

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Execution

18 December 1990

HAITI

Jeanine DÉROSIER

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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  
 Miami  
 FL 33150, USA

Radio Haïti Inter  
 Boîte Postale 737  
 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.