

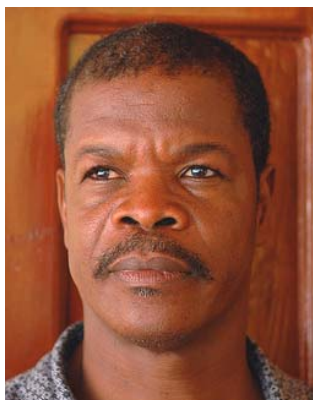
APPEAL CASE

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



HAITI

LOVINSKY PIERRE-ANTOINE IS STILL MISSING



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Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine

Aged 52

**Human rights defender
and national coordinator
of the 30 September
Foundation**

28 January 2008
AI Index: AMR 36/003/2008
Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

The fate of Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine, a human rights defender and former coordinator of the 30 September Foundation remains unknown after he went missing on 12 August 2007.

He is believed to have been abducted after he took his leave from an American and Canadian delegation of human rights activists he was accompanying during their visit to Haiti.

The vehicle that Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine was driving was found the day after in the Delmas 10 area of metropolitan Port-au-Prince.

Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine is the co-founder and national coordinator of the 30 September Foundation. The Foundation is a grass-roots organization regrouping survivors and relatives of victims of the military government of 1991-1994.

The 30 September Foundation was named after the date of the 1991 military coup that toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. At least 5,000 persons, most of them Aristide and pro-democracy supporters, were killed during the military regime between September 1991 and October 1994.

Ever since its creation in 1996, the Foundation members have carried out weekly marches in central Port-au-Prince and several other Haitian towns pressing for an end to the impunity prevailing for past human rights abuses and for reparation for survivors and victims of the military coup.

The Foundation also campaigns for the total abolition of the Haitian army through a reform of the Constitution. Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine played a key role in organizing a country-wide tour of a photo-exhibition of victims of past human rights abuses in Haiti during which thousands of signatures were gathered in support of the Foundation's petition for Constitutional reform.

Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine's abduction was reportedly made to look like a kidnapping for ransom. On Tuesday 14 August, the alleged abductors called Pierre-Antoine's family asking for a ransom of USD 300,000. However there has been no further contact from the abductors.

Days before his abduction, Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine announced his intention to stand as Senator in the elections initially scheduled for December 2007 under the banner of the *Fanmi Lavalas* Party, Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party.

An investigation has reportedly been launched by the Anti-kidnapping unit at the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (*Direction Centrale de la Police Judiciaire*, DCPJ). However, Amnesty International has received reports that the authorities in charge of the investigation have not shown great resolve in finding Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine.

Someone, somewhere, knows what has happened to
Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine.
Someone is responsible.

ACT NOW

- Urge the Haitian authorities to expedite all necessary measures to clarify the whereabouts of Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine;
- Call for an effective, independent and impartial investigation into the abduction of Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine, that its results are made public and that those responsible are brought to

WRITE TO :

President of the Republic

René García Préval
Président de la République
Palais National
Champ de Mars
Port-au-Prince, HAITI
Fax: +509 228 2772
Salutation: Mr. President

Prime Minister

Jacques-Édouard Alexis
Ministère de l'Intérieure
Villa d'Accueil
Delmas 60, Musseau, Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Fax: + 509 298 3900
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Minister of Justice and Public Security

René Magloire
Ministre de la Justice et de la Sécurité Publique
Ministère de la Justice
19 Avenue Charles Summer, Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Fax: + 509 245 0474 (ask for the fax line)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Background information

Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine graduated in psychology from the Haitian State University and obtained further specialisation on child psychology in Montreal, Canada. He has been involved for several years as a grass-roots community organizer, mainly working with children. In the early 1990s, he co-founded the Foundation for the Support of Children (*Fondsayon Kore Timoun Yò*) for young street children in Port-au-Prince, and a centre for teenage mothers (*Foyer pour Mères Adolescentes*).

In February 1995 he helped establish a community-based rehabilitation project for human rights victims, the Movement in Support of the Victims of Organized Violence (*Mouvement d'Appui aux Victimes de Violence Organisée*), MAPVIV which in Creole means "I live". MAPVIV embraced a multi-dimensional approach for the rehabilitation of the survivors of the military coup providing mainly medical and psychological support, assistance in seeking justice and socio-economic reintegration into the communities.

During the last presidency of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, he was appointed General Coordinator of the National Office on Migration, position he held until February 2004. After Aristide was ousted in February 2004, he left Haiti into exile during the transitional government and returned in February 2006, after the election of President René García Préval.

Objectives of the appeal

Establish the whereabouts of Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine and bring the perpetrators of his abduction to justice.

Timing

This action runs from 28 January to 30 April. This appeal will be updated if relevant information to the case is obtained by Amnesty International or further action is needed.

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