

**MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES**

**HAITI**

**ARISTIDE SUPPORTERS AND  
HOLDERS OF OFFICE UNDER ARISTIDE**

**[ME/HTI/93.003A]**

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All the sources of information contained in this document are identified and are publicly available. Master Exhibit prepared by Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services, Harvard Immigration & Refugee Program, in cooperation with Church World Service, Documentation Exchange, Florida Rural Legal Services, Haitian Refugee Center, National Immigration Project, National Lawyers Guild.

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The July 27, 1990 Regulations, "Aliens and Nationality: Asylum and Withholding of Deportation Procedures," mandated the creation of a new corps of Asylum Officers to provide an initial, nonadversarial adjudication of asylum claims. Asylum Officers use asylum law, interviews with asylum applicants, and relevant information on country conditions to determine the merits of individual claims for asylum.

The Resource Information Center was created to assist Asylum Officers domestically, and Immigration Officers determining refugee status overseas, by collecting and disseminating credible and objective information on human rights conditions. As specified in the Regulations (8 CFR 208.12), such information may be obtained from the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and "other credible sources, such as international organizations, private voluntary organizations, or academic institutions."

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This Master Exhibit provides publicly available information, analyses, or comment. All sources are cited. Updates to this Master Exhibit may be made from time to time. This Master Exhibit, however, cannot be, and does not purport to be, either exhaustive with regard to the country surveyed, or conclusive as to the

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Rev. 10/08/92

## **GROUPS AT RISK<sup>1</sup>: ARISTIDE SUPPORTERS AND HOLDERS OF OFFICE UNDER ARISTIDE**

### Item      Citation/Description

- I.      American Immigration Lawyers Association, The AILA Human Rights Delegation Report on Haiti, March, 1993, pp. 1-9, 13, and Executive Summary

Evans Paul, the legitimate mayor of Port-au-Prince, is in semi-hiding.

Marie Michelle Rey, the Minister of Economics and Finance in Aristide's government is in semi-hiding. Her home has been fired upon and riddled with bullets. Her children and grandchildren have been followed and threatened.

An unnamed individual holding a position in Aristide's government and his family have been in hiding for sixteen months.

- II.      John Cummings, Acting Director - INS Office of International Affairs, "Memorandum to INS Asylum and Refugee Divisions, Re: Considerations when Adjudicating Haitian Refugee/Asylee Applications," 9 March 1993.

"The purpose of this paper is to provide additional guidance to INS officers to assist them in the adjudication of Haitian refugee and asylum applications...

#### 3. Leaders and members of potential targets...

A. Individuals who support, supported, or who are imputed to support or have supported the exiled President, Jean Bertrand Aristide...Grassroots liberation theology organizations in the countryside remain a strong base of support for President Aristide. These groups and their leaders have been particular targets of the army... [i]ndividuals, particularly in the countryside, who are identified as being pro-Aristide. Credible reports indicate that violence, including arrest and detention, has been directed at persons for possessing or circulating pictures of President Aristide...

#### Potential Targets: Prominence not necessary ...

Although those in leadership or prominent positions are possibly at greater risk due to their greater visibility, lack of prominence does not remove the possibility of being at risk. This is true especially considering the fact that Haitian society is organized into small communities."

- III.      Americas Watch/National Coalition of Haitian Refugees, People: The Destruction of Civil Society in Haiti (New York: Americas Watch/NCHR, February 1993), pp. 67-74

Reports the Haitian military's brutal treatment of those who were appointed by or came to power under the Aristide government. Identifies elected members of the administrative councils of communities of communal sections (CASECs) as a targeted group. Appointed communal police agents, who replaced rural section chiefs during the period Aristide was in power, are also among those subject to persecution.

- IV.      Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #169, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 14 December 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

In Grand'Anse, several people, including a former vice-delegate of the Aristide government were sought by police. Two were arrested.

- V. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #168, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 10 December 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

A Justice of the Peace in Thomazeau was prevented from working because he was appointed under the Aristide government.

- VI. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #167, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 7 December 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

In Port-au-Prince, vendors were harassed by civilians accompanied by a policeman, for allegedly being Aristide supporters and being ready to organize demonstrations for him. In Cap-Haitian, Antoine Augustin, teacher and cabinet chief for the Ministry of Information under Aristide, was arrested. He had been in hiding since the coup.

- VII. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #164, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 26 November 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

In Port-au-Prince multiple arrests were reported of people denounced as Lavalas supporters. Fleurisena Fleuris was arrested in Verrettes for being a Lavalas supporter and is in precarious health.

- VIII. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #163, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 23 November 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

Reports many young people arrested for celebrating the electoral defeat of George Bush and for shouting slogans in support of Aristide. In Artibonite, Egsinord Louistine was arrested after the military district commander received an order for the expulsion of all Aristide supporters. Louistine paid over \$100 for his release. Another man left the area after the section chief threatened him and denounced him as an Aristide supporter.

- IX. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #159, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 9 November 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

Armed soldiers reported deployed near Port-au-Prince high school after students protested the presence of a new censor and graffiti supporting Aristide was written on the school walls. In the Central Plateau area a member of the communal administration was arrested and accused of being a Lavalas mayor.

