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HAITI

Three Aristide political allies are arrested

As violence raged for a third straight day in Haiti, three politicians allied with former President Jean-

Bertrand Aristide surrendered to police.

BY STEVENSON JACOBS
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Three Haitian politicians allied with ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide surrendered to police Saturday after barricading themselves in a radio station for six hours, denying involvement in clashes that have killed at least 14 people.

The three politicians said police intended to arrest them on weapons charges. They were led out of Radio Caraibes in handcuffs Saturday night after a judge entered to negotiate their surrender, telling reporters they were being detained on weapons charges.

"They are kidnapping me. They have no reason to arrest me. It is an illegal arrest," Senate president Yvon Feuille said, appealing to Aristide supporters not to respond with violence.

At least five men were killed Friday by gunmen outside the home of an anti-Aristide community leader in the seaside slum Village de Dieu, residents said Saturday. Police also fired on a peaceful demonstration of Aristide supporters in the neighborhood of Bel Air on Friday, killing two young men, said Anne Sosin, a human rights monitor of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti.

Radio Metropole reported one civilian shot dead in a pro-Aristide demonstration Friday, while Justice Minister Bernard Gousse said police had killed two gang leaders Thursday in fighting in Cité Soleil, a slum teeming with Aristide loyalists.

The headless bodies of three police officers turned up Friday. They, along with a fourth policeman, were killed in clashes Thursday in Port-Au-Prince, police said.

"Aristide's partisans have begun an urban guerrilla operation that they call Operation Baghdad," human rights activist Jean-Claude Bajeux said Saturday. "The decapitations are imitative of those in Iraq, and they are meant to show the failure of U.S. policy in Haiti."

Aristide's Lavalas Family party on Thursday began three days of commemoration of the 1991 coup that toppled Aristide's first government. They are demanding an end to the "occupation" by foreign troops.

Lavalas officials said their demonstrations were peaceful and blamed the interim government and anti-Aristide infiltrators for the violence.