

JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE

President of Haiti

Jean-Bertrand Aristide was born in 1953. In December 1990, he became Haiti's first democratically-elected president capturing 67.5 percent of the popular vote. His government had a large share of the Senate and the majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

Aristide's government began investigating charges of corruption and violence against members of the former ruling élite. His policies also brought him into conflict with other political leaders as well as with the private sector and the military. In September 1991, Aristide was overthrown in a violent coup d'état and was forced to leave Haiti.

A Roman Catholic priest, Aristide did graduate work in theology from 1982 to 1985 at the Université de Montréal.

Father Aristide lives in exile in the United States.