

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/19/92

Distr: UA/SC

UA 138/92

Legal concern/Fear of ill-treatment

1 May 1992

HAITI:

Sulfrid Jeune EXIMÉ (student)

Amnesty International is concerned that Sulfrid Jeune Eximé, a secondary school student, was reportedly arrested without a warrant on the evening of 25 April 1992 in Gros-Morne, Artibonite Department.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Sulfrid Jeune Eximé is accused of distributing leaflets in favour of the deposed President Jean Bertrand Aristide. He has reportedly not been formally charged nor has he been brought before a court. He was initially taken to the military detachment in Gros-Morne, and was subsequently transferred to the prison in Gonaïves.

Amnesty International has received numerous reports of prisoners being ill-treated upon arrest and in custody. Although no information has emerged about Sulfrid Jeune Eximé's treatment, in view of such reports Amnesty International is concerned for his physical safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

Students and others who are real or perceived supporters of President Aristide have been consistently targeted by the armed forces. On 12 November 1991, following a meeting of the Fédération nationale des étudiants haïtiens (FENETH), National Federation of Haitian Students, inside the premises of the Science School of the State University of Haiti in Port-au-Prince, more than 100 students were reportedly arrested and several others severely beaten by members of the Armed Forces. (See Haiti: The Human Rights Tragedy - Human rights violations since the coup, AI Index: AMR 36/03/92 of January 1992). Students from Sulfrid Jeune Eximé's neighbourhood are reported to refuse to attend school in protest at his arrest and sources in Gonaïves report an increased tension between the students and the local authorities.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/airmail letters (apparently some mail is now getting through to Haiti, so please do send letters):

- expressing concern at the reported arrest without warrant of Sulfrid Jeune Eximé;
- asking that unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence, he be immediately

released;

- asking for guarantees that his physical integrity be respected while in custody.

Page 2 of UA 138/92

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT

Monsieur le Premier Ministre/

Premier Ministre

Dear Prime Minister

Présidence de la République de Haïti
Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Premier Ministre Honorat, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Faxes: + 509 34 1980

2) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Francis AUGUSTE

Monsieur le Ministre /

Ministre de la Justice

Dear Minister

Ministère de la Justice

Cité de l'Exposition

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

Telexes: 20166 Justice

3) Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Général

Monsieur le General /

Raoul CEDRAS

Dear General

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, Rue Geffrard, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007; + 509 23 9407

4) Commander of Artibonite Military Region:

Monsieur le Commandant

Monsieur le Commandant /

du Département Militaire de l'Artibonite

Dear Commander

Rue Lamartinière

Gonaïves, Département de l'Artibonite, Haiti

Telegrams: Monsieur le Commandant du Department Militaire de l'Artibonite, Gonaives, Haiti

5) Public Prosecutor for Gonaïves Region:

Maître Roland PAPHIUS

Monsieur le Commissaire du

Commissaire du Gouvernement près

Gouvernement /

le Tribunal de première

Dear Sir

instance de Gonaïves

Parquet du Tribunal Civil

A. Rues Louv. et Egalité

Gonaïves, Haiti

Telegrams: Commissaire du Gouvernement Paphius, Gonaives, Haiti

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

<u>Minister of the Interior:</u>	Haïti en Marche (<u>Newspaper</u>)
M. le Colonel Serge CHARLES	173 N.W. 94 St
Ministre de l'Intérieur et de la Défense Nationale	Miami
Palais des Ministères	FL 33150, USA
Port-au-Prince, Haiti	

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your Section office, if sending appeals after 12 June 1992.