

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Torture and Illtreatment/
Death in Custody

17 May 1991

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Joubert PIERRE, aged 19

Amnesty International is concerned about the reported torture and ill-treatment and subsequent death in custody of Haitian citizen Joubert Pierre.

According to reports, Joubert Pierre was detained on 20 April 1991 by police agents at his home in Boca Chica, a sugar producing town located 34 kilometres from Santo Domingo, where he lived with his mother. He was accused of having stolen a gas cylinder. He was reportedly first taken to a police station in Andrés Boca Chica and later transferred to police headquarters in Boca Chica.

The reports indicate that immediately upon arrest he was beaten by the police. On 24 April 1991, Joubert Pierre was able to tell some people who visited him that he had been severely tortured by the police. According to reports, he had injuries on his face and chest. On a subsequent visit, his mother was told by the police that her son had been sent to the Dr. Luis Aybal Hospital. When she went to visit him however, she was told he was not there. His body was subsequently identified at a morgue by his mother and an official of the Haitian embassy in the Dominican Republic.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reported torture and death in custody of Joubert Pierre;
- expressing concern that, according to reports, his face and chest had injuries consistent with having been subjected to torture;
- urging that a full and impartial investigation be initiated into the allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and the subsequent death of Joubert Pierre;
- asking that the results of such an inquiry be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Dr Joaquín Balaguer Ricardo
Presidente de la República
Palacio Nacional
Santo Domingo
República Dominicana

**Telegrams: Presidente Balaguer, Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic**

Telexes: 202 0011 SECPRES; 201 4299 SECPRES DR

Dr. Atilio Guzmán Fernández
Ministro del Interior y Policía
Ministerio del Interior y Policía
Centro de los Héroes
Santo Domingo
República Dominicana

**Telegrams: Ministro Interior Dr. Guzman, Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic**

Sr. Francisco Carvajal Martínez
Presidente del Senado
Senado de la República
Congreso Nacional
Santo Domingo
República Dominicana

**Telegrams: Presidente del Senado Dr. Carvajal,
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**

COPIES TO:

Reverendo Telésforo Isaac
Obispo
Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana
Apartado Postal 764
Santo Domingo
República Dominicana

and to diplomatic representatives of the Dominican Republic in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 28 June 1991.