

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/54/92

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UA 380/92 Fear of Torture/Ill-treatment

2 December 1992

HAITI: About 12 students arrested, including:

Antoine WESNER

Marilide NOEL (female)

Morancy (only first name known to Amnesty International)

About 20 students beaten, including:

Egalité Erlande (female)

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of approximately 12 students reportedly arrested by the armed forces during protests at the Faculty of Agronomy (Faculté d'Agronomie) at the State University of Haiti (Université d'Etat d'Haïti), which took place on 1 December 1992. It is believed that the students, who were reportedly beaten on arrest, were taken to the Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Anti-gang Investigation Service and it is feared that they may be ill-treated in custody. Amnesty International is also concerned that approximately 20 students were injured after being badly beaten by soldiers who attacked the protesters. One of the students, Egalité Erlande is reported to be in a serious condition as a result of the beating she received.

According to information received by Amnesty International, student protests followed a decree issued by the Ministry of Education on 27 November 1992 which replaced the staff of the Administrative Councils of schools and Universities. At the Faculty of Agronomy students were protesting the appointment of a new dean.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Troops violently overthrew the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who took office in Haiti on 7 February 1991, in a coup on the night of 29 to 30 September 1991. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including a large number of extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment and mass arrests without warrant. Several of those detained by the authorities remain "disappeared".

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

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the students, including those named above, arrested by the armed forces while peacefully protesting at the Faculty of Agronomy, University of Haiti, on 1 December 1992;

- asking that the whereabouts of the detained students be made known and that they be treated humanely in custody;

- asking for information on their legal situation, and that they be granted access

to legal representation and to their families;

- expressing concern about the apparent excessive use of force against the students which resulted in some 20 students, including Egalité Erlande, being injured;

- asking that the incident be investigated and those found responsible brought to justice.

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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) Minister of the Interior and Defence:

M. le Général Carl Michel NICOLAS

Ministre de l'Intérieur et

de la Défense Nationale

Palais des Ministères

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

Telephone: + 509 22 9198, + 509 22 1090

Telexes: 20515 Dptindn

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

3) Chief of National Police:

Monsieur le Lt.Colonel

Michel FRANÇOIS

Chef de la Police Nationale

Grand Quartier Général de la Police

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

**Salutation: Monsieur le Lt. Colonel /
Dear Lt. Colonel**

4) 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 qqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007, + 509 23 9407

**Salutation: Monsieur le Général /
Dear General**

5) Anti-gang investigation and research service:

Monsieur le Capitaine Joanis JACKSON

Chef du Service d'investigation

et de recherches anti-gang

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Chef du Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Port-au-

**Salutation: Monsieur le Capitaine /
Dear Captain**

Prince, Haiti

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports

Monsieur Max CARRÉ

Ministre de l'Education Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports

Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports

Cité de l'Exposition

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Haiti 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 12 January 1993.