

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Ill-treatment/Legal Concern

12 November 1991

HAITI

Raymond TOUSSAINT

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the health and safety of Raymond Toussaint, a member of the Comité National des Congrès des Mouvements Démocratiques (KONAKOM), National Committee of Congress of Democratic Movements, and a rural development group known as CODEP. He was arrested on 25 October 1991 and was reportedly ill-treated.

According to information received by Amnesty International, Raymond Toussaint was arrested without a warrant by uniformed soldiers. They reportedly came to his home in Petite Rivière de l'Artibonite, in Haiti's Artibonite Department, and accused him of "spreading propaganda in favour of President Aristide". Raymond Toussaint was taken to the army barracks in Petite Rivière where he was reportedly severely beaten. He was subsequently transferred to Saint Marc prison, where he is said to be in poor health because of ill-treatment. He is allegedly being denied access to his lawyer or visits by his family.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

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. Since then Amnesty International has learned of widespread human rights violations committed by the security forces, including a large number of extrajudicial executions, beatings and mass arrests without warrant. Many of the victims included supporters of President Aristide and members and leaders of grassroots organizations.

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

- expressing concern at the reported ill-treatment in custody of Raymond Toussaint;
- asking that he be provided with immediate and adequate medical treatment while in custody;
- asking for an investigation into allegations of ill-treatment, that the results of the investigation be made public and that those found responsible be brought to justice;
- asking for clarification of his legal situation and if detained for the exercise of his freedom of expression, not involving the advocacy of violence, urge that he be immediately and unconditionally released.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister:

Maître Jean-Jacques HONORAT  
Premier Ministre, Ministre  
des Affaires Etrangères

Présidence de la République de Haïti  
Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Premier Ministre Honorat, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Faxes: + 509 22 1147**

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre  
Dear Prime Minister**

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2) Minister of Interior and Defence:

M. le Colonel Gracia JEAN  
Ministre de l'Intérieur  
et de la Défense Nationale

Palais des Ministères  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Ministre de l'Interieur Jean, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 9198 or 22 1090**

**Telexes: 20515 Dptindn**

**Monsieur le Ministre  
Dear Minister**

3) Commander of the Centre Military Department:

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, Haïti

**Telegrams: Comandant-en-Chef des Forces Armees Cedras, Port-au-Prince,  
Haiti**

**Telephone: + 509 22 3935**

**Telexes: 20391 GQFADH**

**Faxes: + 509 23 9007 or + 509 23 9407**

**Monsieur le Général  
Dear General**

4) Minister of Justice:

Monsieur Antoine LECONTE  
Ministère de la Justice  
Cité de l'Exposition  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

**Telegrams: Ministre de la Justice Leconte, Port-au-Prince, Haiti**

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

**Telexes: 20166 Justice**

**Monsieur le Ministre  
Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Public Health:

Monsieur Greger JEAN-LOUIS  
Ministre de la Santé  
Publique et de la Population  
Ministère de la Santé Publique et  
de la Population  
Palais des Ministères  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

FL 33150, USA

Haiti en Marche (newspaper)

173 N.W. 94 St.

Miami

Chamber of Deputies:

Monsieur le Président  
Chambre des Députés  
Assemblée Nationale  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

President of the Senate:

Maître Eudrice RAYMOND  
Président du Sénat  
Assemblée Nationale  
Port-au-Prince, Haïti

and to diplomatic representatives of Haïti in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat  
or your section if sending appeals after 24 December 1991.