

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/11/92

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 17/92

Legal Concern/Fear of Ill-treatment

19 February 1992

HAITI:

Cadet ANTOINE

---

Amnesty International is concerned at reports of the arbitrary arrest of Cadet Antoine, a *technicien* (technician) with the Movement Paysan de Papaye (MPP), Papaye Peasant Movement. The arrest was carried out in Hinche, Centre Department, on 15 February 1992.

According to information received, Cadet Antoine was attending a service at the Eglise Baptiste Indépendante (Independent Baptist Church), in the city of Hinche, when soldiers interrupted the service and took Cadet Antoine away.

He was taken directly to Hinche prison, where he is currently being held. No information has emerged as to the reasons for his arrest, but sources in Haiti have expressed fears that his arrest may have been related to his MPP membership. Amnesty International is concerned that he may be ill-treated in custody.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Troops overthrew the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who took office in Haiti on 7 February 1991, in a coup on the night of 29 to 30 September 1991. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including a large number of extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment and mass arrests without warrant. These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, on some occasions, by men in civilian clothes ostensibly linked to them.

Grassroots and peasant organizations have been particularly targeted for repression by the security forces and their civilian counterparts. The MPP has been a long-term target of the armed forces under previous regimes in Haiti. The leadership of the MPP reported that following the coup soldiers from the city of Hinche were drafted into the town of Papaye to seek out the entire MPP leadership, who then went into hiding. The offices of the MPP were ransacked by soldiers.

On 16 October 1991 MPP member Aldajuste Pierre, president of Kosmika, an MPP cooperative was arrested by soldiers in Hinche. While in Hinche prison he was reportedly very badly beaten, and was subsequently transferred to the military hospital in Hinche with blood in his urine. Another leading member of the MPP, Dr. Dieudonné Jean-Baptiste, the brother of the MPP's president, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, was arrested by police in Port-au-Prince on 17 December 1991. He was subsequently released. Ten days later soldiers had ransacked the home of Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, only one week after the home of two Belgian voluntary workers with the MPP, was ransacked by soldiers (see Haiti: The Human Rights Tragedy - Human rights violations since the coup, AI Index: AMR 36/03/92,

January 1992).

**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 arbitrary arrest of Cadet Antoine;
- asking that his physical integrity be guaranteed while in detention;
- asking for clarification as to the reasons for his arrest and his legal status.

**Page 2 of EXTRA 17/92**

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT

Premier Ministre

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) Minister of Interior and Defence:

M. le Colonel Gracia JEAN

Ministre de l'Intérieur

et de la Défense Nationale

Palais des Ministères

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur Jean, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telexes: 20515 Dptindn**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister**

3) 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**

**Telexes: 20391 GQFADH**

**Faxes: + 509 23 9007**

**+ 509 23 9407**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear General**

**COPIES TO:**

Newspaper:

Haiti en Marche

173 N.W. 94 St

Miami  
FL 33150, USA

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 1 April 1992.