

# Rainbow Lobby, INC.

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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE RAINBOW LOBBY  
October 16, 1987

The Rainbow Lobby, a citizens lobby concerned with progressive social issues including civil, voting and democratic rights nationally and internationally, is hosting this press conference to give four Haitian activists the opportunity to present an inside look at the current political situation in Haiti.

The Lobby is here today to join with them in protesting the increasing human rights violations and the systematic violence apparently aimed at eliminating all progressive opposition to the current government headed by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, the National Governing Council. This past Tuesday that violence claimed another victim when Yves Volel, a presidential candidate and a human rights attorney, was viciously murdered in front of police headquarters in Port-au-Prince while peacefully protesting the illegal detainment of a prisoner. Witnesses have stated that the murder was carried out by plainclothes security personnel.

After the overthrow of Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, the CNG was given the responsibility of creating the conditions for the development of a genuine democracy in Haiti. In support of that effort the United States increased overall aid to \$101. Six million dollars of that aid was earmarked for riot control equipment and training. Continued assistance was, of course, tied by U.S. law to progress in respect for human rights.

The CNG's actions during the last two years clearly indicate that it has neither the intention of handing over power to a civilian government as it is required by the Constitution, nor of taking forceful steps to prevent the increasing wave of murders and human rights abuses.

Dominated by former Duvalier military men, the CNG attempted on June 22 of this year to strip the Provisional Electoral Council, a neutral observer established by the Constitution to oversee the elections, of all its power. Also on that date the CNG security forces ransacked the offices of the Central of Haitian Workers (CATH), Haiti's major labor federation, which had scheduled a general strike for that date. A decree was issued dissolving the union federation, a major force in the fight to demand solutions to the country's severe economic problems as well as in the fight for democracy.

Thousands of Haitians walked off their jobs and within days a broad consensus in defense of democracy emerged calling for the CNG's resignation. Scores of striking workers were killed but inside of 10 days the CNG backed down and restored full authority to the Provisional Electoral Council and lifted the ban on CATH.

Since the events of the summer, Haiti has remained in a state of stalemate

with broad opposition to the CNG increasing while repressive measures continue. The Tonton Macoutes, created by "Papa Doc" Duvalier as his personal army to squelch by murder and torture any opposition to his rule, have reemerged. Though officially "dissolved" by Namphy (he refused to arrest or prosecute them), many joined the regular army and are using that cover to carry out death squad activities against the people of Haiti.

The cases of judicial abuse and human rights violations are numerous. In one particular case, Eddy Moise, an artist/painter and a political activist, was arrested on February 7 of this year and accused of conspiracy to commit robbery and murder. Although the judge in the case admitted that Moise was not part of any robbery or murder attempt, Moise continued to be held in solitary confinement until Gerard Georges succeeded in having him transferred to a hospital for treatment of wounds he suffered while being tortured in prison. The Lobby is proud to say that our efforts, along with those of Georges and an international legal defense team for Moise have succeeded in getting him a trial, scheduled to begin October 19.

This climate of repression and human rights violations are a serious threat to the November 29 elections. A climate of chaos has been created which makes free and fair elections in Haiti almost an impossibility. With candidates opposing the CNG in fear of their lives and not able to campaign freely, the electoral arena is populated only by center and right wing forces more in tune with maintaining CNG control than with broadening the democratic process in Haiti.

The Rainbow Lobby calls on Congress to stop all military aid to the Namphy regime immediately, to put pressure on the CNG to free all political prisoners and to begin an immediate investigation of all cases of human rights abuses and finally to end the reign of terror perpetrated by the death squads and the Tonton Macoutes. In addition we call for the formation of an international team of neutral observers to oversee the elections on November 29. Only in this way can genuine free and fair elections be held and democracy become a reality in Haiti.

THE EDDY MOISE AFFAIR: WHERE IS THE JUDICIAL POWER IN HAITI?

Press Statement by Gerard Georges

The proceedings against Eddy Moise, a Haitian artist and painter arrested on February 6, 1987, are a travesty of Haitian and international justice. Moise was arrested after a holdup perpetrated by his friend Phillip Maurice at the home of Josette Namphy Saint Hilaire, cousin of General Henry Namphy of the CNG, a robbery in which he had no part. After months of incarceration without appearance before the Court, his trial will begin on October 19, 1987 at the Palace of Justice in Port-au-Prince.

