

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/59/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 391/92 Legal concern/Fear of ill-treatment

11 December 1992

HAITI: Maurice DAMUCY
Jean AUGUSTIN
Ms BÉLIZAIRE (female, first name unknown to Amnesty
International)
and thirty others

Amnesty International has received reports that the above mentioned people have been arrested by the security forces in Haiti. Amnesty International is concerned that they are said to be in poor health as a result of beatings suffered at the hands of the security services, and fears that they may be at risk of further torture or ill-treatment.

Maurice Damucy was reportedly arrested by soldiers on 8 December 1992 at about 5 pm in Bainet, South East Department. He was apparently severely beaten upon arrest and is said to be detained in Bainet's prison. He is a member of Comité National des Congrès des Mouvements Démocratiques (KONAKOM), National Committee of Congresses of Democratic Movements, a political party which has supported deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Jean Augustin and Ms Bélizaire are members of grass-root organizations. They were reportedly arrested in Port-au-Prince during the night of 30 November 1992, together with thirty others. They are apparently being held by Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Anti-gang Investigation Service. The two are said to be in poor health as a result of beatings endured while in detention.

The identities of the other thirty are not known to Amnesty International but they are also said to have suffered ill-treatment at the hands of the security forces.

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.

Victims have included all those supporting or suspected of supporting President

Aristide. Members of grass-roots and development organizations have been among the most affected. Since the 1991 coup, members of KONAKOM have been the target of threats and intimidation. On 22 November 1992 KONAKOM members Wesner Luc and Justin Brézil were reportedly abducted by armed men. The following day Wesner Luc was found dead (see UA 372/92, AMR 36/53/92, 27 November 1992). Justin Brézil remains "disappeared". On 3 September 1992 Marcel Fleurzile, peasant leader and member of KONAKOM, was reportedly killed by unidentified men and his body found near the KONAKOM offices (see UA 289/92, AMR 36/47/92, 11 September 1992).

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of Maurice Damucy, Jean Augustin, Ms Bélizaire and thirty others;

- asking that allegations of ill-treatment be investigated and those found responsible brought to justice;

- asking that the physical integrity of those named above be guaranteed while in detention, and that they be granted access to any necessary medical treatment;

- asking for confirmation of their current whereabouts, for information as to the reasons for their arrest and on their legal situation.

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN
Premier Ministre
Palais National
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister /
Dear Prime Minister

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

Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121

2) 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

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

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

3) Anti-gang investigation service:

Monsieur le Capitaine Joanis JACKSON
Chef du Service d'investigation et
de recherches anti-gang
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Salutation: Monsieur le Capitaine /
Dear Captain

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

4) Commander of the South-East military department:

Monsieur le Commandant du Département
Militaire du Sud-Est

Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant /

Grand Rue

Dear Commander

Jacmel

Département du Sud-Est, Haiti

Telegrams: Commandant du Département du Sud-Est, Jacmel, Haiti

Telephone: + 509 82-0008

5) Prison Director:

Monsieur le Directeur

Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur /

Prison de Bainet

Dear Sir

Bainet

Département du Sud-est, Haiti

Telegrams: Monsieur le Directeur, Prison de Bainet, Haiti

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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 22 January 1993.