

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Execution

18 December 1990

HAITI

Jeanine DÉROSIER

Amnesty International is seriously concerned at reports of the killing of Jeanine Derosier, a 44-year-old banana vendor, by Haitian police in Port-au-Prince on the evening of 17 December 1990.

According to the information received by Amnesty International, Jeanine Dérosier, who was seven months pregnant, was among a group of people who had gathered outside the parish church of St. Jean Bosco in La Saline, a shanty town of the capital Port-au-Prince, to celebrate the apparent electoral victory of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The celebration was reportedly peaceful. Eyewitnesses reported that uniformed policemen driving a pick up truck opened fire on the group and shot Jeanine Dérosier, who was hit in the head and abdomen at close range. They then reportedly drove the pickup truck over her body. Several other celebrants are reported to have been wounded by the gunfire.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Presidential and legislative elections were held on 16 December 1990. Although final official results had not been announced by the evening of 17 December, it was widely acknowledged that Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide has won by a large majority. The elections took place in a calm atmosphere, although there had been fears that violence might erupt. However, prior to the elections, on 5 December a bomb attack at the end of a political rally organized in support of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide killed at least seven people and left well over 50 wounded. Elections scheduled for 29 November 1987 were abandoned after at least 30 people were killed and many injured at a polling station, by armed groups said to be working in close collaboration with the security forces. Subsequent elections which were boycotted by the main opposition candidates and a large proportion of the electorate, took place on 17 January 1988, in an atmosphere of fear, and were largely regarded as fraudulent. The elected government of President Leslie Manigat was later overthrown in a coup in June 1988. The December 1990 elections were the first to take place since January 1988.

Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, an outspoken critic of successive governments, has survived at least three assassination attempts. In September 1988, dozens of men armed with guns and machetes attacked his parish church of St. Jean Bosco. One of their main targets appeared to be Father Aristide, who was saying Mass. At least 12 parishioners were killed and over 70 wounded in the attack. In April 1990 judicial proceedings were initiated against a member of the armed forces charged involved in the attack, but the case has yet to come to trial.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the brutal killing of Jeanine Dérosier and the wounding of others by the Haitian police;
- asking that immediate, fully independent and impartial inquiries be opened into the incident, that their results be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- asking the Haitian authorities to take immediate measures to prevent further attacks on the civilian population by or with the acquiescence of the security forces.

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence

Président de la République d'Haïti

Palais National

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: President, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telexes: 20068 PALAIS or 20551 SECEXEC

Faxes: +509 22 3 9407 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Monsieur le Colonel Jean Thomas

Ministre de la Défense Nationale

Palais des Ministères

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: Ministre Defense, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telexes: 20515 DPTINDN

Faxes: +509 22 3 9407 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Maître Joseph Maxi

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Palais des Ministères

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: Ministre Interieur, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telexes: 20515 DPTINDN

Monsieur le Lieutenant-General Hérard Abraham

Commandant-en-Chef des Forces Armées d'Haïti

Rue Geffrard

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: Commandant Forces Armees, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telexes: 20391 GQFADH

Monsieur le Colonel Jean-Claude DUPERVAL

Cef de la Police Nationale

Grand Quartier General de la Police

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: Police chief Duperval, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

COPIES TO:

Monsieur le Docteur Louis Roy

Conseil d'Etat

Présidence de la République

Palais National

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Haïti en Marche (newspaper)

173 N.W. 94 St

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Radio Haïti Inter

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Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide

Lafanmi Selavie,

P.O. Box 2457,
Rue Camille Léon 27 bis,
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 January 1990.