

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Extrajudicial Execution/Torture

1 October 1991

HAITI:

René PREVAL  
Marie-Laurence JOCELYN LESSEGUE  
Renaud BERNARDIN  
Michel FAVARD

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of René Preval, Haiti's Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Defence, who along with Minister of Information Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue and Minister of Planning, Cooperation and the Civil Service, Renaud Bernardin were arrested by members of the armed forces who staged a coup d'Etat in Haiti on Monday 30 September 1991. Amnesty International is also concerned at the detention of Michel Favard the director of the state-owned Radio Nationale (National Radio), who was reportedly taken away by seven armed men in military dress just before midnight on Sunday 29 September. The armed men entered the radio station, demanding to know where Michel Favard had obtained information for a report broadcast on Sunday evening warning of a coup attempt. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that his bullet-ridden body had been subsequently found.

Amnesty International has learned that armed men in military dress have been patrolling the streets in jeeps in the capital Port-au-Prince and government supporters who took to the streets in protest at the military intervention were reportedly sprayed with bullets. There have been reports that at least 30 people have been killed and over one hundred wounded.

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. Shots were fired at the home of the President, who later that day sought refuge at the National Palace with some 150 loyal soldiers and police. However, loyalist forces were overpowered, and the Head of the Presidential Guard killed. The President was forcibly removed from the National Palace and taken to military headquarters. He was subsequently granted safe conduct out of the country along with the head of the national police and several government officials.

A three-person military junta, composed of General Raoul Cédras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian armed forces, Colonel Alix Sylva, Assistant Commander-in-Chief and Colonel Henri Robert Marc Charles, a former military attaché in Washington, has circulated a statement declaring themselves in control of the government.

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

- expressing concern at the unlawful arrest of the prime minister and two government ministers of Haiti, as well as radio journalist Michel Favard;
- expressing concern at the unconfirmed reports that Michel Favard may have been extrajudicially executed;
- asking for guarantees for the safety of all four arrested, and urging that they be charged with a recognizable legal offence or released immediately and unconditionally;
- expressing concern also at the reports of the deliberate killing and wounding of unarmed civilians by members of the armed forces supporting the coup d'Etat.

**APPEALS TO:**

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  
**Tel: (509) 22-3935,**  
**Telex: 20391 gqfadh**  
**Fax: (509) 23-9007**

Monsieur le Colonel  
Alix SYLVA  
Adjoint Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti  
Rue Geffrard  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
**Tel: (509) 22-3935,**  
**Telex: 20391 gqfadh**  
**Fax: (509) 23-9007**

Colonel Henri Robert Marc Charles  
Grand Quartier Général des Forces Armées d'Haïti  
Rue Geffrard  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
**Tel: (509) 22-3935,**  
**Telex: 20391 gqfadh**  
**Fax: (509) 23-9007**

**COPIES 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 12 November 1991.