

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

24 August 1994

HAITI	Vixène THOMAS	)
	André NORESCA	) members of a
	Emmanuel DEUS	) peasant organization
	Nicolas SELIGNY	)

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The four men named above have "disappeared" after being arrested by the police. They are all members of the *Federasyon Gwoupman Peyizan Kombit Laveje Sodo* (FGPKLS), a peasant organization, from Saut d'eau in the Central Plateau, but live in Port-au-Prince.

According to reports, they were arrested at home by uniformed police in the early hours of 22 July 1994. Since then, relatives have been making inquiries at detention centres and hospitals, but have not managed to obtain any information as to the whereabouts of the four men.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to reports, there has been a recent spate of arrests, particularly in the Miragoane area of Grande-Anse department, Jacmel in Sud-est department and Les Cayes in Sud department.

Haiti has been suffering a long-term human rights crisis, during which Amnesty International has received regular reports of extrajudicial executions, "disappearances," torture and arbitrary arrest, directed principally at supporters of President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide, but also affecting the population at large.

A mass exodus of Haitian refugees to the United States (US) in July, apparently sparked by a short-lived change in US policy regarding Haitian-asylum seekers; the expulsion the same month of the United Nations (UN)/Organization of American States (OAS) international civilian observer mission to Haiti; and the one year anniversary of the Governor's Island agreement, whose terms have been completely flouted by Haiti's *de facto* military government, have all raised the political temperature concerning Haiti in the US. This led the US to reactivate earlier efforts to gain support at the UN and elsewhere for an armed intervention in Haiti. On 31 July, the UN Security Council meeting in special session passed Resolution 940 (1994) authorizing the formation of a multilateral force under unified command, opening the way to a US invasion of Haiti. In response, Haiti's *de facto* government declared a state of siege, suspending constitutional guarantees.

#### RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams (\*) in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern about the "disappearance" of Vixène Thomas, André Noresca, Emmanuel Deus and Nicolas Seligny, following their reported detention by the police on 22 July 1994;
- urging that their whereabouts be immediately clarified and that, if in detention, they be charged with a recognisable criminal offence or else released;
- urging that, if in detention, steps be immediately taken to ensure that their physical integrity be protected and that they be allowed access to relatives, a lawyer and a doctor.

*\* at present, telegrams are the only medium for appeals into Haiti. Please organize as many telegrams as you are able to.*

**APPEALS TO**

**Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces**

Monsieur le Général Raoul CÉDRAS  
 Commandant-en-Chef de Forces armées d'Haiti  
 Grand Quartier général des Forces armées d'Haiti  
 Rue Geffrard  
 Port-au-Prince, HAITI

**Telegrams: Commandant-en-Chef des Forces armées d'Haiti Général Cédras,  
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**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**

**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**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

National Coalition for Haitian Refugees  
 16 West 42nd Street  
 New York, NY 10017  
 USA

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti accredited to your country

Please also consider copying your appeals to any Haitian exile radio stations or newspapers that may exist in your country so that they can publicise AI's concerns in this case.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 September 1994.