

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Ill-treatment/Fear for Safety

15 April 1994

HAITI

Belizaire FILS-AIMÉ, magistrate  
Janide FRANÇOIS, wife of Belizaire Fils-Aimé  
Mr. Talleyrand FRANÇOIS, father of Belizaire Fils-Aimé  
Mrs. Talleyrand FRANÇOIS, mother of Belizaire Fils-Aimé  
Mme. FLORVIL SAINTVIL, aunt of Belizaire Fils-Aimé  
Aunt of Janide François  
Merites, friend of Belizaire Fils-Aimé  
and three others

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above people following their arrest by the armed forces on 10 April 1994.

According to reports, on that evening soldiers acting on orders from the local lieutenant came to the home of first magistrate Belizaire Fils-Aimé, in Le Borgne, North department. They reportedly arrested him and the nine other people listed above, all of whom were taken to the Au Borgne military barracks where they remain in detention, with the exception of Belizaire Fils-Aimé who was taken to the military barracks at Limbé, the district capital. He is reportedly being beaten 3-4 times per day and is in urgent need of medical attention. Reports indicate that prior to their arrest there was a heavy military presence in the Limbé area.

Belizaire Fils-Aimé was elected mayor of Le Borgne as the candidate for the *Front National pour le Changement et la Démocratie* (FNCD), National Front for Change and Democracy, the party coalition that supported President Aristide's candidacy in the 1990 elections. Since then he has had to go into hiding several times.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There has been a marked upsurge in the number of human rights violations reported in Haiti in recent weeks. 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/express and airmail letters either in French or English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Belizaire Fils-Aimé has been ill-treated whilst in detention at the military barracks in Limbé;
- urging that he be given immediate medical treatment;
- expressing concern for the safety of Janide François, Mr and Mrs Talleyrand

François, Florvil Saintvil, the aunt of Janide François, Merites and three others who are reportedly being held at the Au Borgne military barracks;

- urging that while in detention, their physical security be guaranteed and that they be granted access to a lawyer and relatives;

- asking that they be charged with a recognisable criminal offence or else released;

- urging prompt and impartial investigations into the allegations of ill-treatment, 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 the North Military Department

Monsieur le Commandant du Département

Militaire du Nord

Rue 26 B

Cap-Haïtien, Haiti

**Telegrams: Commandant du Département Militaire du Nord, Cap-Haitien, Haiti**

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

#### **COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

##### Newspapers:

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 27 May 1994.

