

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 36/33/92**

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**UA 215/92 Fear of "disappearance"/Fear of ill-treatment**

**26 June 1992**

**HAITI: Milot BATISTA**

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Amnesty International is concerned at the unacknowledged detention of Milot Batista, a 30-year-old employee and an active member of the Front National pour le Changement et la Démocratie (FNCD), National Front for Change and Democracy, the political party supporting ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. There are serious fears for his physical safety.

Milot Batista was reportedly arrested without a warrant by members of the Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Anti-gang Investigation Service, at about 7:30 pm on 1 June 1992 near the area Delmas 30 in Port-au-Prince. Members of his family went later to the Anti-gang but were allegedly told that no person under that name was detained there. Since then his family has reportedly tried to find him in all detention centres of Port-au-Prince without success. No news of his fate and whereabouts have emerged.

#### **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 1991. 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 replacing provisional Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat. Joseph Nérette, Haiti's *de facto* president who had taken power following the coup, resigned from office after swearing in the new Prime Minister. Since late May 1992 political violence increased as students staged demonstrations and protests against the *de facto* government. As a result, repression also increased.

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

- expressing concern at the reported arrest without a warrant of Milot Batista;
- asking for his whereabouts to be made known and that his safety be guaranteed in detention and that he be granted access to relatives and legal advice;

- asking for a clarification of his legal status and that he be charged with a recognizably criminal offence or immediately released.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister:  
Monsieur Marc BAZIN

**Monsieur le Premier Minister /**

Premier Ministre  
Palais National  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Dear Prime Minister**

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre BAZIN, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**  
**Faxes: + 509 34 1980**

2) Minister of the Interior and Defence:

M. le Général Carl Michel NICOLAS  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
et de la Défense Nationale

**Monsieur le Ministre /**  
**Dear Minister**

Palais des Ministères  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interior NICOLAS, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**  
**Telephone: + 509 22 9198, + 509 22 1090**  
**Telexes: 20515 Dptindn**

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

**Monsieur le Lt. Colonel /**  
**Dear Lt. Colonel**

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

4) Anti-gang investigation and research service:

Monsieur le Commandant

**Monsieur le Commandant /**

Chef du Service d'investigation  
et de recherches anti-gang  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Dear Commander**

**Telegrams: Commandant Chef du Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

5) National Penitentiary Director:

M. le Major Coulange JUSTAFORTE

**Monsieur le Commandant /**

Commandant

**Dear Commander**

Pénitencier National  
Rue du Centre  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Telegrams: Commandant Penitentier National JUSTAFORTE, Port-au-Prince,**

**Haiti**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Haïti en Marche (Newspaper)  
173 N.W. 94 St  
Miami  
FL 33150, USA

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 7 August 1992.