

PRIORITY

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UA 338/91 Fear of "Disappearance"/Extrajudicial Execution

HAITI: Manno CHARLEMAGNE

Amnesty International is concerned at the reported arrest at about 9am on 11 October 1991 of Manno Charlemagne, a well-known singer in Haiti and a supporter of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Amnesty International is concerned that he may "disappear" or be extrajudicially executed.

According to information received from the family of Manno Charlemagne, he was arrested by uniformed soldiers who forcibly entered his home in Carrefour, a district of Port-au-Prince, without a warrant. Two lorry loads of soldiers arrived in the area of Côte Plage in Carrefour and carried out several arrests.

They then asked for Manno Charlemagne's home. The soldiers beat him in front of his family and took him away to an unknown destination. According to the family, the soldiers accused him of "resisting the coup". The soldiers also reportedly stated that they would not give Manno Charlemagne a chance as they had done with Evans Paul, because Manno Charlemagne talked too much. Evans Paul, the mayor of Port-au-Prince was arrested by soldiers on 7 October and severely beaten. He was subsequently released.

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 Monday 30 September. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including a large number of extrajudicial executions, beatings and mass arrests without warrant. According to information received by Amnesty International, members of the armed forces have deliberately shot large numbers of civilians in different sectors of Port-au-Prince, resulting in hundreds of dead and wounded.

Many of the victims included supporters of President Aristide who were demonstrating against the coup. Reports of extrajudicial executions include the killing on Monday 30 September of Radio Caraïbe Director, Jacques Caraïbe after a group of soldiers arrived at his home, severely beat him in the presence of his family, and took him away to an unknown destination. His dead body was later found. (see Haiti: Human Rights Violations in the Aftermath of the Coup d'Etat, October 1991, AI Index: AMR 36/09/91). Amnesty International also learned of the arrest of Camille César, a civil servant under the government of President Aristide, who was detained along with Camille Bazile between 30 September and 2 October. Their whereabouts are unknown and there is concern for their safety (see UA 336/92, AI Index: AMR 36/11/91, 10 October 1991)

Joseph Nerette, a supreme court judge, was sworn in as Haiti's provisional president on 9 October 1991.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters and telephone calls:

- expressing concern at the reported arrest and beating of Manno Charlemagne;
- asking for information on his whereabouts;
- asking that if detained, that he be brought before the appropriate judicial authorities, and charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released immediately and unconditionally;
- asking for guarantees for his safety and that of his family.

APPEALS TO:

Son Excellence **Monsieur le Président**
 President Joseph Nerette
 Président de la République d'Haïti
 Palais National
 Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Telegrams: President Narette, Port-au-Prince, Haïti
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 Raoul CEDRAS
 Commandant-en-Chef des Forces Forces
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Monsieur le Commandant **Monsieur le Commandant**
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 Port-au-Prince
Telegrams: Commandant Pénitencier National,
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Telephone: + 509 221739 or 221730

Monsieur le Commandant **Monsieur le Commandant**
 Poste de Police
 Petion-Ville
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COPIES TO:

Maître Duly BRUTUS
 Président de la Chambre des Députés

Assemblée Nationale
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Maître Eudrice RAYMOND
Président du Sénat
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Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Haïti en Marche (Weekly newspaper available
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Fl 33150, USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haïti in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the
International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending
appeals after 22 November 1991.