

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 336/91 Fear of "Disappearance"/Extrajudicial
Execution

11 October 1991

HAITI: Camille CESAR, aged 52
 Camille BAZILE

Amnesty International has learned of the arrest of Camille César, a civil servant at the Port-au-Prince town hall, and a supporter of ousted President Aristide, together with Camille Bazile, both reportedly detained by members of the armed forces in Port-au-Prince in the early days of the coup d'Etat between 30 September and 2 October. There are fears that they may "disappear" or be extrajudicially executed.

Little is known about the circumstances of their arrest, but there has been no news of the whereabouts of the two men since the early days of the coup. Camille César returned from exile in the United States after the government of Jean-Claude Duvalier fell in February 1986. He was an active supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who took office in Haiti on 7 February 1991 and was ousted in a coup d'Etat on Monday 30 September. He served as a civil servant under the government of President Aristide.

Camille Bazile ran a community day care clinic in Carrefour, a poor district of Port-au-Prince. Relatives of Camille César have visited the morgue and made enquiries at detention centres in Port-au-Prince, but have been unable to locate either man.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Troops overthrew the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who took office in Haiti on 7 February 1991, in a coup d'Etat on Monday 30 September. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including a large number of extrajudicial executions, beatings and mass arrests without warrant. According to information received by Amnesty International, members of the armed forces have deliberately shot large numbers of civilians in different sectors of Port-au-Prince, resulting in hundreds of dead and wounded. Many of the victims included supporters of President Aristide who were demonstrating against the coup d'Etat. Reports of extrajudicial executions include the killing on Monday 30 September of Radio Caraïbe Director, Jacques Caraïbe after a group of soldiers arrived at his home, severely beat him in the presence of his family, and took him away to an unknown destination. His dead body was later found. (see Haiti: Human Rights Violations in the Aftermath of the Coup d'Etat, October 1991, AI Index: AMR 36/09/91)

Joseph Nerette, a supreme court judge, was sworn in as Haiti's provisional president on 9 October 1991.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters and telephone calls:

- expressing concern at the reported arrest of Camille César and Camille Bazile and asking for information on their whereabouts;

- asking that if detained, their physical security be guaranteed, that they be brought before the appropriate judicial authorities, and charged with

a recognizably criminal offence or released;

- asking also that if detained, they be given access to their families and lawyers.

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APPEALS TO

Son Excellence

Monsieur le Président

Président Joseph Nerette
Président de la République d'Haïti
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Monsieur le Général

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Monsieur le Commandant

Monsieur le Commandant

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(Weekly Newspaper available in Haiti)

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat

or your
section
office if
sending
appeals
after 22
November
1991.