- X. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #158, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 5 November 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

In Artibonite the pastoral agent of the local church and his family were reported arrested for possession of pro-Aristide tracts.

- XI. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Haiti, "Innocent Maret," 28 October 1992, "UA 334/92."

Illegal arrest of Innocent Merat and one other, name unknown, who were associated with a project of the Front National pour le Changement et la Democratie (FNCD).

- XII. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #155, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 26

October 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

Notes the arbitrary arrests of approximately thirty people, mostly Aristide supporters, in Grande Anse. In Paloma, more than fifty young people reportedly arrested during a prayer meeting and accused of praying for the return of Aristide.

- XIII. Haiti; Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #153, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 19 October 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

Describes a Lavalas militant who was severely beaten on the street, arrested, and later released.

- XIV. Haiti; Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #152, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 15 October 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA

Reports Aristide supporters threatened by military. Local officials elected under the Aristide government forced to flee in Saut d'Eau.

- XV. Amnesty International, Urgent Action "Jude Damus and Marcel Almonaty," 30 September 1992, "UA 303/92"

Describes the possible extrajudicial execution of Marcel Almonaty, former mayor of Anse d'Hainault. Describes the ill-treatment in custody of Jude Damus.

- XVI. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Haiti, "Monsignor Willy Romulus, Father Alfred Doreseant," 29 September 1992, "UA 301192."

Discusses recent death threats and other instances of intimidation by members of the security forces against Monsignor Willy Romulus, bishop of Jeremie. Reports Father Alfred Doreseant was beaten by members of armed forces for carrying leaflets supporting Aristide.

- XVII. Amnesty International, HAITI: Human Rights Held To Ransom (New York: Amnesty International, August 1992), "AMR 36/41/92", pp. 1-25, 34-41, Summary

Reports persecution of persons associated with the Lavalas movement and other pro-Aristide politicians and supporters. Details persecution of a woman for being part of the Lavalas movement.

- XVIII. "Aristide Backer's Home Searched," Boston Globe, 8 August 1992, p. 60

Police searched the home of a sister-in-law of former Aristide Prime Minister Rene Preval.

- XIX. The Haiti Commission, Lavalas vs. Duvalierism: The Struggle for Haiti's Future (New York: March, 1992) pp. 21-22

The Commission visited Haiti during the first anniversary of Aristide's election and reports a "wave of repression" including mass graves, widespread brutality, and systematic repression of parliamentarians and popular organizations. The document discusses attacks on politicians, including the fatal shooting of a PAIN political party deputy and the burning of 60 to 100 houses belonging to a deputy of the FNCD and his neighbors. Organizations specifically mentioned as targets because of their assumed support of Aristide include neighborhood committees, unions, and socio-professional organizations.

- XX. Amnesty International, Haiti: The Human Rights Tragedy. Human Rights Violations Since the Coup (London, UK: Amnesty International, January 1992), "AMR 36/03/92," pp.1-12

Extensive documentation of ongoing violence and human rights violations since the coup against Aristide and his supporters.

- XXI. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy, Bulletin #44, reprinted by Amnesty International, 8 December 1991, translated by Mike Levy, AIUSA Haiti coordinator

Reports countrywide repression, including several military searches for persons who held office under the Aristide-Preval government.

- XXII. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Fact Finding Mission of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Haiti (4-6 December 1991)

The Commission notes a "wealth of information" indicating that there is a pattern of harassment of followers of President Aristide or their relatives.

- XXIII. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy, Bulletin #43, reprinted by Amnesty International, 3 December 1991, translated by Mike Levy, AIUSA Haiti coordinator

In Monbin-Crochu, military arrested three Aristide supporters, including one who had fled from Port-au-Prince.

- XXIV. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy, Bulletin #42, reprinted by Amnesty International, 2 December 1991, translated by Mike Levy, AIUSA Haiti coordinator.

Army arrests included a judge in Jacmel and justice of peace in Hinche.

- XXV. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy, Bulletin #41, reprinted by Amnesty International, 1 December 1991, translated by Mike Levy, AIUSA Haiti coordinator

Reports that security personnel forced their way into the home of the Foreign Affairs Minister. Several friends of the Minister were arrested, and the Minister himself barely escaped.

- XXVI. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin, reprinted by Amnesty International, 13 November 1991, translated by Mike Levy, AIUSA Haiti coordinator

Describes arrests and beatings of 50 employees considered to be "Verella's people," in reference to an Aristide minister. Reports that at another government office, a worker overheard mentioning Aristide's name was beaten in front of his fellow employees.

- XXVII. Douglas W. Payne, Freedom House, "Haiti: The Politics of the Spirit," Freedom Review, Vol. 22, No. 3, 1991, pp. 4-12

Describes how methods of psychological domination have survived the Duvalier era. Article notes Aristide has been a "target" since his earliest student days.

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<sup>i</sup> The term "Group At Risk" is used rather than because the latter is a legal conclusion. "persecution"