935

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007, + 509 23 9407

Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear General

Gonaïves Military Barracks:

Colonel Bellony Groshomme
 Caserne Toussaint Louverture
 Gonaïves
 HAITI

Commander of the Military district of Gonaïves:

Capitaine Castera Senafils
 Commandant du Sous-District Militaire
 Caserne Toussaint Louverture

Gonaïves
HAITI

Judicial Authority in Gonaïves:

Maître Roland Paphius
Commissaire du Gouvernement
Parquet du Tribunal Civil
Rue Louverture
Gonaïves, HAITI

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Human Rights Organizations:

Commission Justice et Paix
56, Ruelle Piquant, BP 1572
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

Newspaper:

Artibonite Journal
Gonaïves
Département de l'Artibonite
HAITI

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 7 January 1993.