

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible extrajudicial execution

10 August 1992

HAITI:

Robinson JOSEPH, former radio station director and
director of World Concern International

Amnesty International is concerned at the reported killing of Robinson Joseph on 3 August 1992 in Port-au-Prince. Robinson Joseph was the former director of *Radio Lumière*, a radio station linked to the Protestant church, and director of the Haiti branch of World Concern International, a United States based non-governmental organization.

According to information recently received by Amnesty International, Robinson Joseph was driving home with his secretary on 3 August at around 5pm when he suddenly encountered a military road block in Poupelard Avenue, in Port-au-Prince, composed of uniformed soldiers and police. He was reportedly ordered to stop and he apparently attempted to park his car on the left hand side of the road when several shots were fired at his car from the security forces' road block. Two shots reportedly hit Robinson Joseph in the head, killing him. His secretary was briefly detained and released a few hours later.

The Haitian Armed Forces have declared that an investigation has been opened to determine the circumstances of Robinson Joseph's death.

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. (See Haiti: The Human Rights Tragedy - Human rights violations since the coup, AI Index: AMR 36/03/92 of January 1992)

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 killing of Robinson Joseph at a military road block on 3 August 1992;
- welcoming the fact that an investigation into the killing was initiated by

the security forces and urging that the results of the investigation be made public and that those found responsible be brought immediately to justice;

- urging the authorities to ensure that all members of the security forces are made fully aware that it is a criminal offence to shoot civilians indiscriminately.

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APPEALS TO:

1. Prime Minister:

Marc BAZIN

Premier Ministre

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

Faxes: + 509 34 1980, + 509 23 2121

Salutation: Monsieur le Premier Minister / Dear Prime Minister

2. Minister of Justice

Maître Moïse SENATUS

Ministre de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice

Cité de l'Exposition

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Telephone: + 509 45 0474, + 509 45 1626

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Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear 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

4. 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

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Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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(News weekly)

Haiti en Marche
173 N.W. 94 St
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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 21 September 1992.