

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/28/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 268/94

Fear of torture / Legal Concern

15 July 1994

HAITI

Lunice LAROCHELLE, aged 42

---

Lunice Larochelle has been detained without charge or trial since his arrest on 23 June 1994, in violation of the Haitian Constitution, which states that detainees must be charged within 48 hours or released. Amnesty International fears for his physical safety while he remains in illegal detention.

Prior to the detention, the military had reportedly been looking for Lunice Larochelle, who is a member of the Justice and Peace office in Randel, Chardonnières, Sud department, so a local priest went to the military post in Randel to inquire as to the charges that were being brought against him. The military apparently confirmed that they had a warrant for his arrest. On 23 June the priest and Lunice Larochelle went to talk to the captain of the military barracks in Port-au-Piment, near Chardonnières. Lunice Larochelle was immediately arrested and accused of being a member of an alleged armed rebel movement in the area.

On 27 June, Lunice Larochelle was transferred to the barracks in Les Cayes, also in the Sud department, where he remains in detention. According to his lawyer, he has not been brought before a judge nor have official charges been brought against him. For the first two weeks of his detention he was reportedly denied visitors and food from his family.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Human rights violations have continued at an alarming level in Haiti. Most of the victims appear to have been targeted because of their support for the return of President Aristide. The number of apparent extrajudicial executions during the last few months is reminiscent of September-October 1993 when *attachés* carried out a campaign of intimidation and abuses against President Aristide's supporters, aimed at blocking his return, which had been projected for 30 October 1993. Latest reports by the UN/Organization of American States International Civilian Mission to Haiti claimed that some 300 people have been extrajudicially executed during 1994.

With the departure of most of the approximately 100 members of the UN/OAS Mission on 13 July 1994, following an expulsion order by the military-backed regime and continuing speculation about the possibility of foreign armed intervention in the country, it is feared the situation could deteriorate further.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in French or in your own language, or call by telephone:**

- expressing concern at the illegal detention of Lunice Larochelle and urging that he be promptly charged with a recognisable criminal offence or released;
- urging that whilst in detention, his physical security be guaranteed and that he be granted access to his lawyer and relatives.

#### **APPEALS TO**

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Général 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 Forces armées d'Haiti Général Cédras,  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti**  
**Telephone: + 509 22 3935**  
**Telexes: 20391 ggfadh**  
**Faxes: + 509 23 9007, + 509 23 9407**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear General**

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**

Army Chief of Staff:  
Monsieur le Brigadier Général  
Philippe BIAMBY  
Chef d'Etat-Major Général  
Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti  
Rue Geffrard  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
**Telegrams: Chef d'Etat-Major Général, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**  
**Telexes: 20391 ggfadh**  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Brigadier Général / Dear Brigadier General**

**COPIES TO:**

National Coalition for Haitian Refugees  
BP 19063  
Bas-Peu de chose  
Port-au-Prince  
Haiti

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 30 August 1994.