

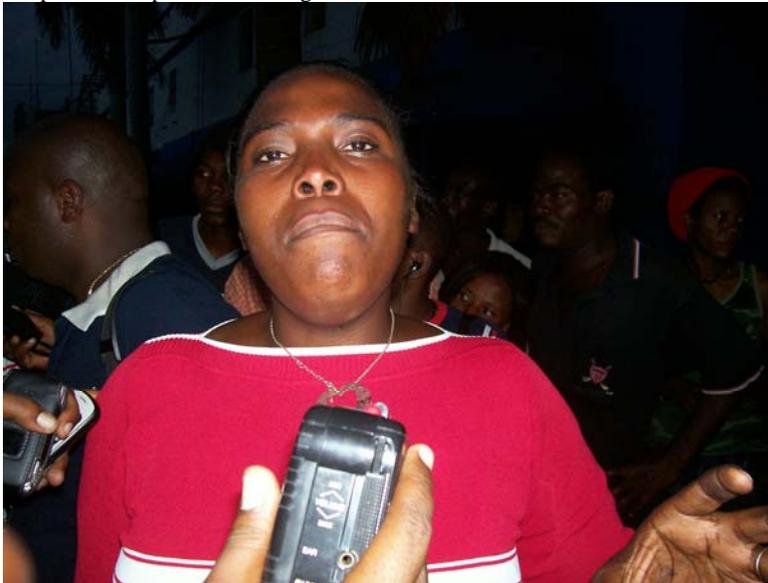
The former Deputy of Saint Marc, Amanus Maette is released
April 24, 2007



Tuesday April 26, 2007 at about 6 PM, the former member of the House of Deputies from the City of St. Marc was released.

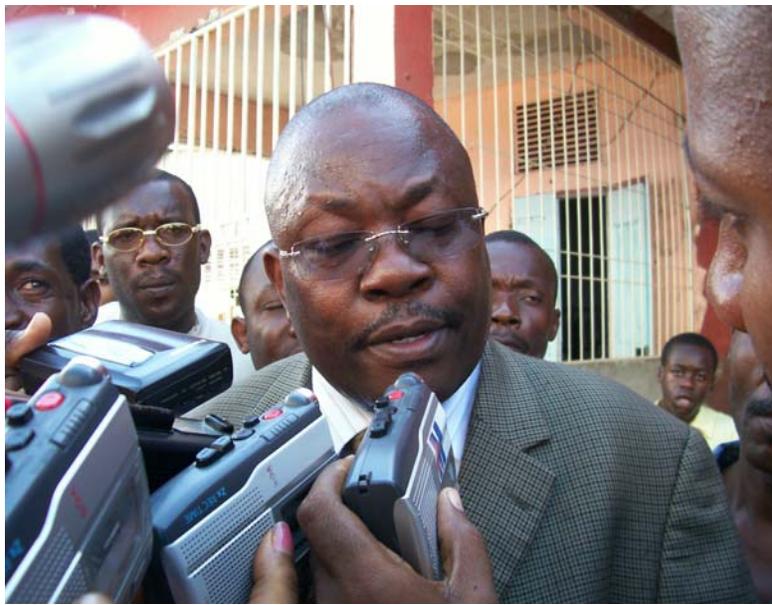
In front the National Penitentiary Amanus declared: *“I am not very happy, because my brothers and sisters are still in jail, I am going to keep the pressure on for freedom of all political prisoners. I am satisfied that this night I am going to see my little daughter and my courageous wife Ketia Joseph- for a long time I have not slept by her side, and I love my wife very much. The fight for freedom has just begun. I am not going to accept that any Haitians live in the same conditions that I endured, the conditions that our brothers and sisters are enduring in all prisons. It is not acceptable, and there must be change.”*

For her part, Ketia Joseph Maette spoke with strong emotions:



“It is always the little people who are in the jail! Thank you to everyone who are helped me keep the pressure on to obtain today the liberation of my Husband Amanus Maette. The fight for freedom for all political prisoners is not going to stop- in fact it has just started. We will not forget, I thank God for all of you in the USA, CANADA, FRANCE, I know how much you have supported me, I thank you, continue to keep the fight. We must continue to insist on respect for human rights. Thank you to the media, and to our Lawyer Mario Joseph, the BAI (Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, to IJDH). To everyone who is fighting the larger struggle for the rights of poor people, I send to you my thousand than-you’s”.

There were some problems following the issuance of the liberation order for Deputy Maette on Tuesday April 24, that delayed the release. Earlier in the day his lawyer Mario Joseph, criticized the Haitian Justice system, but said he had faith that his client would be released that day. He told the media:



“Everything is ok with the legal papers. I don’t what is happing- it is not acceptable for our justice system to be working like this, but I believe that Deputy Amanus Maette is going to released today. I have to have faith in my Justice system, because the Law is the law, and everyone must respect the law. I am doing all that law asks, and do not know why they are keeping Amanus. I’d like to send a clear message to our authorities: don’t politicize our justice system, respect human rights, including the international conventions that Haiti has signed concerning human rights, and also our constitution, thank you.”

The members of Kolektif Fanmiy Prizonnye Politik (Political Prisoners’ Families’ Collective), and GDP (Group for the Defense of Political prisoners) of Ronald Saint Jean and many other organizations stood firm against the persecution by Gerard Latortue’s government against the people who stood for the return of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide after the second coup against him on February 29, 2004. The members of the Kolektif remember their brother Ronald Saint Jean who is not in Haiti at this time. They do not forget to sing the song they always sing at protests for freedom for all political prisoners:



“we will not give up the fight, because the victory is for us, freedom, freedom, today they add Maette, Maette...”

At 6PM there were still supporters at the prison. After Mr. Maette went through the prison door they cried: *“Up with Aristide- we are still Lavalas, we are waiting for TITID now.”*

Today is for Amanus Maette. The day of all people who need Justice will come. As Bob Marley said in two of his songs: *“Don’t give up the fight, stand up for the right.”*



Amanus Maette and his wife Ketia Joseph Maette in the car after the liberation.



Deputy Jonas Coffee of the Fanmi Lavalas party arriving at the prison, confident that Amanus would be released.



The Members of the Kolektif Fanmiy Prizonye politik support lawyer Mario Joseph in his efforts

Text and photos
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