

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/60/92

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UA 394/92 Fear of "disappearance"/Fear of torture

14 December 1992

**HAITI: Jean GARDY, student
Patrice JOSEPH, student
Claudy GANTHIER, student
Pika BURON, student
and one other student (name unknown to Amnesty International)**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above five students who it is reported were all recently arrested in Port-au-Prince. Pika Buron and another student were reportedly arrested on 12 December 1992 and Jean Gardy, Patrice Joseph and Claudy Ganthier on 27 November 1992.

According to information received by Amnesty International, on 12 December at about 11 am members of the Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Anti-gang Investigation Service, accompanied by a justice of the peace arrived at the Ecole Normale Superieure (Teacher's College), at the State University of Haiti, with the intention to close it down. Pika Buron and another student were apparently inside the library at that moment, and were reportedly arrested. It is believed the two are detained in the Anti-gang Investigation Service. Pika Buron is an active member of Fédération Nationale des Etudiants Haïtiens (FENETH), National Federation of Haitian Students.

In the early hours of 27 November Jean Gardy, Patrice Joseph and Claudy Ganthier were reportedly arrested in their homes and taken away by members of the Anti-gang Investigation Service. They were apparently accused of being supporters of deposed President Jean Bertrand Aristide. However, members of their family have reportedly been unable to locate them in any police station.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Student protests followed a decree issued by the Ministry of Education on 27 November 1992, replacing the staff of the Administrative Councils of schools and Universities.

On 1 December at least twelve students were arrested at the Faculty of Agronomy, following protests against the appointment of a new dean. Approximately 20 students were reportedly injured after being badly beaten by soldiers who attacked the protesters. On 7 December 20-year-old student Jean Sony Philogène was shot dead in his hospital bed by unidentified people. The day before he had been arrested by members of the security forces and allegedly brought to a body dump with six others.

There he was reportedly shot five times. However, he survived the attack and sought assistance, but was killed the day after. (See UA 380/92, AMR 36/54/92 of 2 December 1992 and follow-up AMR 36/57/92 of 9 December 1992.)

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 ostensibly linked to them.

Page 2 of UA 394/92

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in French, English or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Pika Buron, Jean Gardy, Patrice Joseph and Claudy Ganthier, who were reportedly recently arrested by the armed forces in Port-au-Prince;

- asking that their whereabouts and that of the other student reportedly detained be made known and that they be treated humanely in custody;

- asking for information as to the reasons for their arrest and details of their legal situation; that their place of detention be made known and that they be granted access to legal representation and to their families.

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN
Premier Ministre
Palais National
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister /
Dear Prime Minister**

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

Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121

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

**Salutation: Monsieur le Lt. Colonel /
Dear Lt. Colonel**

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

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

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

Rue Geffrard
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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) Anti-gang investigation and research service:

Monsieur le Capitaine Joanis JACKSON
Chef du Service d'investigation et

Salutation: Monsieur le Capitaine /

de recherches anti-gang
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Dear Captain

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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports:

Monsieur Max CARRÉ

Ministre de l'Education Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports

Ministère de l'Education Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports

Cité de l'Exposition

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Haiti en Marche (News weekly)

173 N.W. 94 St

Miami, FL 33150, USA

and 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 25 January 1993.