

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 322/94 Fear for Safety

6 September 1994

HAITI Gabriel LOUINE
 Romain CASTRI

Gabriel Louine and Romain Castri have reportedly been held in detention since 9 August 1994 at the Anti-gang investigation and research service - *Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang* in Port-au-Prince. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety, due to the constant reports of torture having taken place at the Anti-gang.

According to reports, these two young people were arrested by *attachés* in Delmas 60, Port-au-Prince, on 9 August. Neither of them have been brought before a judge which is in violation of the Haitian Constitution which states that detainees must be charged within 48 hours or released. They are reportedly being denied access to relatives.

Gabriel Louine and Romain Castri had apparently fled from their hometown of Poste-Avance, Camp-Perrin, Sud department, following accusations that they had participated in an alleged attack on a military barracks in Camp-Perrin in July 1994.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Haiti has been suffering a long-term human rights crisis, during which AI has received regular reports of extrajudicial executions, "disappearances," torture and arbitrary arrest, directed principally at supporters of President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide, but also affecting the population at large. Democratically elected President Aristide was overthrown by the military in September 1991. Since then Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, General Raoul Cédras and Police Chief Michel François have effectively been ruling the country.

The expulsion in July 1994 of the United Nations (UN)/Organization of American States (OAS) international civilian observer mission to Haiti meant that Haiti lost its last international monitoring presence which might have helped to prevent further human rights violations.

On 31 July 1994 the UN Security Council meeting in special session passed Resolution 940 (1994) authorizing the formation of a multilateral force under unified command, opening the way to a US-led invasion of Haiti. In response, Haiti's *de facto* government declared a state of siege, suspending constitutional guarantees.

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

- expressing concern about the continued detention of Gabriel Louine and Romain Castri without being brought to trial;

- urging that, while in detention, steps be immediately taken to ensure that their physical integrity be protected and that they be allowed access to relatives, a lawyer and a doctor;

- urging that they be charged with a recognisable criminal offence or else released.

APPEALS TO

Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces

Monsieur le Général Raoul CÉDRAS
 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**

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

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-Prince, Haiti**

Salutation: Monsieur le Capitaine / Dear Captain

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Newspaper (weekly):

Haiti en Marche
 173 N. W. 94 St.
 Miami, Florida
 33149 USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti accredited to your country

Please also consider copying your appeals to any Haitian exile radio stations or newspapers that may exist in your country so that they can publicise AI's concerns in this case.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 18 October 1994.