

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/15/94  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 132/94 Torture / Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

31 March 1994

HAITI Molière Jean François, aged 42

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Molière Jean François, a member of the *Komite Inisyativ kont Represyon nan Pon Sonde (KIREPS)*, following his arrest on 24 March 1994.

According to reports, Molière Jean François was arrested while repairing a car in a garage in St. Marc, Artibonite department, and accused, apparently falsely, of possession of a firearm. He was detained at the military barracks in St Marc where he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment. He is still in detention.

There are serious concerns for his safety since the military have threatened to execute him on 3 April if a gun is not returned to them.

The gun was apparently taken from an *attaché* (armed auxiliary to the security forces) who, along with a soldier, attacked nine members of KIREPS attending a meeting at the home of one member. The KIREPS members reportedly managed to disarm the *attaché* and fled the scene. Several of them travelled to Port-au-Prince in order to hand over the gun to the authorities. Although this was done, the authorities have apparently not returned the gun to its owner and the military have threatened to kill Molière Jean François, if the gun is not returned.

The military have reportedly refused to accept any food or clothing for Molière Jean François for the past several days and he has not received any medical attention which he urgently needs following the torture and ill-treatment.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There has recently been a marked upsurge in the number of human rights violations reported in Haiti. In mid-March 1994 the United Nations / Organisation of American States human rights observer mission in Haiti and Haitian human rights activists announced that there had been at least 75 apparent extrajudicial executions recorded in the country over a six week period. The victims, many of whom had been mutilated, appeared to have been targeted because of their support for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The number of apparent extrajudicial executions during the last six weeks is reminiscent of September-October 1993 when *attachés* carried out a campaign of intimidation and abuses against President Aristide's followers, aimed at blocking his return, which had been projected for 30 October 1993.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in French or English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Molière Jean François has been tortured and ill-treated whilst in detention at the military barracks in St Marc and that he has reportedly been threatened with death by the military;
- urging that while in detention, his physical security be guaranteed and that he be granted access to a lawyer and relatives, and that he be given immediate medical treatment;
- asking that he be charged with a recognisable criminal offence or else released;
- urging prompt and impartial investigations into the allegations of torture,

ill-treatment and death threats, that the findings be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS

Commandant-en-Chef des Forces armées d'Haiti

Grand Quartier général des Forces armées d'Haiti

Rue Geffrard

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Commandant-en-Chef des Armées d'Haiti Cedras, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 3935**

**Telexes: 20391 gqfadh**

**Faxes: + 509 23 9007, + 509 23 9407**

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

2) Chief of National Police:

Monsieur le Lt.Colonel Michel FRANÇOIS

Chef de la Police nationale

Grand Quartier général de la police

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Chef, Police Nationale, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Lt. Colonel / Dear Lt. Colonel**

3) Commander of St. Marc Military District

Monsieur le Commandant du District

Militaire de St. Marc

St. Marc

Département de l'Artibonite

HAITI

**Telegrams: Commandant, District Militaire St Marc, Haiti**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant / Dear Commander**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Newspapers:

Artibonite Journal

Gonaïves

Département de l'Artibonite

HAITI

Haiti en Marche

173 N.W. 94 St

Miami

FL 33150, USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 May 1994.