

EXTERNAL

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To: Medical professionals
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FOLLOW-UP TO MEDICAL LETTER-WRITING ACTION

(See AMR 36/36/91 - 20 December 1991)

@Paul Laroche
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Keywords

Theme: torture/lack of medical care/release

Amnesty International has learned that Paul Laroche has been released from detention. He had been arrested by soldiers on 15 October 1991 and taken to the *Service d'Investigation et de recherches Anti-Gang* where he was severely tortured and beaten. On 17 October 1991 he was admitted from detention to the State University Hospital in Port-au-Prince (*Hôpital de l'Université d'Etat d'Haiti*) where he is reported to have required surgery for two intestinal perforations sustained during torture. He is also reported to have suffered hearing loss in his right ear and some loss of visual capacity in the right eye as a result of his torture and ill-treatment.

Paul Laroche remained in hospital for 5 weeks before being transferred to prison in the *Pénitencier National* in Port-au Prince. Here he was held in the prison infirmary, but is said to have been without any access to medical attention. He was handcuffed to his bed and is reported to have been suffering from constant fevers; it was feared that this was related to infection at the site of his operation and there was concern that he should receive immediate medical attention.

Paul Laroche was one of hundreds of individuals arrested in the wake of a military coup on 30 September 1991 which overthrew the democratically-elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Following the coup there were reports of widespread human rights violations by the security forces, which included hundreds of extra-judicial executions, beatings and mass arrests without warrant.

Paul Laroche is a teacher of literacy and was involved in a literacy program known as the *Association des moniteurs et participants pour l'alphabétisation*.

Thank you to all those who appealed on his behalf. No further action is required.