

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 317/93 Fear for Safety/Indiscriminate use of
Lethal Force

10 September 1993

HAITI:

Killed:
Bayard Edrice
and one other man

Evans Paul
Injured:
Some eleven people

Amnesty International is concerned about the indiscriminate use of lethal force against civilians by *attachés* (armed men licensed by the army to carry guns) on 8 September 1993 which allegedly resulted in the death of Bayard Edrice and one other man and the wounding of some eleven others.

According to reports, the attack took place outside City Hall where a ceremony had just taken place to reinstate Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul. Attempts were reportedly made by the *attachés* to pull aides of Evans Paul from his car, shots were fired and several people were beaten. Bayard Edrice, who was an associate of Evans Paul, and one other man were apparently killed and some eleven injured, but the exact circumstances are as yet unclear.

About 200 *attachés* had reportedly been occupying City Hall for six days and are alleged to have threatened to kill Evans Paul if he tried to retake office. There are serious concerns for his 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 1991. Evans Paul was one of those ousted from office as a result. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including large numbers of extrajudicial executions, torture and ill-treatment and mass arrests without warrant. Several of those detained by the authorities remain "disappeared". These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, on some occasions, by men in civilian clothes ostensibly linked to them.

On 3 July 1993 an agreement was signed by President Aristide and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Raoul Cédras, for the return to office of President Aristide on 30 October 1993. Recent weeks have seen an 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 Aristide, may reflect the

military's unease at the recent agreement.

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

- expressing concern at reports that on 8 September people outside City Hall were indiscriminately fired at and some were beaten;

- expressing concern that Bayard Edrice and one other were killed and several others wounded by armed men;

- urging that this incident be immediately investigated and that those found responsible be brought to justice;

- urging for guarantees for the safety of Evans Paul.

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Monsieur Robert Malval
Premier Ministre
Palais National
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Ministre / Dear Prime Minister

2) Military commander of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Générale Raoul CEDRAS
Commandant-en-Chef des Forces Armées d'Haiti
Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haiti
Rue Geffrard
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Commandant-en-Chef des Armées 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

3) 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:

Human Rights Organization:

Commission de l'Ogith des Droits Humains et Syndicaux (CODDHUS)
Route de Delmas et Delmas 11
No. 121 bis, 2ème étage
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Newspaper (weekly):

Haiti en Marche
173 N.W. 94 St.
Miami
FL 33150, USA

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 22 October 1993.