

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 151/93 Fear of "disappearance"

13 May 1993

HAITI: Joseph Winy BRUTUS, Treasurer of the Parti National  
Démocratique et Progressite d'Haiti, PNDPH, Haitian  
Democratic and Progressive Party

National

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Joseph Winy Brutus, the Treasurer of the Parti National Démocratique et Progressite d'Haiti, PNDPH, who is reported to have "disappeared" on 5 May 1993.

Joseph Winy Brutus, aged about 35 or 36, was on his way to visit a friend on the afternoon of 5 May but never arrived for his appointment. He was last seen in the Delmas 33 area of Port-au-Prince. According to reports, he had recently been receiving threats apparently because of his political party activism and the fact that he had made denouncements abroad of the human rights situation in Haiti. He was told that people had his photograph and were looking for him. The PNDPH forms part of the Front National pour le Changement et la Démocratie, FNCD, National Front for Change and Democracy, a political coalition which supported the deposed President Aristide and is now pressing for his return.

Other members of the FNCD have "disappeared" or been the victims of apparent extrajudicial execution, for example, Camille César and Camille Bazile who were killed in October 1991 (see UA 336/91, AMR 36/20/91 of October 1991) and Morange Déjean, the driver of a FNCD senator, who has been "disappeared" since July 1992 (see UA 220/92, AMR 36/35/92 of July 1992).

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Troops violently 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 large numbers of extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment and mass arrests without warrant. Several of those detained by the authorities remain "disappeared".

These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, on some occasions, by men in civilian clothes ostensibly linked to them.

Recent weeks have seen a marked upsurge in human rights violations in Haiti, particularly in the capital, Port-au-Prince. Sources in Haiti suggest that the rise in violations, many of them directed at supporters of ousted President Aristide, may reflect the military's unease at the negotiations led by United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) mediator Dante Caputo, to end the country's continuing political crisis. The negotiations, in which the United States is heavily involved, hinge on such issues as the return to office of President Aristide, the selection of a Prime Minister broadly acceptable to all, and whether an amnesty

will be awarded to military who participated in the coup against President Aristide and were responsible for human rights violations in its aftermath.

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

- expressing concern at the possible abduction of Joseph Winy Brutus on 5 May 1993;
- asking for an immediate inquiry into his whereabouts;

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- urging that if he is in detention, that he be humanely treated and allowed access to lawyers and relatives;

- urging that if he is in detention, that he be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or else be released immediately.

**APPEALS TO**

1. Prime Minister:

Monsieur Marc BAZIN  
Premier Ministre  
Palais National  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre BAZIN, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121**

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

2. Military commander of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Générale 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**

3. 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**

4. Commander of 22th Police Company:

Monsieur le Commandant  
Major Lener Renauld  
Commandant de la 22ème Compagnie de Police

Delmas 33

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Commandant de la 22eme Compagnie de Police, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Human Rights Organization:

Commission de l'Ogith des Droits Humains et Syndicaux (CODDHUS)

Route de Delmas et Delmas 11

No. 121 bis, 2ème étage

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Newspaper (weekly):

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 24 June 1993.