There are many aspects of this case which have piqued the attention of jurists who are questioning the separation of powers under the CNG and the independence of judicial power in Haiti.

The investigation of both Eddy Moise and the robbery, in which all parties agree he had no part, is being done under the auspices Major Joseph Baguidy, chief of the criminal section of police and known in the Port-au-Prince community as the head of the death squads.

The CNG-controlled television station in Port-au-Prince broadcast a series of reports on the Moise case, all of which referred to Moise and co-defendants Cadore Derezil, Seneque Jean-Louis and Phillip Maurice as terrorists and bandits in an effort to frighten and intimidate the population. This type of media coverage--all by government journalists--creates a climate around the case in which it will be very difficult to obtain a fair trial. The TV films, nonetheless, could not hide the terrifying reality that Moise, Derezil, and Jean-Louis had all been beaten and tortured in order to extract confessions through violence. Maurice died under suspicious circumstances after medical treatment at the hospital while in the custody of the police.

The most comical part of this affair is the questioning of Seneque Jean-Louis, who under the lights of television cameras and under pressure from authorities has tried to cleanse the bloody hands of the Haitian army, declaring that the martyred Haitian activist, Charlot Jacquelin was a member

of the Eddy Moise gang and had been assassinated by members of this organization (OLH).

Charlot Jacquelin, part of the literary organization Alpha Mission, was kidnapped by the army of Haiti in September 1986, creating anger and an outcry of national and international public protest.

Embarrassed by the outcry, General Namphy told the American press that Charlot Jacquelin did not exist, that he was a myth.

But after Seneque Jean-Louis' statement that Charlot Jacquelin was a friend of Phillippe Maurice, the president of the CNG changed his tune and said in a press conference given at the national palace on February 8, 1987 that Charlot Jacquelin was a terrorist.

It is now eight months later, and every day bandits are assassinating the sons and daughters of the people. Men with army uniforms of "olive green" are violating, stealing and pillaging residences of Haitian and foreign families.

At the same time Eddy Moise is still in jail.

This scandal brings us back to the case of Eddy Moise. It is not necessary to be a jurist to see that CNG truth is not the truth. The judge of instruction agrees that confessions under torture are inadmissible. The judge accepts that Eddy Moise was not present at the holdup and the "assassination" of the police officer Ajax Raymond by Phillippe Maurice. What then, is the basis for the detention of Mr. Moise?

Don't the Haitians have the right to refuse to participate in elections with these "Masters of falsehood" keeping the three powers--judicial, legislative, and executive--in their hands?

HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN HAITI

Press Statement by Yves Auguste  
October 16, 1987

What is the historical truth? In the name of "democracy" we have been illegally detained for four months under inhuman conditions. In the name of "democracy" false lawyers, documents and accusations like "crime against the security of the state" have been prepared against us. A "law of force" instead of the "force of law" has been the rule in Haiti.

Since February 7, 1986, 172 citizens have been killed. The 173rd was the attorney Yves Volel, a Haitian patriot. While the United States certifies Haiti, we note an increase in the death squad activities.

Who has the right to present the historical truth? We the Auguste brothers, illegally arrested.

No human rights, no justice. There exists a relationship between these two concepts. It is impossible to have real justice when the judges and public ministry are partial and when the people actually in charge have no moral integrity. There exists so much chaos, partiality and corruption that since August of 1987 it's been impossible to hold criminal cases. The junta has concentrated in its hands all three powers--the judicial, executive and legislative.

The majority of the Haitian people do not want elections under the CNG. The majority of people want to install a new era of justice and truth after Duvalier.

Jefferson, Washington, Lincoln and Martin Luther King have said: "No democracy without justice." We say without human rights, no justice; without justice, no democracy and without democracy no fair elections. If the American administration wants to be at peace with itself, if they do not want to be crucified by history, they must recognize that they are imposing on us "the law of force" not the "force of law."

## EDDY MOISE FACT SHEET

Eddy Moise is a well known artist and activist in Haiti. He was part of the Alpha Mission, a group of Haitians working to teach the many illiterate people in Haiti how to read and write. He was an outspoken opponent of Baby Doc Duvalier and continued to speak out against the repressive regime, the National Governing Council (CNG), which succeeded him.

