

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/14/91  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 342/91      Fear of Torture and "Disappearance"

16 October 1991

HAITI

Antoine IZMERY  
Senatus NOSTHER  
Fritzner NOSTHER

---

Amnesty International is concerned at the arrest on 15 October 1991 of Antoine Izmary, a supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was ousted in a military coup in Haiti in September 1991. Antoine Izmary's whereabouts are unknown. Amnesty International is also concerned at the reported arrest of two young Christian activists, Senatus and Fritzner Nosther, detained on 4 October 1991. There are fears that they are being tortured.

Antoine Izmary, a financial contributor to the political campaign of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was detained at his home in Port-au-Prince on 15 October by over 70 members of the armed forces. He was reportedly beaten and taken away by the soldiers. His whereabouts are unknown and there are fears for his safety.

Senatus and Fritzner Nosther, also supporters of President Aristide, were arrested by members of the security forces and were taken to the Caserne de Thiotte (Thiotte military barracks), in the locality of Jacmel, South-east Department. There are reports that both men are being tortured. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

On the basis of available information, Amnesty International considers all three to be prisoners of conscience and as such calls for their immediate release.

**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). Amnesty International also learned of the arrest of Camille César, a civil servant under the government of President Aristide, who was detained along with Camille Bazile between 30 September and 2 October. Their whereabouts are unknown and there is concern for their safety (see UA 336/92, AI Index:

AMR 36/11/91 of 10 October 1991)

Joseph Nerette, a supreme court judge, was sworn in as Haiti's provisional president on 9 October 1991. Jean-Jacques Honorat, the former President of the Centre Haitien des Droits et Libertés (CHADEL), The Haitian Center for Human Rights, was ratified by the Chamber of Deputies as Prime Minister of Haiti on 14 October 1991.

Page 2 of UA 342/91

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

**FOR ANTOINE IZMERY:**

- expressing concern at the reported arrest and beating of Antoine Izmary and asking for information on his whereabouts;
- asking for guarantees for his safety and that of his family;
- asking for his immediate release on the grounds that Amnesty International believes them to be prisoners of conscience.

**FOR SENATUS AND FRITZNER NOSTHER:**

- expressing concern for the arrest and reported torture of Senatus and Fritzner Nosther;
- asking for an investigation into the allegations of torture and that the results of the investigation be made public;
- asking that their physical safety be guaranteed while they are in detention;
- asking for their immediate release on the grounds that Amnesty International believes them to be prisoners of conscience.

**APPEALS TO:**

Son Excellence

**Monsieur le Président**

President Joseph Nerette

Président de la République d'Haïti

Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: President Narete, Port-au-Prince, Haïti**

**Telex: 20068 PALAIS or 20551 SPECEXEC**

**Faxes: + 509 23 2121**

Maître Jean-Jacques Honorat

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre**

Premier Ministre

Présidence de la République d'Haïti

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre, Port-au-Prince, Haïti**

**Fax: + 509 34-1980**

Monsieur le Général

**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: Comandant des Forces Armees, Port-au-Prince, Haïti**

**Telex: 20391 GQFADH**

**Tel: + 509 22-3935**

**Fax: + 509 23-9007**

Monsieur le Commandant  
Département Militaire du Sud-Est  
Quartier Général Sud-Est, Grand Rue, Jacmel  
Département du Sud-Est, Haïti

**Monsieur le Commandant**

**Telegrams: Comandant de Departement Militaire du Sud-Est, Jacmel, Haïti**  
**Tel: + 509 882091 or + 509 882921**

**COPIES TO:**

Maître Duly BRUTUS  
Président de la Chambre des Députés  
Assemblée Nationale  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Haïti en Marche  
173 N.W. 94 St.  
Miami  
Fl 33150, USA

Maître Eudrice RAYMOND  
Président du Sénat  
Assemblée Nationale  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

and to diplomatic representatives of Haïti in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 27 November 1991.