

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/50/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 303/92 Ill-treatment and Possible Extrajudicial Execution 30 September 1992

HAITI: Jude DAMUS, aged 26

Marcel ALMONATY, former mayor of Anse d'Hainault

Amnesty International is concerned at reports of the ill-treatment in custody of Jude Damus and the possible extrajudicial execution of Marcel Almonaty in Dame Marie, Anse d'Hainault, Grande-Anse Department.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Jude Damus was arrested on 10 September 1992, by members of the armed forces. His arrest followed an anti-government demonstration which was held on 8 September 1992 in Dame Marie on the occasion of the visit to the town by the Minister of Justice. Jude Damus was initially held in Anse d'Hainault prison where he was reportedly ill-treated on a daily basis after his arrest. Jude Damus was reportedly later transferred to the prison in Jérémie. It was reported that as a result of ill-treatment during the first days of detention, Jude Damus had his arm broken. Amnesty International is concerned for his safety.

Amnesty International has also received information on the recent killing of Marcel Almonaty, the former mayor of Anse d'Hainault under the government of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. His body, riddled with bullets, and with his eyes gouged out, was found floating in the sea in Anse d'Hainault on 25 or 26 September 1992.

Marcel Almonaty was forced to abandon his position as mayor and go into hiding following the coup on 29/30 September 1991. Amnesty International is concerned that he may have been extrajudicially executed.

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 1991. 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. Several of those detained by the authorities remain "disappeared".

These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, on some occasions, by men in civilian clothes apparently linked to them (see Haiti: Human Rights Held to Ransom, AI Index: AMR 36/41/92, August 1992)

On 19 June 1992 a new prime minister, Marc Bazin was sworn in. Several days before he took office, he pledged before the Haitian Senate to "stop repression and restore freedom of the press". However, Amnesty International is continuing to receive reports of widespread human rights violations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

either in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment in custody of Jude Damus, and requesting that the authorities immediately provide him with adequate medical treatment;

- requesting that the reports of ill-treatment be immediately investigated and that his physical safety be guaranteed while in detention;

- asking that his legal situation be clarified and that he be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or else released;

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- asking for an immediate and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding the possible extrajudicial execution of Marcel Almonaty and that those found to be responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister /

Premier Ministre
Palais National
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Dear Prime Minister

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

Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121

2) Minister of Justice:

Maître Moïse SENATUS
Ministre de la Justice
Ministère de la Justice
Cité de l'Exposition
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /
Dear Minister**

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

Telephone: +509 45 0474, +509 45 1626

Telexes: 20166 Justice

3) 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

**Salutation: Monsieur le Général /
Dear General**

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

Telephone: + 509 22 3935

Telexes: 20391 qqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007, + 509 23 9407

4) Commander of Anse d'Hainault Prison:

Monsieur le Commandant
Prison de Jérémie
Jérémie
Grand-Anse, Haïti

**Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant /
Dear Commander**

Telegrams: Comandant, Prison, Jérémie, Grande-Anse, Haiti

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Haïti en Marche (News weekly)
173 N.W. 94 St
Miami
FL 33150, USA

Military Commander of Grande-Anse Department:
Monsieur le Lieutenant-Colonel Bélony GROSHOMME
Commandant du Département militaire de la Grande-Anse
Casernes FAD'H de Jérémie
Jérémie
Département de la Grande-Anse, Haiti

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 November 1992.