

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear for physical safety

17 September 1993

HAITI:

Fathers Antoine ADRIEN and William SMARTH, priests

There are fears for the security of Fathers Antoine Adrien and William Smarth who are expected to officiate at the funeral of Antoine Izmary this coming Saturday morning, 18 September 1993. Izmary, a prominent supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was murdered by gunmen, described by some sources as plainclothes policemen, after being dragged from a church on 11 September. He had been attending a mass held to commemorate the fifth anniversary of an attack on Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 11 September 1988 while he was saying mass at the St John Bosco Church in La Saline, a shanty town on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. At least five people were killed and some 70 injured in the attack (see UA 321/93, 13 September 1993, AMR 36/20/93).

On the morning that Antoine Izmary was killed, an individual entered the church where the commemorative mass was to be held, and threatened Antoine Adrien and William Smarth that bloodshed would occur there that day and that they were responsible for having provoked it, just as they had been responsible for provoking the violence at St. John Bosco. Both priests have been subjected to death threats on several occasions in the past, and it is feared that Antoine Izmary's funeral may provide the occasion for an attack on them and others who attend it.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fears for the physical security of Fathers Antoine Adrien and William Smarth arise in the context of a recent wave of violence in Haiti which accelerated on 8 September during a ceremony to reinstate Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul when at least a dozen people were killed and over 70 wounded (see UA 317/93, AMR 36/19/93, 10 September 1993). Sources in Haiti suggest that the rise in violations, many of them directed at supporters of President Aristide, may reflect the military's unease at the recent agreement signed by President Aristide and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Raoul Cédras, for the return to office of President Aristide on 30 October 1993.

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

- urging that the security of all Haitians, including supporters of President Aristide, be guaranteed, and that particular security measures be taken to ensure that those officiating at or attending the funeral of Antoine Izmary are protected from any human rights violations

APPEALS TO

1. 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

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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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister:

Monsieur Robert Malval
Premier Ministre
Palais National
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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 29 October 1993.