

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 56/93 Ill-treatment

4 March 1993

HAITI: Patrick BOURDEAUX

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Patrick Bourdeaux, a member of a grassroots organization, who was reportedly arrested by members of the armed forces on 1 March 1993 in Jérémie, department of Grande-Anse. He was reportedly badly beaten by the soldiers on arrest and remains detained at the prison of Jérémie.

According to information received by Amnesty International Patrick Bourdeaux was arrested as he was doing some shopping and accused of distributing leaflets supporting President Aristide, ousted in a military coup in September 1991.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jérémie is currently under curfew imposed by the armed forces following the celebration of a mass at the Cathedral on 27 February officiated by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Jérémie, Monsignor Willy Romélus, for hundreds of victims of a recent ferry boat disaster. During the mass Bishop Romélus received a standing ovation and when the service finished members of the congregation distributed leaflets calling for the return of President Aristide. Following the mass the armed forces reportedly opened fire on people on the street and imposed a curfew. They also carried out several arbitrary arrests. According to sources in Haiti, those arrested were subsequently released.

In a previous service, Monsignor Romélus was set upon and beaten by pro-government supporters. Monsignor Romélus had officiated at a funeral mass which was celebrated on 25 February at the cathedral in Port-au-Prince for hundreds of victims of a recent Haitian ferry boat disaster. Others who attended the mass were also beaten and several were arrested for short periods (see UA 50/93, AMR 36/10/93, 26 February 1993).

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest and ill-treatment of Patrick Bourdeaux;
- asking that his physical safety be guaranteed while in custody;
- asking that his legal situation be clarified and that he be granted access to an independent lawyer, as well as members of his family;
- asking that he be charged with a recognizable criminal offence or 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

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2) Minister of the Interior and Defence:

M. le Général Carl Michel NICOLAS

Ministre de l'Intérieur

et de la Défense Nationale

Palais des Ministères

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur NICOLAS, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telephone: + 509 22 9198, + 509 22 1090

Telexes: 20515 Dptindn

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear Minister

3) 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, Haiti

Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Armees d'Haiti Cedras, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telephone: + 509 22 3935

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007, + 509 23 9407

Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear General

4) Commander of the Grande-Anse Military Department

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

Telegrams: Comandant du Département militaire de la Grande-Anse Groshomme, Département de la Grande-Anse, Haiti

Salutation: Monsieur le Lieutenant / Dear Lieutenant

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Haïti en Marche (News weekly)

173 N.W. 94 St

Miami

FL 33150, USA

Son Eminence,
Monseigneur Willy Romélus
Evêque de Jérémie
Jérémie
Département de la Grande Anse
Haïti

Conférence Episcopale d'Haïti
Angle rues Pignant et Lamarre
Port-au-Prince
Haïti

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 15 April 1993.