

5 November 2002

Further information on UA 119/01 (AMR 38/014/2001, 16 May 2001) - Fear for safety

JAMAICA **Anne Marie - (f) sister of Janice Allen**
 Millicent Forbes (f) - mother of Janice Allen
 Other family members of Janice Allen

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the family of Janice Allen following continued death threats and intimidation from the police. The threats have increased since the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled in May 2001 that a police officer should be charged with murder in connection with Janice Allen's death

On 15 October, police reportedly attempted to injure or kill Anne Marie, Janice Allen's sister, by trying to reverse a police jeep into her as she walked outside her house. As Millicent Forbes attempted to help her daughter, the police officer said: "Hey gal, is our time now, watch yourself". A month earlier, on 17 September, Millicent Forbes was verbally threatened by an officer at Denham Town Police Station, where she had gone to collect a death registration form.

The family has been giving evidence at the preliminary inquiry which commenced after the DDP'S May 2001 ruling. The preliminary inquiry is due to finish on 20 November, after which time the judge will rule on whether there is sufficient evidence for the case to proceed to trial.

Amnesty International has documented many cases over the years where families of victims of police shootings have been harassed and threatened, ill-treated and in some cases tortured.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Janice Allen, aged 13, was killed by police in disputed circumstances in April 2000.

Jamaica has one of the highest rates of police shootings *per capita* in the world. However trials and prosecutions for police officers who are alleged to have committed human rights violations are extremely rare. For more information, see www.amnesty.org

Following death threats by the police and the arrest and ill-treatment of Janice Allen's brother on 15 May 2001, the Commissioner of Police stated that: "The Police High Command views this incident with deep concern and wishes to place on record, that any member of the organisation, who is guilty of attempting to pervert the course of justice by way of bribery or harassment of witnesses or otherwise, would have their services terminated as quickly as possible after due process and the rules of natural justice have been observed".

The Commissioner also reportedly offered protection to the family under the Witness Protection Programme. The family declined the offer. The programme operates under the Ministry of National Security which is run by the police. There have been several reported security breaches since the programme's inception. The planned reform of the programme, under the auspices of the draft Justice Protection Bill, have yet to be implemented.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English or your own language:

- calling for immediate steps to be taken to guarantee the effective protection of the family of Janice Allen;
- expressing grave concern at the threats made against the family of Janice Allen on 17 September and 15 October;
- asking for an explanation as to why nobody, as yet, has been held to account for issuing such threats;
- calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial inquiry into the threats received by the family, for the results to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Francis A. Forbes, CD, LL.B.
Commissioner of Police
Office of the Commissioner
101-105 Old Hope Road
Kingston 6
JAMAICA, West Indies

**Telegrams: Francis Forbes, Commissioner of Police
Kingston, Jamaica**

Fax: + 1 876 927 7516

Salutation: Dear Commissioner

The Hon. Dr. Peter Philipps
Minister for National Security
Mutual Life Building
North Tower, 2 Oxford Road
PO Box 472, Kingston 5
JAMAICA, West Indies

**Telegrams: The Hon. Dr. Peter Philipps, Minister for National Security
and Justice, Kingston, Jamaica**

Fax: + 1 876 906 7113

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 17 December 2002.