EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 36/40/92

Distr: UA/SC 17 July 1992

UA 236/92 <u>Mass Arrests/Ill-treatment</u>

HAITI: Esner BLAISE Canez PRÉVAUD

Rosette DÉSIRÉ (f)

Lionel DÉSIR) wounded in the attack by Ronald LEÓN) members of the armed forces

CHÉRAUD)
Claude LUCIEN)
Jerôme NOEL)

Valéry BONY LAGUERRE (f)

Jean-Marie Gabriel) arrested; his whereabouts

remain unknown

Amnesty International is concerned that following a demonstration organized by students from various faculties of the <u>Université d'Etat d'Haïti</u>, State University of Haiti, on 15 July 1992, members of the armed forces indiscriminately shot and wounded a number of students or severely beat others, a number of whom required hospitalization. Amnesty International is also concerned that the whereabouts of many of the over 20 students arrested remain unknown.

According to witnesses to the demonstration, over 60 uniformed policemen and armed men in civilian clothes, many wearing police badges on their shirt pockets, entered the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy. The security forces, heavily armed with rifles and batons, reportedly systematically clubbed anyone they found in and around the Faculty. During the panic that ensued, many students returned to the university building to seek refuge. They were pursued to the classrooms by members of the security forces who reportedly shot at them at point blank range. Other students tried to seek refuge at the General Hospital. Hospital staff reportedly succeeded in stopping possible extrajudicial executions when armed members of the security forces entered the General Hospital in pursuit of the students, and allegedly lined them up for execution in the court-yard of the hospital.

During both of the above incidents, several students, including the nine mentioned above, were wounded, either by bullets or as a result of severe beatings by the police. One of those injured, Jerôme Noël, was reportedly beaten so badly that his right foot was fractured. Valéry Bony Laguerre, a 2nd year Agronomy student, was reportedly badly beaten inside the morgue of the General Hospital where she had run for safety.

The <u>Fédération Nationale des Étudiants Haïtiens</u> (FENEH), National Federation of Haitian Students, reported that over 20 students were arrested and taken to the <u>Service</u> <u>d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang</u>, Anti-gang Investigation Service, where it is feared that they may be ill-treated in custody. At least one student was released after several hours in custody.

Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that Jean-Marie Gabriel, a 3rd year Agronomy student, was captured and taken away aboard a black jeep. His whereabouts are

unknown.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 12 November 1991, students from the FENEH gathered at the Faculty of Science building of the State University of Haiti for a press conference and to demonstrate in support of the return of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, ousted in a military coup of September 1991. During the demonstration a large contingent of armed policemen stormed the building, beating students and chasing foreign journalists away. Many students were reportedly brutally beaten with batons and riffle butts. More than 100 students were subsequently arrested and many were ill-treated during detention. (See Haiti: The Human Rights Tragedy, AI Index: AMR 36/03/92 of 22 January 1992). Since late May 1992, a new wave of student protests was met with harsh repression.

On 19 June 1992 Marc Bazin was sworn in as Haiti's Prime Minister succeeding the *de facto* Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat. Several days before he took office, Marc Bazin pledged before the Haitian Senate to stop repression and restore freedom of the press. However, human rights violations continue.

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

- expressing concern at the reported indiscriminate shooting and beating of students by security forces (include those named);
- asking for a complete list of the students arrested, and inquiring about their legal situation;
- asking that the whereabouts of Jean-Marie Gabriel be made known;
- urging that all students held be treated humanely in custody, that they be given access to lawyers, families and to independent doctors;
- asking that an immediate investigation into the above incidents, and that those found responsible be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1. Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN

Premier Ministre Palais National

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Premier Ministre BAZIN,

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister /

Dear Prime Minister

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

2. Minister of Justice

Maître Moïse SENATUS

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

Cité de l'Exposition

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice SENATUS,

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telephone: +509 45 0474, +509 45 1626

Telexes: 20166 Justice

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre

4. Anti-gang investigation and research

service:

Monsieur le Capitaine Joanis JACKSON

Chef du Service d'investigation et

de recherches anti-gang Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Telegrams: Chef du Service d'investigation

et de recherches anti-gang,

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Salutation: Monsieur le Capitaine /

Dear Captain

5. 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, Haiti

Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Armees 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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1. President of Senate

Monsieur Déjean Bélizaire

Président du Sénat

Assemblée Nationale Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Monsieur le Président

Président de la Chambre Députés

Assemblée Nationale

Port-au-Prince

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 28 August 1992.

3. Dean of Medicine and Pharmacy faculty

Monsieur le Doyen

Faculté de Médecine et de Pharmacie

Rue Oswald Durand Port-au-Prince

2. <u>President of Chamber of Deputies</u>
Monsieur Alexandre MÉDARD
4. Haïti en Marche (<u>News weekly</u>)
173 N.W. 94 St

Miami

FL 33150, USA