

MASTER EXHIBIT SERIES

HAITI

GROUPS AT RISK: JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS WORKING IN THE MEDIA

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INS RESOURCE INFORMATION CENTER
425 I STREET, N.W.
(ULLICO BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20536

PRODUCED BY:

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE PROGRAM
CAMBRIDGE AND SOMERVILLE
LEGAL SERVICES
SUITE 16, 432 COLOMBIA STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02141

DISCLAIMER

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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GROUPS AT RISK: JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS WORKING IN THE MEDIA

- | <u>Item</u> | <u>Citation/Description</u> |
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| I. | <p>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.</p> <p>"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...</p> <p>3. <u>Potential targets of violence and threats of violence...</u></p> <p>A. Individuals who support, supported, or who are imputed to support or have supported the exiled President, Jean Bertrand Aristide...Individuals, 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...</p> <p>E. <u>Journalists...</u></p> <p>Journalists have not escaped repression...Intimidation of members of the press continues, and many radio stations have stopped broadcasting. Several were closed by the military authorities, while others have preferred to stop broadcasting news, or to stop broadcasting altogether, in fear of their security...</p> <p><u>Leaders and members of potential targets...</u></p> <p>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."</p> <p>Americas Watch, <u>Silencing a People: The Destruction of Civil Society in Haiti</u> (New York: Americas Watch/NCHR, February 1993), pp. 75-83.</p> <p>Explains constant and systematic repression of all forms of news reporting by leaders of the coup. Eyewitness accounts and interviews describe specific incidents and methods of repression.</p> |
| III. | <p><u>Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #175</u>, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 18 January 1993, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA.</p> <p>Plainclothesmen in Port-au-Prince searched home of journalist and seized his passport.</p> |
| IV. | <p>Derrick Z. Jackson, "A Haitian Woman's Radio Days," <u>Boston Globe</u>, 16 December 1992.</p> <p>A popular female radio personality, Lilianne Peirre-Paul, recounts her daily life and the general situation in Haiti. Her life was threatened during the coup and her radio station remains closed.</p> |

The term "Group At Risk" is used rather than "persecution" because the latter is a legal conclusion.

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

Reporting on the first anniversary of the disappearance of Felix Lamy, co-director of Radio Galaxy. Radio Galaxy remains closed.

- VI. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #166, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 5 December 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA.

In Carrefour-Fenilles, more than 30 young people who participated in the coordination of popular groups were arrested. A journalist who broadcast this news was arrested and later released.

- VII. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #161, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 16 November 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA.

An unidentified man was shot by a soldier after being arrested by local police. Journalists who arrived to take pictures of the body were threatened.

- VIII. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #160, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 12 November 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA.

Two journalists were arrested and their equipment destroyed. An international journalist had his briefcase forcibly taken at a student demonstration.

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

Documents reports from Petit Goave of harassment of journalist, and from Mirebalais of the arrests of journalists.

- X. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #150, reprinted by Haiti Communications Project, 8 November 1992, translated by the Haiti Communications Project, Boston, MA.

Committee for the Protection of Journalists released a report documenting the arrest of more than thirty journalists since the coup.

- XI. Committee to Protect Journalists, BOUCH PE: The Crackdown on Haiti's Media Since the Overthrow of Aristide (New York, September 1992).

Details unprecedented targeting and silencing of journalists by leaders of the coup. Reports that to date of publication, the toll against the media included: four journalists killed - one vanished and presumed dead; at least 30 journalists arrested; at least 15 beaten; nine radio stations attacked and vandalized - six remain closed; approximately two dozen journalists forced to flee the country - scores more in hiding.

"Journalists in the countryside have faced even greater risks than their colleagues in the capital. Local "section chiefs" and the Tontons Macoutes have returned to...victimize

people in the provinces, after a partially successful effort by the Aristide government to tame them. Scores of journalists have been hunted down by these "sheriffs" for reporting on human rights abuses."

- XII. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Haiti, "Robinson Joseph," 10 August 1992, "UA 261/92."

Reports possible extrajudicial execution of former radio station director and director of World Concern International.

- XIII. "Haitian Police Kill Ex-Radio Official," Boston Globe, 5 August 1992.

Reports that Robinson Joseph, former radio station director, was shot by police at a roadblock. The execution took place even though Mr. Joseph was not active in Haitian politics and had resigned from the station before coup.

- XIV. Howard W. French, "Crackdown Keeps Haiti Radio Silent," New York Times, 5 April 1992.

Reports that stifling Haiti's radio stations has been a top priority of coup leaders. As a result of repression, remaining stations avoid controversial topics.

- XV. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Haiti, "Guy Telva" 25 March 1992, "UA# EXTRA 34/92."

Discusses series of death threats received by radio journalist for Voice of America.

- XVI. "Journalists Investigate Colleague's Imprisonment," Port-au-Prince, Le Nouvelliste, No. 34261, 23 March 1992 (as reported in the Foreign Broadcast Information Service [FBIS] Daily Report: Latin America, 23 March 1992, p. 7).

- XVII. Parliamentarians, Journalists Reportedly Attacked Port-au-Prince, Radio Tropic, 18 March 1992 (as reported in FBIS, Daily Report: Latin America, 19 March 1992, p. 5).

- XVIII. "Haitians Free Reporters," Washington Post, 14 February 1992, p. A38.

Details manner in which reporters from National Public Radio and the Chicago Tribune barely escaped detention by Tontons Macoute.

- XIX. Amnesty International, Haiti: The Human Rights Tragedy; Human Rights Violations Since the Coup (London: Amnesty International, January 1992), AMR 36/03/92, pp. 21-24.

Reports that since the beginning of the coup, news media have been consistently targeted by security forces.

- XX. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Haiti "Felix Lamy, Ives-Marie Chanel 13" December 1991, "UA 437/91."

Expresses concern for the physical safety of two journalists following their disappearance.

- XXI. "Radio Director Feared Dead: Journalists Afraid," Bonaire Trans World Radio, 12 December 1991.
- XXII. "Further on Radio Galaxie Attack, Abduction," Port-au-Prince, Radio Nationale, 12 December 1991
- XXIII. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #44, reprinted by Amnesty International, 8 December 1991, translated by Mike Levy, AIUSA Haiti coordinator, 13 November 1991.

Reports from Aquin of the armed takeover of Radio Galaxie.

- XXIV. Haiti: Resistance & Democracy Bulletin #40, reprinted by Amnesty International, 29 November 1991, translated by Mike Levy, AIUSA Haiti coordinator, 13 November 1991.

Reports that a woman journalist was arrested and later released. This journalist had recently returned to Jacmel after having received a grant to work for Voice of America.

- XXV. Amnesty International, Urgent Action, Haiti, "Paul-Jean Mario, Nicolas Sorenville," 12 November 1991, "UA 393/91."

Describes warrantless arrests of journalists in Mirebalais and in Hinche.