

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Medical Concern

22 October 1991

HAITI:

Evans PAUL

Amnesty International is concerned for the health and safety of Evans Paul, 38, the elected Mayor of Port-au-Prince.

Evans Paul was arrested by approximately 20 soldiers on 7 October at the Maïs Gâté airport, in Port-au-Prince, where he had gone to meet diplomats from the Organization of American States (OAS). He had been scheduled to then leave Haïti for Venezuela for talks with ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He was severely beaten with fists, sticks, military helmets and gun muzzles upon arrest and in military custody. He was released several hours later and has since then been in hiding. According to reports received by Amnesty International Evans Paul had, on that occasion, received a personal assurance of safety from General Raoul Cédras, Army Chief of Staff, and had been accompanied to the airport by guards provided by General Cédras.

As a result of the beatings, Evans Paul is reported to be suffering from fractured ribs and a back injury that has impaired his walking. He also sustained an eye injury which has damaged his vision, and a severe burn caused by a hot gun muzzle. However, due to the risk for his safety, he has not been able to have the necessary tests and obtain proper medical treatment in Haiti.

On 15 October a private individual went to Haiti in order to arrange for Evans Paul to leave for the United States for medical treatment. However, Evans Paul did not leave Haiti, as it was felt that the Haitian authorities were not providing enough guarantees for his safety during the journey to the airport. The newspaper "*Le Nouvelliste*" reported on its issue of 16-17 October that "from a source close to the Prime Minister's Office [...] the Mayor of Port-au-Prince, M. Evans Paul, is leaving the country today at noon in an ambulance plane in order to be treated abroad. [...] the Mayor of Port-au-Prince was greeted at the Maïs-Gâté airport before his departure by the Prime Minister Jn-J. Honorat" (*De source proche du cabinet du Premier Ministre Jean-Jacques Honorat, on apprend que le maire de Port-au-Prince, M. Evans Paul, laisse le pays ce midi à bord d'un avion-ambulance pour aller se faire soigner à l'étranger. Signalons que le maire de Port-au-Prince a été salué à l'aéroport Maïs Gâté par le Premier Ministre Jn-J. Honorat*). It is not clear why this report was published in the Haitian press, as Evans Paul remains in Haiti.

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety and medical situation of Evans Paul, and is urging the Haitian authorities to assure his physical safety so that he can leave the country in order to obtain medical care, in conditions of full security to his person.

Evans Paul, a leader of the *Konfederasyon Inite Demokratik (KID)*, *Confederation of Democratic Unity*, which supported President Aristide in the

December 1990 elections, has been a prominent opposition figure in previous regimes. He was imprisoned and ill-treated in 1980 under the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier and again arrested and severely ill-treated in November 1989 during the government of General Prosper Avril. The injuries he sustained on the second occasion required treatment abroad.

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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 d'Etat 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 arrests without warrant. Many of the victims included supporters of President Aristide. (See UA 342/91, AI Index: AMR 36/14/91 of 16 October for further background information.)

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

- urging that the appropriate security measures are taken so that Evans Paul can leave the country for medical treatment in conditions of total security for his physical integrity.

APPEALS TO:

1) Son Excellence **Monsieur le Président**
President Joseph Nerette
Président Provisoire de la République d'Haïti
Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Telegrams: President Narete, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Telex: 20068 PALAIS or 20551 SPECEXEC
Faxes: + 509 23 2121

2) Maître Jean-Jacques Honorat **Monsieur le Premier Ministre**
Premier Ministre et
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
Présidence de la République d'Haïti
Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Fax: + 509 34 1980

3) Monsieur le Général **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: Commandant des Forces Armees, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Tel: + 509 22 3935
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COPIES TO:

Maître Duly BRUTUS
Président de la Chambre des Députés
Assemblée Nationale
Port-au-Prince
Haïti

Haïti en Marche
173 N.W. 94 St.
Miami
Fl 33150, USA

Maître Eudrice RAYMOND
Président du Sénat
Assemblée Nationale
Port-au-Prince
Haïti

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 3 December 1991.