

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 182/92    Legal concern/Ill-treatment/Possible Extrajudicial execution    2 June 1992

HAITI:                    Parick (Eric) MORISSEAU, teacher  
                              Claire EDOUARD (female)

Amnesty International is very concerned at the reported arrest of Patrick Morisseau, known as Eric, a teacher and member of the Komite Jèn Kafou Peyan (KJKP), a local neighbourhood committee, on 25 May 1992 in Port-au-Prince. He is also a supporter of Lavalas, a political front backing ousted president Jean Bertrand Aristide. Amnesty International is also concerned at the reported killing of Patrick Morisseau's mother Claire Edouard on the night of 25 to 26 May 1992 in Port-au-Prince, in circumstances suggesting that her extrajudicial execution.

Patrick Morisseau was reportedly arrested without a warrant by heavily armed policemen on the afternoon of 25 May near the area of Delmas 4. He had gone into hiding after the security forces reportedly launched a repressive operation in the area following the killing of a soldier on the night of 23 to 24 May. Patrick Morisseau was allegedly beaten upon arrest and transferred to the Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Anti-gang Investigation Service, where he remains in detention. His sister Suzette, also a member of KJKP and Lavalas is reported to be sought by the security forces and is apparently in hiding. Other members of the family are reported to be too scared to visit Patrick Morisseau in prison.

Patrick Morisseau's mother, Claire Edouard, was reportedly found dead in her home the night following her son's arrest. Witnesses have said she was killed by the security forces, who reportedly made all her neighbours come out to witness the killing as a means intimidation.

#### **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. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including a large number of extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment and mass arrests without warrant. These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, on some occasions, by men in civilian clothes ostensibly linked to them. (See Haiti: The Human Rights Tragedy - Human rights violations since the coup, AI Index: AMR 36/03/92 of January 1992)

An Amnesty International delegation visiting Haiti in late March and early April 1992 has found evidence of continuing gross human rights violations, including serious intimidation and harassment, arbitrary and illegal arrest, severe ill-treatment and torture and extrajudicial execution. Amnesty International has also found evidence of extortion of money from civilians by the Haitian security forces, in order to ensure that they will not be subjected to arrest, torture or other ill-treatment, that they will be given better prison conditions, or simply to obtain their release from prison.

In past weeks, anti-government protests have been followed by increased repression by the security forces, with students and residents of poor districts of Port-au-Prince being particularly targeted. Following the protests, Amnesty International has learned of increased numbers of arrests and at least nine people have reportedly been victims of extrajudicial execution.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern at the arrest without warrant of Patrick Morisseau;
- urging that his legal situation be clarified and that he be immediately released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- asking for an investigation into the reports of ill-treatment of Patrick Morisseau and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking that his safety be guaranteed and that he be given adequate medical treatment while in custody;
- asking for a thorough investigation into the killing of Claire Edouard, that the results of the investigation be made public and that those found to be responsible be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT  
Premier Ministre

**Monsieur le Premier Minister /  
Dear Prime Minister**

Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

**Faxes: + 509 34 1980**

2) Minister of the Interior and Defence:

M. le Colonel Serge CHARLES  
Ministre de l'Intérieur

**Monsieur le Ministre /  
Dear Minister**

et de la Défense Nationale

Palais des Ministères, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interior Charles, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telexes: 20515 Dptindn**

3) Anti-gang investigation and research service:

Monsieur le Commandant  
Chef du Service d'investigation  
et de recherches anti-gang

**Monsieur le Commandant /  
Dear Commander**

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Commandant Chef du Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang,  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

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

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, Haiti

**Monsieur le Général /  
Dear General**

**Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Armees d'Haiti Cedras, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telexes: 20391 gqfadh**

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

5) Minister of Health:

Monsieur Greger JEAN-LOUIS  
Ministre de la Santé

**Monsieur le Ministre /  
Dear Minister**

Publique et de la Population

Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population  
Palais des Ministères, Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
**Telegrams: Ministre de la Sante Jean-Louis, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**  
**Telexes: 20321**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Haiti en Marche (Newspaper)  
173 N.W. 94 St, Miami, FL 33150, USA

Human Rights Organization:

Plateforme Haïtienne des Droits Humains  
3 Bis, 3ème Ruelle Rivière, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Human Rights Committee of OGITH (trade union):

Comité de l'OGITH des Droits Humains et Syndicaux - CODDHUS  
Route de Delmas et Delmas 11  
No.121 bis, 2ème étage  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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 14 July 1992.