

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

AI Index: AMR 36/001/2007 (Public)
News Service No: 016
25 January 2007

Haiti: Amnesty International condemns murder of journalist

Amnesty International condemned today the murder of journalist and photographer Jean-Rémy Badio. The organization believes that he was targeted because of his work as a journalist reporting on gang violence in Martissant, a suburb south of Port-au-Prince.

Jean-Rémy Badio was a freelance journalist and photographer. On 19 January, he was reportedly shot at his home in Martissant where gang warfare has been spiralling for more than two years.

Jean-Rémy Badio was a member of *SOS Journalistes*, a Haitian organization dedicated to the protection and defence of journalists' rights and freedom of the press. According to this organization, he was killed because he had photographed members of an armed gang in Martissant. His family reported that prior to his death he had received death threats from gang members.

Haitian authorities must ensure that the murder of Jean-Rémy Badio does not remain unpunished. An investigation into his murder must be carried out promptly and thoroughly, and the results made public. Members of armed gangs who are terrorizing men, women and children must be shown that there can be no impunity for such crimes and must be brought to trial.

Amnesty International exhorts the Haitian authorities to end impunity for the murder of journalists and to bring the alleged perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

In cases where investigations have been initiated, impunity still prevails. Among these are:

- o Jean Léopold Dominique along with Jean Claude Louissaint, murdered in Port-au-Prince on 3 April 2000;
- o Brignol Lindor, found dead in Acul (near Petite Goâve) on 3 December 2003;
- o Abdias Jean, allegedly extrajudicially executed by police officers on 7 January 2005;
- o Jacques Roche, found dead on 15 July 2005.

Amnesty International urges the government of Haiti, with the assistance of MINUSTAH, to take urgent steps to ensure that all journalists and human rights defenders in Haiti are able to carry out their activities in safety and without fear of harassment or intimidation.