

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/37/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 451/91

Fear of Ill-treatment/Legal Concern

18 December 1991

HAITI

Dieudonné JEAN BAPTISTE

Duckens RAFAEL

Abel POINTDUJOUR

Evans FORTUNE

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of peasant leader Dieudonné Jean Baptiste, following his arrest by members of the police in Port-au-Prince on 17 December 1991. His whereabouts are unknown. Also arrested on the same day were trade unionists, Duckens Rafaël, Abel Pointdujour and Evans Fortune reportedly by members of the Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang (anti-gang investigation and research service).

Dr. Dieudonné Jean-Baptiste, is a brother of Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the president of the Mouvement Paysan de Papaye (MPP), Peasant Movement of Papaye, in Hinche, Central Department, and also one of the leaders and founder members of the MPP. According to a relative, he was arrested by members of the police while in hiding in Port-au-Prince. He had gone into hiding following the 30 September coup d'etat in Haiti. His whereabouts are unknown.

Duckens Rafaël, the General Secretary of the Sindicat d'Électricité d'Haïti (Electrical Workers Union of Haiti), as well as union officials Abel Pointdujour and Evans Fortune were all arrested in Port-au-Prince as they were trying to obtain payment for twelve electrical workers, who had been dismissed since the coup d'Etat. They were reportedly taken to anti-gang headquarters in Port-au-Prince. Amnesty International is concerned that they may be ill-treated in custody.

#### 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. These abuses have been carried out by uniformed security force agents or, in some occasions, by men in civilian clothes. Amnesty International has learned of renewed waves of human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, arrests without warrant, being carried out by the armed forces following the first anniversary of the election of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Trade unionists, along with members of grassroots organizations have been targeted since the coup d'Etat. Amnesty International learned that Duckens Rafaël and Abel Pointdujour had been named by the armed forces among a list of trade unionists and members of popular and grassroots organizations to be targeted for arrest by the security forces following the coup d'Etat. Peasant groups and grassroots organizations who supported President Jean-Bertrand Aristide have also been targeted by security forces since the coup d'Etat. The MPP, a grassroots peasant movement has been a long term target of human rights violations

under successive military governments. Immediately following the coup, on 1 October the armed forces reportedly went looking for Chavannes Jean-Baptiste. There were also reports of soldiers being drafted into Payape from Hinche, the departmental capital, to seek out and arrest the leadership of the MPP. Many of the leaders were alerted and went into hiding, but the offices of the MPP were ransacked and destroyed by soldiers and substantial community funds reportedly stolen. On 16 October 1991, Aldajuste Pierre, president of a local cooperative and a member of the MPP was arrested by soldiers. He was taken to Hince prison where he was reportedly ill-treated, and as a result is reportedly seriously ill. (See UA 380/91, AMR 36/23/91, 8 November 1991).

Page 2 of UA 451/91

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

- expressing concern at the arrest of Dr. Dieudonné Pointdujour and Evans Fortune;
- asking that their legal situation be clarified and their whereabouts be made known;
- asking that if in custody that they be treated humanely.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President:

Son Excellence

**Monsieur le Président / Dear President**

Maître Joseph C. NERETTE  
Président de la République d'Haïti  
Palais National  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: President Nerette, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 4020**

**Telexes: 20068 palais or 20551 specexec**

**Faxes: + 509 23 2121**

2) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT  
Premier Ministre, Ministre  
des Affaires Etrangères

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre /  
Dear Prime Minister**

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

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

**Faxes: + 509 22 1147**

3) Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS

**Monsieur le Général / Dear General**

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 Forces Armees Cedras, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 3935**

**Telexes: 20391 GQFADH**

**Faxes: + 509 23 9007; + 509 23 9407**

4) Head of the Police:

Monsieur le Majeur Michel FRANÇOIS  
Chef de la Police Nationale  
Grand Quartier Général de la Police

**Monsieur le Majeur / Dear Major**

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

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

**COPIES TO:**

<u>Chamber of Deputies:</u>	<u>President of the Senate:</u>	Haiti en Marche ( <u>newspaper</u> )
Monsieur le Président	Maître Eudrice RAYMOND	173 N.W. 94 St
Chambre des Députés	Président du Sénat	Miami
Assemblée National	Assemblée Nationale	FL 33150, USA
Port-au-Prince, Haïti	Port-au-Prince, Haïti	

and to diplomatic representatives of Haiti in your country. [Please note: Haiti's diplomatic representations still represent the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.]

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 29 January 1992.