

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 393/91 (AMR 36/26/91, 12 November 1991) - and follow-up(s): AMR 36/30/91, 19 November 1991 - Legal Concern

HAITI: Jean-Mario PAUL (previously incorrectly given as Paul-Jean Mario)
plus Amos ANTOINE

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Jean-Mario Paul and Amos Antoine, both of whom are critically ill as a result of ill-treatment by members of the security forces and prolonged detention without adequate medical treatment.

Jean-Mario Paul was arrested in Port-au-Prince on 11 November 1991 by seven armed men in plain clothes and one police officer. He was subsequently transferred to Petit-Goâve prison, where he was reportedly severely tortured in custody. Soldiers put him in the "toad" position, in which a victim's neck is tied to his legs and he is beaten on the back and buttocks. Over a month later he was reportedly transferred to Petit-Goâve Hospital, seriously ill and in need of urgent medical attention as a result of the torture. On 16 December he was returned to Petit-Goâve prison, but over the Christmas period was readmitted to hospital in need of further urgent medical attention. He was transferred back to Petit-Goâve prison again in January 1992.

Amnesty International has now learned that Jean-Mario Paul is once again in a critical condition. He reportedly has difficulty walking and has skin ulcers. There are fears that without adequate medical treatment these ulcers will become infected. According to Jean-Mario Paul's lawyer, military authorities in the prison have refused him access to a his client, despite a court order. An international human rights delegation visiting Haiti was also recently refused access to the prison, along with Jean-Mario Paul's lawyer. The lawyer is currently appealing to the courts for a judge's order to allow a doctor access to the prisoner. Amnesty International is concerned for the state of health of Jean-Mario Paul. Prison conditions in Petit-Goâve are very poor. Jean-Mario Paul is housed in a very small cell with 15 other prisoners.

Amos Antoine was arrested by security forces during the week of 14 October 1991, along with several other people whose names are unknown, in Jérémie, department of Grand-Anse.

All were accused of being in possession of clandestine newspapers, which were being produced following the closures of newspapers and radio stations, after the coup in Haiti on 29 September 1991. Those arrested were reportedly held at the prison in Jérémie.

Amos Antoine was reportedly severely beaten, with over 150 blows with a stick. He is now reportedly seriously ill in prison in Jérémie and there are fears that he may die, if not

given immediate access to adequate medical treatment. Prison authorities in Jérémie have refused to allow a doctor or a priest (Amos Antoine is a Roman Catholic), into the prison to see him. Amnesty International is seriously concerned for his health.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes - PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY LETTERS AS ALL MAIL TO HAITI HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.

- expressing concern at the reported critical physical condition of both Jean-Marie Paul and Amos Antoine, as a result of beatings sustained in prison;
- asking that they be granted immediate and urgent access to adequate medical attention while in prison.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT

Premier Ministre,

Ministre des Affaires Etrangères

Présidence de la République de Haïti

Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: Premier Ministre Honorat, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Faxes: + 509 22 1147

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

2) Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS

Commandant-en-Chef des Forces Armées d'Haïti

Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti

Rue Geffrard, Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Forces Armees Cedras, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telephone: + 509 22 3935

Telexes: 20391 qqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007

Salutation: Monsieur le General / Dear General

3. Minister of the Interior:

M le Colonel Gracia Jean

Ministre de l'Intérieur

et de la Defense National

Palais des Ministères

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Intérieur Jean, Port au Prince, Haiti

COPIES TO:

Newspaper:

Haiti Observateur

Brooklyn Navy Yard (Building 58)

Flushing Ave and Cumberlandn Street

Brooklyn

New York, NY 11205, USA

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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 30 March 1992.