

Arrests in Haiti prompt fears of military dictatorship

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - A prominent civic leader, considered the father of Haiti's constitution, was forced into exile Sunday by the military regime a day after it imposed a state of siege and arrested dozens of critics.

Dr. Louis Roy, 74, founder of the Haitian Red Cross, boarded a Miami-bound commercial flight Saturday, another government critic, conservative leader Hubert de Ronceray, was forced into exile after police and soldiers rounded up dozens of opponents in a city-wide sweep.

Roy was a co-author and major inspirer of the 1987 constitution, approved by 99 percent of voters in a plebiscite.

Critics said the arrests, beatings,

banishments and state of siege indicated Haitian ruler Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril plans to turn his regime into a dictatorship and renege on promises to hold free elections this year.

The sweep followed the slaying Friday night of an army colonel by unidentified assailants. More arrests were reported Sunday.

Max Bourjolly, second in command of the Haitian Communist party, was arrested at his home, according to party leader Rene Theodore. He said police phoned Bourjolly's servants and told them to prepare his passport and belongings.

All appeared normal and quiet in Port-au-Prince, the capital, Sunday. Parishioners went to church, no army patrols could be seen, and public trans-

port functioned.

Dozens of political leaders and militants were rounded up Saturday, according to witnesses. About 10 were released and said they had been severely beaten, including socialist leader Serge Gilles.

Besides Bourjolly, at least two political leaders -- Dr. Sylvain Jolibois of the small radical Jean-Jacques Dessalines Group and Abby Brun of the center-left Congress of Democratic Movements Party remained in custody Sunday. About 30 militants of the Congress of Democratic Movements Party also were in custody, said Moyses Senatus, the party's co-leader.

Sylvio Claude, the popular radical leader of the Haitian Christian Demo-

cratic Party, called The Associated Press on Sunday to say police "had come to get me" Saturday but he escaped and was in hiding.

The government announced the state of siege Saturday night and said that under it, a law forbidding the forced exile of Haitian nationals was being suspended.

It also renewed an entry visa requirement for Haitians returning from abroad "to prevent the infiltration of terrorist agents." The practice was abolished shortly after dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled into exile in France in 1986.

"Human rights activist Jean-Claude Bajeux said Sunday he believed Avril used the killing Friday night of Col. Andre Neptune as a pretext to round

up his critics and abort plans to hold free elections scheduled for October.

Neptune, his wife and servant were gunned down in suburban Fontamara, 100 yards from de Ronceray's house. The motive for the killing was not known.

Bajeux, who arrived in Puerto Rico from Haiti on Friday, said he suspected either army rivals or the drug mafia were behind the killings.

De Ronceray, who has urged Avril to resign, also was a key leader of the opposition to Duvalier.

Avril took power in a September 1988 soldiers' revolt that ousted the previous military leader, Henry Namphy. He promised to hand over power after elections this year.

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Editor **Amy Edwards** 472-1766 Professional Adviser **Don Walton** 473-7301

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Washington mayor says he needs help

WASHINGTON - Mayor Marion Barry, acknowledging that he needs to heal his "body, mind and soul," but declining to mention drug abuse, announced Sunday that he will seek help following his arrest on a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge.

At times blinking back tears, the mayor provided no further details on


what kind of assistance he will seek.

Barry, 53, was arrested Thursday evening at a downtown hotel in an FBI sting operation.

Herbert Reid Sr., one of the mayor's closest personal advisers, said he hoped that from Barry's travails "we can all learn something about drug addiction."


Barry spokeswoman Lurma Rackley said: "The most serious problem is alcoholism."

Barry had been poised to announce his bid for a fourth term as mayor on Sunday, but his arrest has thrown local politics into convulsions. Several advisers said Barry had agreed to abandon his bid for re-election.



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