

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 393/91**

Legal Concern

**12 November 1991**

**HAITI**

**Paul-Jean MARIO  
Nicolas SORENVILLE**

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Amnesty International is concerned at reports of the arrest without warrant of two journalists. Paul-Jean Mario was arrested in Port-au-Prince on 11 November and Nicolas Sorenville in Mirebalais, Central department on 8 November. Nicolas Sorenville was reportedly transferred to the caserne (military barracks) in Hinche, capital of the Central department. It is not known where Paul-Jean Mario is currently being held. Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of both journalists.

Paul-Jean Mario, a journalist with the privately-owned Radio Antilles Internationale in Petit Goâve, South-east department, was reportedly arrested in Port-au-Prince on 11 November 1991 by seven armed men in civilian clothes and a member of the police in uniform. The reason for his arrest is not known. The home of Paul-Jean Mario in Petit Goâve was attacked and burned in the wake of the coup d'Etat, on 30 September 1991, which ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Paul-Jean Mario, a supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had fled the area and gone to Port-au-Prince.

Nicolas Sorenville from Radio Nationale (National Radio) was arrested, together with Marcel Beaublanc a journalist with Radio Plus, in Mirebalais, Central department by soldiers on 8 November 1991. Both men were taken to the caserne (military barracks) in Hinche, capital of Central department. Marcel Beaublanc was released on 12 November, but Nicolas Sorneville remains detained.

**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 mass arrests without warrant. Many of the victims included supporters of President Aristide and members and leaders of grassroots organizations.

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest without warrant of journalists Paul-Jean Mario and Nicolas Sorenville;
- asking for information on the whereabouts of Paul-Jean Mario;

- asking for information as to the reasons for their arrest and for clarification of their legal situation;
- asking that if detained that they be humanely treated in custody;
- asking that they be brought before the appropriate judicial authorities, and charged with a recognizably criminal offence or be released.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT  
Premier Ministre, Ministre  
des Affaires Etrangères

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre  
Dear Prime Minister**

Présidence de la République de Haïti  
Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haïti

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

**Faxes: + 509 22 1147**

2) Minister of Interior and Defence:

M. le Colonel Gracia JEAN  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
et de la Défense Nationale

**Monsieur le Ministre  
Dear Minister**

Palais des Ministères  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur Jean, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 9198 or 22 1090**

**Telexes: 20515 Dptindn**

3) Commander of the Centre Military Department:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS  
Commandant-en-Chef des Forces  
Armées d'Haïti

**Monsieur le Général  
Dear General**

Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti  
Rue Geffrard

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

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

**Telephone: + 509 22 3935**

**Telexes: 20391 GQFADH**

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

4) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Antoine LECONT  
Ministère de la Justice  
Cité de l'Exposition  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Monsieur le Ministre  
Dear Minister**

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Leconte, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 45 0474 or 45 1626**

**Telexes: 20166 Justice**

**COPIES TO:**

<u>Chamber of Deputies:</u>	<u>President of the Senate:</u>	Haïti Progrès
Monsieur le Président	Maître Eudrice RAYMOND	( <u>newspaper</u> )
Chambre des Députés	Président du Sénat	1398 Flatbush Avenue
Assemblée National	Assemblée Nationale	Brooklyn, NY 11210
Port-au-Prince, Haïti	Port-au-Prince, Haïti	USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haïti in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 December 1991.