

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 118/93 Threats/Harassment

19 April 1993

HAITI: Francilien JULIEN, aged 17  
Joanis ORASME, aged 18  
plus staff and children at the orphanage "Lafanmi Selavi"

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Amnesty International is concerned at recent threats and harassment against the children and staff at the orphanage for street boys "Lafanmi Selavi" (La famille c'ext la vie), in Port-au-Prince, reportedly carried out by a group of approximately 10 *attachés* (civilians working with the police), who have recently moved to a house nearby.

On 16 April 1993 Francilien Julien was walking near the orphanage, where he lives, when he was stopped by one of the *attachés* who was dressed in civilian clothes. He was questioned about where he was going and when he tried to move away from the *attaché*, an attempt was made to arrest him. One of the orphanage staff, who happened to pass by at the time, intervened and asked why the boy was being arrested. The *attaché* stated that he was arresting the boy because he was hanging around the area. Francilien Julien was subsequently released.

On 12 April 1993 Joanis Orasme, who is also from the orphanage, was approached by another *attaché* who pointed a pistol at him and tried to grab him. The boy ran away.

Staff at the "Lafanmi Selavi" orphanage have also reported that over the last two weeks local *attachés* threatened that if the current negotiations for the return to Haiti of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in September 1991 in a military coup, did not satisfy the army they would come back and set fire to the area. They also said that there were people in the area that they would like to "grill" ("*griller*").

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The orphanage "Lafanmi Selavi" was founded by deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1986 and since the *coup d'Etat* of September 1991 has been the target of numerous violent episodes involving the security forces. On 1 October 1991 17-year-old Jacques Séus Jean Gilles was reportedly killed and five other people wounded in an attack carried out by the security forces against the orphanage. On 20 May 1992 the security forces again reportedly carried out a search of the premises and two days later several shots were apparently fired from a passing car against the orphanage. In June 1992, on three separate occasions, men fired shots in the area of the orphanage. On 13 June a bomb went off at the orphanage. No casualties were reported, but allegedly severe damage was caused to the premises. Anonymous telephone calls were received, in one case warning a worker that "worse was to come" (See UA 219/92, AMR 36/34/92 of 1 July 1992)

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. 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. These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, on some occasions, by men in civilian clothes ostensibly linked to them.

(See Haiti: Human Rights Held to Ransom, AI Index: AMR 36/41/92 of August 1992)

Recent weeks have seen a marked upsurge in human rights violations in Haiti, particularly in the capital, Port-au-Prince. Sources in Haiti suggest that the rise in violations, many of them directed at supporters of ousted President

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Aristide, may reflect the military's unease at the progress of negotiations led by UN/Organization of American States (OAS) mediator Dante Caputo to end the country's continuing political crisis. The negotiations, which are backed by the United States of America, hinge on such issues as the return to office of President Aristide, selection of a Prime Minister broadly acceptable to all, and whether an amnesty will be awarded to military who participated in the coup against President Aristide and were responsible for human rights violations in its aftermath.

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

- expressing concern at the latest series of reported threats and harassment against the "Lafanmi Selavi" orphanage;
- asking for an investigation into these incidents and that those found to be responsible be brought to justice;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to guarantee the safety of staff and children of "Lafanmi Selavi."

**APPEALS TO**

1. Prime Minister:

Monsieur Marc BAZIN  
Premier Ministre  
Palais National  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

**Faxes: + 509 34 1980**

**Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 9198, + 509 22 1090**

**Telexes: 20515 Dptindn**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /  
Dear Minister**

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

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'Interior  
NICOLAS, Port-au-Prince,**

3. Minister of Justice:

Maître Moïse SENATUS  
Ministre de la Justice  
Ministère de la Justice  
Cité de l'Exposition  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice**  
**SENATUS, Port-au-Prince,**  
**Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 45 0474, + 509 45 1626**

**Telexes: 20166 Justice**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre /**  
**Dear Minister**

4. Chief of National Police:

Monsieur le Lt.Colonel Michel FRANÇOIS

Chef de la Police Nationale  
Grand Quartier Général de la Police  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Chef, Police Nationale,**  
**Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Salutation: Monsieur le Lt. Colonel /**  
**Dear Lt. Colonel**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

1. Haïti en Marche (Newspaper)  
173 N.W. 94 St  
Miami  
FL 33150, USA

2. "Lafanmi Selavi" Orphanage:  
Centre "Lafanmi Selavi"  
27bis rue Camille Léon  
Port-au-Prince, 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 31 May 1993.