

UA 129/99

Possible

HAITIMonfils 'Calypso' Alexandre
Issé 'Ti-Tonton' Austin
'Dadou'
Lionel 'Nene' Louis, 44
Dieumaitre Charles, 25
Dieunord Voltaire, 22
Michael Louis
Eddy 'Rasta' Saint Jean
Saint Fils Gilles
Mira Registre
Joseph Gilbert Gilles

The 11 civilians named above were shot dead by police in the Carrefour Feuilles district of the capital, Port-au-Prince, on 28 May 1999, in circumstances suggesting that they were summarily executed.

The first three had been handed over to police by residents who believed they were members of an armed gang operating from the hills above Carrefour Feuilles. The police said the three had been killed in a shoot-out, but local residents denied this, saying that they had seen the police shoot the men while they were in custody and lying on the ground.

Police then reportedly arrested eight Carrefour Feuilles residents in different places 'for questioning' as part of their operation to find the armed gang. Residents were told to leave the area, after which several people reported hearing a series of shots. According to the Police Commissioner in charge of the operation, the eight were shot as they tried to escape from police custody. However, family members and independent witnesses who later saw the bodies in the city morgue stated that they appeared to have been summarily executed, as 10 of the 11 had been shot once in the head, and one of them in the heart.

Police officers who took part in the operation were identified by locals and included several high-ranking officers.

The Minister of Justice immediately ordered the opening of a judicial inquiry into the killings, and the police Inspector General announced that a police investigation had been opened. According to recent reports, an arrest warrant has been issued for the Police Commissioner of Port-au-Prince for questioning.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Haitian National Police (HNP) was set up in July 1995. During 1998 the police authorities opened official investigations into most reported fatal shootings, but not into reported cases of torture or ill-treatment. In July the HNP declared that 28 of its officers had been suspended that year for human rights violations. However, only a few were detained and charged or brought to trial. The *Mission Civile Internationale en Haïti OEA/ONU* (MICIVIH), International Civilian Mission in Haiti (which is a joint mission set up by the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the United Nations to monitor human rights, reinforce institution-building and human rights education), reported that 31 fatal shootings by police were documented in 1998 - of these, 11 were considered to involve excessive use of force by police officers.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French or your own language:

- expressing concern at the killing by the police of 11 civilians in circumstances suggesting that they were summarily executed;
- welcoming judicial and police investigations into the circumstances of the killings and urging the government to ensure that they are thorough and impartial, that the results are made public and that those found responsible are brought to justice;
- urging the Haitian authorities to ensure that provisions for the use of firearms by all police officers adhere to international standards for the use of such weapons;
- urging the government to take the necessary steps to ensure the effective functioning of the *Inspection generale de la police* (Police general inspection) in charge of the investigation and ensure that police officers are fully trained in human rights.

APPEALS TO:

S.E. Monsieur René Préval
Président de la République d'Haïti
Présidence de la République d'Haïti
Palais National
Champ de Mars
Port-au-Prince
HAÏTI

Fax: + 509 223 0241

Salutation: Monsieur le Président de la République

Monsieur Jacques Edouard Alexis
Premier Ministre et Ministre de l'Intérieure et de la Défense Nationale
Villa d'Accueil
Delmas 60
Musseau
Port-au-Prince
HAITI

Fax: + 509 245 1624

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre

Monsieur Camille Leblanc

Ministre de la Justice et de la Sécurité Publique
Ministère de la Justice
19 Avenue Charles Sumner
Port-au-Prince
HAITI

Fax: + 509 245 0474

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

M. Pierre Denize

Directeur of the Haitian National Police
Rue Pacot
Port-au-Prince
HAITI

Fax: + 509 245 7374

Monsieur Robert Manuel
Secrétaire d'Etat à la Sécurité Publique
Ministère de la Justice

18 Avenue Charles Sumner
Port-au-Prince
HAITI
Fax: + 509 245 0474
Telex: 20166 Justice
Salutation: Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat

Monsieur Fritz Longchamps
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Blvd Harry Truman
Cité de l'Exposition
Port-au-Prince
HAITI
Fax: + 509 223 5261
Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

COPIES TO:

Non-governmental organization
National Coalition for Haitian Rights (NCHR)
275 Seventh Avenue, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10001, USA
Fax: + 1 212 337 0028

Human Rights Organization
Plate-forme des Organisations Haïtiennes des Droits de l'Homme
Casier Postal 19181
Port-au-Prince, HAITI

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti accredited to your country. If there is no diplomatic representatives, please send a copy to:

- The Haitian Embassy in Paris, **fax: + 33 1 42 27 02 05**, or
- The Haitian Embassy in Washington, **fax: + 1 202 745 7215**

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 July 1999.