

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "Disappearance"

1 July 1992

HAITI: Morange DÉJEAN, driver

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Morange Déjean, reportedly abducted by unidentified armed men on 25 June 1992 in Port-au-Prince. Morange Déjean is the driver of senator Turneb Delpé, who is member of the Front National pour le Changement et la Démocratie (FNCD), National Front for Change and Democracy, the coalition supporting ousted president Jean Bertrand Aristide.

On 25 June at around 1:00 pm Morange Déjean was reportedly intercepted by several unidentified armed men wearing civilian clothes in Fontamara 43, a poor district of Port-au-Prince. The men apparently forced him into a car and drove him away. Witnesses contacted Morange Déjean's wife who reported the incident to the police.

The police, however, claim not to have any information as to his whereabouts. In a statement from Brussels, where he is presently attending a European Parliament meeting, senator Delpé said that the abduction of his driver was the responsibility of civilians attached to the Port-au-Prince police and the Interior Ministry.

According to the information received by Amnesty International Morange Déjean was the victim of an attack in March 1992 inside the Legislative Palace in Port-au-Prince.

On that occasion a member of the Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Anti-gang Investigation Service, reportedly physically assaulted and arrested him. He was later released.

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)

Senator Turneb Delpé is an outspoken supporter of the February 1992 Washington agreement between the *de facto* government and the opposition for the restoration of constitutional rule in Haiti. Amnesty International has received numerous reports of human rights abuses committed against staff working with Haitian politicians opposing the *de facto* regime. Yves Jean-Pierre, the bodyguard of René Théodore, the Prime Minister designated in the Washington agreement, was reportedly shot dead by plain clothes policemen in January 1992. A member of the security forces was later arrested in connection with this crime. On 23 May the driver of political leader Victor Benoît was reportedly severely beaten by three unidentified armed men.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- expressing concern at the reported abduction of Morange Déjean;

- asking for his whereabouts to be made known and that if detained he be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released;
- asking for his physical safety to be guaranteed;

- asking for a thorough investigation into his abduction, that the results of the investigation be made public and those found to be responsible be brought to justice.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister /

Premier Ministre

Dear Prime Minister

Palais National

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Premier Ministre BAZIN, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Faxes: + 509 34 1980

2) Minister of the Interior and Defence:

M. le Général Carl Michel NICOLAS

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /

Ministre de l'Intérieur

Dear Minister

et de la Défense Nationale

Palais des Ministères

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

Telephone: + 509 22 9198, + 509 22 1090

Telexes: 20515 Dptindn

3) Minister of Justice:

Maître Moïse SENATUS

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /

Ministre de la Justice

Dear Minister

Ministère de la Justice

Cité de l'Exposition

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

Telephone: +509 45 0474, +509 45 1626

Telexes: 20166 Justice

4) Chief of National Police:

Monsieur le Lt.Colonel

Salutation: Monsieur le Lt. Colonel /

Michel FRANÇOIS

Dear Lt. Colonel

Chef de la Police Nationale

Grand Quartier Général de la Police

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Chef, Police Nationale, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Haiti en Marche (Newspaper)

173 N.W. 94 St

Miami

FL 33150, USA

2) Senator Turneb Delpé

Assemblée Nationale

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 12 August 1992.