On February 7, 1987, exactly one year after Duvalier was overthrown by the people of Haiti, Eddy Moise was arrested and charged with conspiracy to carry out "terrorist activities." The arrest took place after several acquaintances of Eddy Moise were accused of robbing the cousin of Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, head of the CNG. There is, however, no evidence of any participation by Eddy Moise in the robbery. It is clear that his arrest was the basis for the false and sensational charges against him which amounted to nothing more than an effort to intimidate and discredit the democratic opposition to the military regime.

Moise and those he was arrested with were severely beaten. One of them died as a result. The government broadcast a false account of these events which included a coerced confession by two of those arrested.

As a result of the beatings Eddy Moise sustained a punctured eardrum, other serious head wounds and is in danger of a life threatening infection. He was kept in solitary confinement until August of this year when his attorney Gerard Georges pressured the authorities into transferring him to a hospital.

Yves Auguste, a professor of engineering at the University of Haiti, and his brother Carl, a journalist, were arrested a month later and charged with masterminding the alleged conspiracy. They were held without legal process for four months and then released for lack of evidence.

As a result of the activities of the International Legal Defense Team for Eddy Moise, formed by U.S. attorneys Alvaader Frazier and Harry Kresky at the request of Dr. Lenora Fulani, independent candidate for President of the United States, and in conjunction with the Rainbow Lobby and the Committee Against Repression in Haiti, the government was forced to set Mr. Moise's case for trial on October 19 at the Palace of Justice, Avenue of Mgr. Guilloux, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. However, his lawyer Gerard Georges, has received death threats which must be taken seriously in light of the coldblooded murder this week of human rights attorney Yves Volel by plainclothes policemen in front of the Police Headquarters in Port-au-Prince.

Yesterday and today members of the International Legal Defense Team for Eddy Moise, the Committee Against Repression in Haiti, human rights groups and the Rainbow Lobby were on Capitol Hill speaking to members of Congress and their staff about this important human rights case, symbolic of the massive human rights violations in Haiti.

Press Statement by Alvaader Frazier

Good morning. My name is Alvaader Frazier, and attorney and Director of the People's Law Institution in Harlem and the Bronx, New York City. I am here in Washington, D.C. with my colleague Harry Kresky of the People's Law Institution on behalf of Eddy Moise, a Haitian political prisoner. Eddy Moise is an artist, a teacher and an outspoken opponent of the CNG military regime. Attorney Harry Kresky and I, along with Gerard Georges, attorney of record for Eddy Moise, have formed an International Legal Defense Team. It was formed at the request of Dr. Lenora Fulani who visited Haiti last Spring. Dr. Fulani is the only Black woman running for President of the United States as an independent. Her campaign is calling for fair elections and democracy in the U.S. and Haiti.

We spent yesterday and will be spending today visiting members of Congress and their staffs.

Our message to Congress is that the case of Eddy Moise is symbolic of massive human rights violations in Haiti under the CNG which has replaced the Duvalier dictatorship, but has allowed the brutal Tonton Macoutes to continued to terrorize the people of Haiti. An added feature of the CNG is death squads, on the model of El Salvador and Argentina, who roam the streets and countryside of Haiti murdering liberals and progressives. Disappearances have become commonplace.

Eddy Moise's trial is scheduled to begin Monday, October 19. I am happy to report that the following members of Congress have agreed to express their demand thru telegrams to the Courts and Embassies in Haiti and the United States that the human rights of Eddy Moise and other illegally detained prisoners be respected in accordance with international human rights laws. Further, that Eddy Moise and his attorney be allowed to appear before a court of law and have the benefit of a fair trial. Additionally we have asked these progressive Congresspeople to call an emergency congressional hearing on the current political situation in Haiti and to withdraw all military and economic aid to Haiti.

Our thanks to Congressmen Mervyn Dymally, John Conyers, Matthew McHugh, Sam Gejdenson, Mickey Ieland, Floyd Flake, William Lehman and Mike Espy. In addition the Congressional Black Caucus is being asked to fully investigate the political situation in Haiti through a fact finding mission and hearings, with the specific task of determining whether it is possible to have fair elections in Haiti at this time given the reign of terror there.