

UA 119/01

Fear for safety 16 May 2001**JAMAICA Family of Janice Allen**

Police have threatened to kill the family of Janice Allen, a 13-year-old girl shot dead by Jamaican police last year, after the Commissioner of Police announced last week that an officer would be charged in connection with the shooting following a ruling by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

On 15 May police reportedly threatened to kill the family. An officer from Denham Town Police Station told the family that "*the whole of uno fi' dead*" ("you are all going to die").

At the same time, Janice Allen's brother, Andre Lindo, was arrested and detained for over 12 hours without charge in incommunicado detention. He was released following the intervention of a local human rights group. Family members were denied access to him, and information on his whereabouts or the reasons for his arrest.

On the same day, Janice Allen's sister was threatened when she went to Hunts Bay Police Station in an attempt to locate her brother. Police officers reportedly chased her out of the station and threatened to "break her head in".

Amnesty International believes that the threats and arrest were designed to intimidate Janice Allen's family and to stop them from pursuing their quest for justice. Amnesty International has documented many cases where families of victims of police shootings have been harassed and threatened, ill-treated and in some cases tortured. In September 2000, the relative of a victim of an alleged extra-judicial execution was detained incommunicado for a week and tortured. He was beaten all over his body and subjected to two mock executions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jamaica has one of the highest rates of police shootings *per capita* in the world. However prosecutions for police officers who are alleged to have committed human rights violations are extremely rare.

Senior police officials publicly criticised Janice Allen's family shortly after her death for refusing to allow an autopsy to be carried out on her body without the presence of an independent doctor.

Police claims that Janice Allen was killed in cross-fire during an attempted arrest have been contradicted by medical and eyewitness testimony. One eyewitness reportedly saw a police officer aim and fire directly at Janice Allen. Police refused to administer her medical attention. She died while being driven to a hospital by members of the local community.

Amnesty International has previously raised its concerns with the Jamaican authorities regarding deliberate and unlawful killings, torture and ill-treatment by the police in Jamaica. For more information, see the recent report *Jamaica: Killings and Violence by Police - How many more victims?* (AMR 38/003/2001, April 2001) or its summary version (AMR 38/008/2001, April 2001).

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

- expressing concern at the threats made against the family of Janice Allen, and the arrest of Andre Lindo on 15 May;
- calling for immediate steps to be taken to guarantee the effective protection of the family of Janice Allen;
- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial inquiry into the two threats received by the family and the arrest of Andre Lindo, for the results to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

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Commissioner of Police
Office of the Commissioner
101-105 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6
JAMAICA
West Indies

Fax: + 1 876 927 7516

**Telegrams: Francis Forbes, Commissioner of Police, 101-105 Old Hope Road,
Kingston, Jamaica**

Salutation: Dear Commissioner

The Hon. K.D. Knight
Minister for National Security and Justice
Mutual Life Building
North Tower
2 Oxford Road
PO Box 472
Kingston 5
JAMAICA
West Indies

Fax: + 1 876 906 4908-38

**Telegrams: The Hon. KD Knight, Minister for National Security and Justice, 2
Oxford Road, Kingston, JAMAICA**

Salutation: Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of JAMAICA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 June 2001.