

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Legal Concern

12 November 1991

HAITI

Paul-Jean MARIO

Nicolas SORENVILLE

Amnesty International is concerned at reports of the arrest without warrant of two journalists. Paul-Jean Mario was arrested in Port-au-Prince on 11 November and Nicolas Sorenville in Mirebalais, Central department on 8 November. Nicolas Sorenville was reportedly transferred to the caserne (military barracks) in Hinche, capital of the Central department. It is not known where Paul-Jean Mario is currently being held. Amnesty International is concerned for the physical safety of both journalists.

Paul-Jean Mario, a journalist with the privately-owned Radio Antilles Internationale in Petit Goâve, South-east department, was reportedly arrested in Port-au-Prince on 11 November 1991 by seven armed men in civilian clothes and a member of the police in uniform. The reason for his arrest is not known. The home of Paul-Jean Mario in Petit Goâve was attacked and burned in the wake of the coup d'Etat, on 30 September 1991, which ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Paul-Jean Mario, a supporter of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide had fled the area and gone to Port-au-Prince.

Nicolas Sorenville from Radio Nationale (National Radio) was arrested, together with Marcel Beaublanc a journalist with Radio Plus, in Mirebalais, Central department by soldiers on 8 November 1991. Both men were taken to the caserne (military barracks) in Hinche, capital of Central department. Marcel Beaublanc was released on 12 November, but Nicolas Sorneville remains detained.

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/telephone calls/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the reported arrest without warrant of journalists Paul-Jean Mario and Nicolas Sorenville;

- asking for information on the whereabouts of Paul-Jean Mario;
- asking for information as to the reasons for their arrest and for clarification of their legal situation;
- asking that if detained that they be humanely treated in custody;
- asking that they be brought before the appropriate judicial authorities, and charged with a recognizably criminal offence or be released.

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APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

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

**Monsieur le Premier Ministre
Dear Prime Minister**

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

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

Faxes: + 509 22 1147

2) Minister of Interior and Defence:

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

**Monsieur le Ministre
Dear Minister**

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

3) Commander of the Centre Military Department:

Monsieur le Général Raoul CEDRAS
Commandant-en-Chef des Forces
Armées d'Haïti

**Monsieur le Général
Dear General**

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

4) Minister of Justice:

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

**Monsieur le Ministre
Dear Minister**

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

Telephone: + 509 45 0474 or 45 1626

Telexes: 20166 Justice

COPIES TO:

<u>Chamber of Deputies:</u>	<u>President of the</u>	Haïti Progrès
Monsieur le Président	<u>Senate:</u>	(<u>newspaper</u>)
Chambre des Députés	Maître Eudrice RAYMOND	1398 Flatbush Avenue
Assemblée National	Président du Sénat	Brooklyn, NY 11210
Port-au-Prince, Haïti	Assemblée Nationale	USA
	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 office, if sending appeals after 24 December 1991.