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Haiti: Amnesty International sends observer to Jean-Claude Duvalier's hearing

An Amnesty International expert will be observing the hearing in the case against Haitian former President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier on Thursday 21 February.

The hearing is to assess an appeal brought by victims of human rights violations against the decision of an investigative judge in January 2012 not to try Duvalier for crimes against humanity.

The court will hear evidence of Duvalier's alleged responsibility for the widespread human rights violations that took place during his time in office, between 1971 and 1986 – including torture, disappearances and extrajudicial executions.

Duvalier returned to Haiti in January 2011 after 25 years in exile in France.

Béatrice Vaugrante is the director Amnesty International's office in Canada (francophone branch) and has been closely following the proceedings surrounding Duvalier's prosecution.

Vaugrante is available for interviews in French and English on: +1 514 8142800. For more information, please contact Amnesty International's press office: Josefina Salomon, +44 207 413 5562, <u>isalomon@amnesty.org</u>