
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 216/94

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 21 SEPTEMBER 1994

AI INDEX: NWS 11/216/94
DISTR: SC/PO

NO OF WORDS: 483

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - HAITI (This item is being sent to international media by the IS)

PLEASE NOTE: If you get any press queries about the Dutch business man due to be executed in Singapore next week please refer to UA 418/94 (ASA 36/07/94) and UA released 20 September (ASA 36/10/94).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Indonesia - 0400 hrs GMT 28 September - SEE NEWS SERVICE 215 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PANEL AT PRESS CONFERENCE LAUNCH

France - 12 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

Algeria - 25 October - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 137/94

APEC - 3 November -SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Mali - 21 September - SEE NEWS SERVICES 212/94 AND 205/94

Turkey - 14 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 181/94

Iraq - 29 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 212/94

AI INDEX: AMR 36/WU 15/94

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AT 18:30 GMT 21 SEPTEMBER 1994

US OPERATION IN HAITI SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON -- Amnesty International said the current situation in Haiti -- where public order is brutally enforced by the Haitian military authorities while the US authorities stand idly by -- is dangerously wrong.

Reports today indicate that Haitian police killed at least one and possibly other Haitian civilians since the United States forces arrived in Haiti. The man, allegedly beaten to death, reportedly died yesterday when uniformed Haitian police brutally assaulted crowds outside Port-au-Prince harbour.

"If killings by the Haitian military authorities happen in front of US troops -- and the US is silent -- then the US appears to condone human rights violations and becomes a partner with those who commit such abuses," Amnesty International said. "The US authorities should make it clear to their Haitian counterparts that human rights violations cannot be tolerated and that there are existing international law enforcement standards which they are obliged to uphold at all times. These guidelines should be disseminated among the Haitian population."

The United Nations and the United States must not abandon responsibility for protecting people who continue to be assaulted and killed by the Haitian military and their accomplices, Amnesty International said. An immediate deployment of an international observation team could reduce the risk of human rights violations by acting as a dissuasive presence and help the Haitian people to know their rights.

All UN-mandated forces in Haiti operation, including US military personnel, should be instructed that they have a duty to report human rights violations. US military personnel in Haiti should not be "silent witnesses" to human rights violations.

The organization also calls for an in-depth investigation into the yesterday's clashes and other incidents of apparent excessive use of police force. The investigation should include an independent forensic enquiry to determine the cause of death of fatalities. It should also determine who was responsible for the fatalities.

ENDS\

[For an interview tonight on this news release, contact Norma Johnston in the Washington D.C. office of Amnesty International at 1 202 - 544 0200.]