

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/07/91

Distr: UA/SC

2 October 1991

Further information on UA 321/91 (AMR 36/06/91, 1 October 1991) - Fear of
Extrajudicial Execution/Torture

HAITI:René PREVAL

Marie-Laurence JOCELYN LASSEGUE (f)

Renaud BERNARDIN

Michel FAVARD

plus

Capitain Nicolas SPERDUTO

Major Fourel CELESTIN

Amnesty International has learned that René Preval, Haiti's Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Defence, who together with Minister of Information Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassègue and Minister of Planning, Cooperation and the Civil Service, Renaud Bernardin, who were reported to have been arrested on 30 September 1991, are in hiding. Reports from Haiti have clarified that the Prime Minister and the two cabinet ministers were not in fact arrested, but that many members of the Cabinet of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide fled into hiding following a coup d'Etat which took place on Monday 30 September 1991, fearing military reprisals against those who collaborated with the President.

Amnesty International has also learned of the release from military custody of the director of Radio Nationale (National Radio) Michel Favard. He had been detained by members of the armed forces on Sunday 29 September.

Please stop action on behalf of all four people.

There is concern however, for the safety of Captain Nicolas Sperduto and Major Fourel Célestin, both military doctors, and close aids of President Aristide. Both men were in the National Palace when the President was forcibly removed and taken to military headquarters before he was granted safe conduct out of the country. No further news has emerged as to their whereabouts and there is serious concern in Haiti for their safety.

Amnesty International continues to receive reports of armed forces personnel shooting unarmed civilians in the streets of Port-au-Prince. Reports indicate that up to one hundred people may now have been killed and over two hundred more wounded.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Captain Nicolas Sperduto and Major Fourel Célestin;
- asking that their whereabouts be made known, and that if detained, they be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released;
- continuing to express concern at the reports of deliberate killing and wounding of unarmed civilians by members of the armed forces supporting the coup d'Etat and seeking assurances that the security of civilians will be respected, citing Article 3 of the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials which states:

"Law enforcement officials may use force only when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty."

APPEALS TO:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS
Raoul CEDRAS
Commandant-en-Chef des Forces Armées d'Haïti
Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti
Rue Geffrard
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Monsieur le Général

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh
Faxes: + 509 23 9007

Monsieur le Colonel Alix SYLVA

Monsieur le Colonel

Adjoint Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti
Rue Geffrard
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh
Faxes: + 509 23 9007

Colonel Henri Robert Marc Charles
Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti
Rue Geffrard

Monsieur le Colonel

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telexes: 20391 ggfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007

COPIES 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 13 November 1991.