

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "Disappearance" / ill-treatment

8 September 1992

HAITI:

Wilson SINCÈRE, teacher

Mousson ROMÉRO, ironworker

Alix MONDÉSIR, Assistant Secretary General of

Organisation Populaire 17 Septembre (OP17)

Amnesty International is concerned at the reported arrest of Wilson Sincère, a teacher, in Port-au-Prince on 25 August 1992, carried out by uniformed members of the security forces; and at the abduction of Alix Mondésir, Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation Populaire 17 Septembre (OP17), September 17 Popular Organization, by two armed men in civilian clothes on 26 August 1992, in down-town Port-au-Prince. The authorities deny holding them and there are fears that they may "disappear". Amnesty International is also concerned for the safety of Mousson Roméro, an ironworker, who sent a note to his family from a detention centre in Port-au-Prince, but whose detention has reportedly been denied by the authorities.

Wilson Sincère is a teacher at a local school in the Fort National area of Port-au-Prince.

He was reportedly arrested along with two others, whose names are being withheld for their own security, on 25 August 1992 at his home in the Fort National area. The arrests were reportedly carried out by uniformed members of the army, dressed in kaki and by police in blue uniforms, believed to belong to the Service d'investigation et de recherches anti-gang, Anti-gang Investigation Service. All three were taken away to an unknown destination. The two people detained with Wilson Sincère were subsequently released, but are in hiding in fear for their lives. Amnesty International fears for the safety of Wilson Sincère. He has reportedly been severely beaten in custody. His family have searched for him but the security forces deny holding him.

On 26 August Alix Mondésir, the Assistant Secretary General of the left-wing political movement OP17, was, according to witnesses, abducted by two armed men driving a pick-up. It is believed that the men may belong to the security forces. The family have searched police and military detention facilities, but all deny holding him.

Several weeks ago, Mousson Roméro, an ironworker, left his home to go to work in the Delmas 33 area of Port-au-Prince. According to his parents, he did not return home and his parents, with whom he lives during the working week, assumed he was staying with his wife who lives in Petit-Goâve, a town, approximately 70 kilometres west of Port-au-Prince. After he had been missing for over two weeks the family received a note from him through a former prisoner, saying that he was being held in the military base in Delmas 33, Port-au-Prince, and that the family should intercede with the authorities for his release. However, the authorities deny holding him and his whereabouts remain unknown.

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. Several of those

detained by the authorities remain "disappeared". 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: Human Rights Held to Ransom, AI Index: AMR 36/41/92, August 1992)

On 19 June 1992 a new prime minister, Marc Bazin was sworn in. Several days before he took office, he pledged before the Haitian senate to "stop repression and restore freedom of the press". However, Amnesty International is continuing to receive reports of widespread human rights violations.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in French or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest of Wilson Sincère on 25 August 1992, reportedly carried out by members of the security forces; at the abduction of Alix Mondésir on 26 August, by armed men believed to be members of the security forces; and at the reported "disappearance" of Mousson Roméro;
- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment of Wilson Sincère;
- urging that if detained, their detention be acknowledged and their whereabouts be made known, and that their physical safety be guaranteed;
- asking also that if detained, they be granted immediate access to their families and to legal representation;
- urging that if detained, they be charged with a legal recognizably criminal offence, or released immediately.

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**

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**

**Telephone: + 509 45 0474;
+ 509 45 1626**

Telexes: 20166 Justice

**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear
Minister**

3. 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**

Telexes: 20391 gqfadh

Faxes: + 509 23 9007; + 509 23 9407

**Salutation: Monsieur le Général / Dear
General**

4. Attorney General

Maître Josué PIERRE

Commissaire du Gouvernement près le

Tribunal de

première instance de Port-au-Prince

Parquet de Port-au-Prince

Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Commissaire du Gouvernement,
Parquet, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

Telephone: + 509 22-3238; + 509 22-3239

**Salutation: Monsieur le Commissaire/ Dear
Mr. Attorney General**

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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

Chief of National Police

Monsieur le Lt.Colonel

Michel FRANÇOIS

Chef de la Police Nationale

Grand Quartier Général de la

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Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Haïti en Marche (News weekly)

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National Penitentiary Director

M. le Major Coulange

JUSTAFORTE

Commandant

Pénitencier National

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Port-au-Prince

Haïti

Police Precinct at Delmas 33

Monsieur le Capitaine

Commandant de la 22ème

Compagnie de Police

Delmas 33

Port-au-Prince

Haiti

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 20 October 1992.