

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 186/92 (AMR 36/25/92, 4 June 1992) - and follow-up:
AMR 36/26/92 of 12 June 1992 - Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

HAITI: Denis VERDIER, Roman Catholic Priest, aged 58
Sony DECOSTE, Roman Catholic Priest
Jean-Baptiste CASSEUS, Roman Catholic Brother
Marcel BUSSELS, Roman Catholic Priest, Belgian
and Father Denis Verdier's driver (name not known)

and Members of the Mouvement Honneur et Respect Ballan (Ballan Movement of Honour and Respect)

Following the recent release of the five people named above, Amnesty International has received subsequent information on details of the arrest of Father Marcel Bussels, a Belgian national, on 2 June 1992, and the implications of his arrest for members of the *Mouvement Honneur et Respect Ballan* (Ballan Movement of Honour and Respect) and local parish church groups in Ballan near Cap-Haïtien, North Department.

Amnesty International has learned that during the search of Father Bussels' home at the time of his arrest on 2 June, members of the security forces totally ransacked the house, destroying its contents. All his files and archives, including reports of meetings, address books related to his religious affairs as well as to his involvement with the Ballan Movement of Honour and Respect were removed. During his interrogation in detention, members of the armed forces reportedly stated that they were going to seek out those who collaborated with Father Bussels, using the information they had taken from his house. Several of his associates have since gone into hiding, fearing reprisals. Amnesty International is concerned for their safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Father Bussels is active with the Ballan Movement of Honour and Respect, a grassroots political and development group. This group has reportedly been consistently targeted by the armed forces following the coup on 29-30 September 1991.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- asking for guarantees for the safety of members of the Ballan Movement of Honour and Respect and local parish church groups.

APPEALS TO:

1. Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT

Premier Ministre

Palais National

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

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

Faxes: + 509 34 1980

[Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister / Dear Prime Minister]

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2. 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, Haïti

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

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007; + 509 23 9407

[Salutation: Monsieur le Général/Dear General]

3. Cap-Haitien's Public Prosecutor

Monsieur le Maître Sainvil

Commissaire du gouvernement

Parquet du Tribunal Civil

203, rue 9-10K, Cap-Haïtien, Haïti

Telegrams: Commissaire du gouvernement, Parquet du Tribunal Civil Cap-Haïtien, Haiti

[Salutation: Monsieur le Commissaire / Dear Sir]

4. Commander of the North Military Department

Monsieur le Colonel

Département Militaire du Nord

Rue 26 B

Cap-Haïtien, Haiti

Telegrams: Colonel Département Militaire du Nord, Rue 26 B, Cap-Haitien Haiti

Telephone: + 509 62-0008

[Salutation: Monsieur le Commandant/Dear Commander]

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:Human Rights Organization:

Plateforme Haïtienne des Droits Humains

3 Bis, 3ème Ruelle Rivière

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

and to diplomatic representatives of HAITI in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27 July 1992.