

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 19/93      Fear of torture/Legal concern**

**27 January 1993**

**HAITI:            Yves JEAN-NOEL**

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of 20-year-old Yves Jean-Noël, member of a local grass-roots organization who was reportedly arrested on 23 January 1993 in Nouvelle Cité, in Haiti Grande Anse department.

According to information received by Amnesty International Yves Jean-Noël was arrested by members of the security forces and accused of distributing photographs of former president Jean Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a military coup in September 1991. Yves Jean-Noël is being held at the Miragôane military barracks.

Last year, on 10 January 1992, Yves Jean-Noël was arrested and reportedly severely beaten. He had gone into hiding following the coup of September 1991. He was later released.

#### **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 ostensibly linked to them.

Victims have included those supporting or suspected of being supporters of former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. An Amnesty International delegation which visited Haiti in March 1992 also found extensive evidence of widespread arbitrary abuse by the security forces against the civilian population, including extortion by members of the armed forces or civilians working with their connivance. The delegation learned of many cases where members of the security forces and those working with them would force people to give them sums of money to prevent them being detained; or if detained, to prevent or reduce the severity of beatings or to secure their release. (See *Haiti: Human Rights Held to Ransom*, AI Index: AMR 36/41/92 of August 1992)

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of Yves Jean-Noël;
- asking that his physical safety be guaranteed while in custody;
- asking for information on his legal situation and that he be granted access to an independent lawyer, a doctor and members of his family;
- asking that he be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or else immediately released.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN

Premier Ministre

Palais National

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

**Faxes: + 509 34 1980 / + 509 23 2121**

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

2) 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, Haïti

**Telegrams: Commandant-en-Chef des Armées d'Haiti Cedras,  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 3935**

**Telexes: 20391 gqfadh**

**Faxes: + 509 23 9007, + 509 23 9407**

**Salutation: Monsieur Commandant-en-Chef / Dear Commander-in-Chief**

3) Commander of Miragôane Military Barracks

Monsieur le

Commandant de la Caserne

Militaire de Miragôane

Miragôane, Département de

la Grande Anse

Haiti

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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Haïti en Marche (News weekly)

173 N.W. 94 St

Miami, FL 33150

USA

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.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 10 March 1993/