

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

10 June 1994

HAITI

Victor EDMOND, Canadian national, aged 38

Victor Edmond "disappeared" in Haiti on 7 June 1994. According to reports, he was last seen at a military roadblock set up by military-backed gunmen along a road leading to the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Victor Edmond, an employee of a Canadian humanitarian organisation based in Haiti called the *Centre canadien d'étude et de coopération internationale* (CECI), Canadian Centre of Study and International Cooperation, was apparently stopped at the roadblock and he then attempted to make radio contact using a walkie-talkie. He has not been seen or heard from since that night. Other people who were stopped at the roadblock stated that they saw a black man lying on the ground, his hands and feet bound, who was then put in a car. Victor Edmond is black, but according to some sources, the description of the clothing worn by the man seen lying on the ground did not appear to match that of the missing man.

The gunmen at the roadblock reportedly included several men known to be close to Haiti's Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Raoul Cédras. Some members of the United Nations Civilian Mission to Haiti were also stopped and had their radios confiscated. Other black Americans who had gone through the roadblock reported aggressive treatment at the hands of the armed men and had difficulty persuading them of their foreign nationality.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

There has recently been a marked upsurge in the number of human rights violations reported in Haiti. Most of the victims appear to have been targeted because of their support for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was overthrown in a military coup in September 1991. The number of apparent extrajudicial executions during the last two months 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.

On 11 May 1994 Supreme Court President Emile Jonassiant, aged 81, was illegally installed as the new President of Haiti by a group of Senators who support the military. On 21 June 1994 the international embargo on Haiti was tightened to include all goods except food and medicine in an attempt to force the Haitian military to step down.

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

- expressing serious concern at reports that a black Canadian national named Victor Edmond "disappeared" on 7 June 1994 after he was stopped at a roadblock set up by military-backed armed men;
- urging that his whereabouts be immediately clarified;
- urging that if he has been detained, his physical security be guaranteed and that he be granted access to a lawyer, a doctor and relatives;
- asking that he be charged with a recognisable criminal offence or else released immediately.

**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. Anti-gang investigation and research service:

Monsieur le Capitaine Joanis JACKSON  
Chef du Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

**Salutation: Monsieur le Capitaine / Dear Captain**

**COPIES 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 22 July 1994.