

Haiti Report for October 6, 2004

The Haiti Report is a compilation and summary of events as described in Haitian and international media. It does not reflect the opinions of any individual or organization. This service is intended to create a better understanding of the situation in Haiti by presenting the reader with reports that provide a variety of perspectives on the situation.

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Hurricane Aftermath:

Victims who lost relatives, homes and belongings in Tropical Storm Jeanne are now tormented by street gangs who attack food convoys, raid homes at night and shoot those who get in their way. The failure of Haiti's U.S.-backed government to disarm the gangs that helped oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has created a climate of instability that further jeopardizes lives after the calamity Jeanne visited on Gonaives 10 days ago. "There's a big problem with gangs," the security chief of the U.N. stabilization mission in Haiti, John Harrison, told The Associated Press. On Tuesday, he was looking for safe places to distribute food and stopped at the port, where he found armed men. "I think things could get worse," he said. While planeloads of aid have arrived from around the world, getting it to the people who need it has become the hard part. The entrance to the city has been a flashpoint for looters but was being secured Tuesday by Uruguayan troops in the U.N. peacekeeping force. Interior Minister Herard Abraham, a retired Haitian army general, said the Uruguayans needed time to settle in and that security would improve soon. (AP, 9/29)

While desperately hungry flood victims wander the streets of Gonaives searching for help, tons of food aid is piling up in a warehouse guarded by U.N. peacekeepers. The repeated looting of relief trucks has made it difficult to get sacks of wheat, lentils and other foodstuffs stacked in the warehouse out to those who need it most, aid workers say. "The problem is not a lack of food. It's security and a lack of trucks," Ricardo Mena, an official of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said Thursday. About 1,500 tons

of food aid remains in a warehouse run by the aid group CARE International and guarded by U.N. troops, CARE spokesman Rick Perera said. (AP, 9/30)

The United Nations on Friday asked wealthy nations to donate an extra \$59 million in aid to help about 400,000 people in Grenada and Haiti recover from a recent wave of storms and flooding. "These programs will help meet urgent needs like shelter, food and clean water, and also for longer term reconstruction of schools and infrastructure as well as laying foundations for economic recovery," U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland said. Haiti requires \$32 million to meet urgent needs, while Grenada seeks \$27 million, the world body estimated. Hurricane Ivan and Tropical Storm Jeanne killed more than 1,500 people in Haiti and affected another 300,000 people there, the statement said. Local officials have estimated that as many as 2,400 people have died during flooding in Haiti, where aid workers are still struggling to feed unruly crowds of hungry people. (Reuters, 10/1)

The commander of the Brazilian-led U.N. force, Gen. Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, said his troops were exhausted and more international aid was needed. The storm's aftermath has tied up some 750 of the 3,000-member U.N. troops sent to keep peace after former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in February. "We are with troops in a situation of exhaustion as they are practically working 24-seven," he said in an interview conducted Thursday and aired Saturday on the Brazilian military radio station Verde Oliva. He acknowledged some of the food distribution was done in a "very precarious way." "We need to continue asking the entire world to continue to send us help," the general said. "There is a population that needs food, water, medical services." There were some signs of recovery on Thursday. Markets began bustling with vendors selling fruit and vegetables. The storm ravaged an estimated 24,700 acres of the most fertile land in Haiti, with mud covering the area that produces up to 40 percent of the bananas, beans and sweet potatoes consumed in the country, according to agronomist Jean-Andre Victor. (AP, 10/2)

The death toll from floods unleashed by Tropical Storm Jeanne rose sharply Sunday to nearly 2,000 people, with many still missing, as officials said they found hundreds more bodies in Haiti's devastated northwestern region. Officials, who had previously put the toll at 1,550 dead and about 900 missing, could not immediately provide specifics on the higher toll, but said hundreds more bodies were found in recent days in areas outside the hard-hit town of Gonaives. The new toll stands at 1,970 dead and 884 missing, said Dieufort Deslorges, a spokesman for Haiti's civil protection agency. An estimated 300,000 Haitians were left homeless, most in Gonaives, by floods unleashed by Jeanne more than two weeks ago. Officials said most of the missing can be presumed dead -- washed out to sea or buried in debris. (AP, 10/3)

President Bush has proposed \$12.2 billion in aid for hurricane-damaged areas, mostly in Florida and other Southern states. The package includes \$50 million for the islands, nearly half of it for Haiti. We

hope Congress passes it quickly, but let's be blunt: The amount set aside for the Caribbean nations is a pittance -- not to mention a fraction of what was spent on U.S. military interventions in Haiti and Grenada. (lead editorial in the Washington Post of 10/4/04)

Former Soldiers Turned Away from Gonaives:

Rebel fighters tried to deliver food aid and organize their own security patrols in Gonaives, but were turned away by U.N. peacekeepers who said their weapons weren't welcome in a city struggling to cope with massive devastation wrought by Hurricane Jeanne. The peacekeepers sent back scores of rebels who came to Gonaives on Wednesday with three truckloads of food aid because they were armed, said rebel leader Remissainthe Ravix, a former colonel in the disbanded Haitian army. "No foreigner has the right to tell us to put down our arms," Ravix said Thursday morning, after returning to the capital, Port-au-Prince. "We went there because wherever security is needed, we'll be there." He complained that much of the food aid "isn't going to all the people." (AP, 9/30)

Lavalas Protests, Violence in Port-au-Prince, Arrest of Three Lavalas Leaders:

The National Police of Haiti and armed civilians dispersed Thursday in Port-au-Prince a demonstration of over ten thousand persons organized on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the bloody September 30, 1991 coup d'état. This demonstration started off in Bel-Air and had the time to go through many streets of the capital, going near the National Palace, before being scattered by gunshots shot in the air. According to numerous witnesses, several demonstrators were injured and other taken by the police. Furious demonstrators also broke cars' windshields in commercial downtown. Following that, there was a true panic in the entire area where policemen in uniform and armed civilians were shooting in bursts, making big stores close down and small retailers run away as the public markets became empty. In a very short time, the entire downtown was deserted. The people organizing the demonstration declared that it was CIMO agents and armed civilians who left, they believe, from the Ministry of Interior who opened fire on the demonstrators near the Direction générale des Impôts (DGI). They accused Minister of Interior Hérard Abraham of having organized a meeting the day before to plan the dispersal of the demonstration. The interim government is the only responsible of all the violent acts seen this Thursday in Port-au-Prince by wanting to deprive Haitians from their right to freely express themselves", the demonstrators declared. They consider that the regime didn't want the foreign officials who are currently in the country including Canadian Chancellor Pierre Pettitrew to see the extent of the demonstration. (AHP, 9/30)

Interim Prime Minister Gérard Latortue confirmed Tuesday night that policemen had indeed opened fire on Lavalas demonstrators during a march in Port-au-Prince to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the

September 30, 1991 bloody coup d'état. "We shot them, some of the them fell, other were injured, other ran away, Mr. Latortue said as he answered the questions of group of journalists. Gérard Latortue who tried to explain why the police had shot the demonstrators, declared that their march was not peaceful. "They asked us permission to organize a peaceful demonstration. They made disorder. Then, we answered with strength", Latortue pointed out, doped by the journalists' encouraging questions. They tried to challenge the State's authority, "nou tire dèyè yo tou, genyen k tonbe tou oui" (we shot them too and some of them did fall, yes), the interim head of government declared as he accused them of shooting policemen. Several officials at the interim government, including Minister of Justice Bernard Gousse, also declared Thursday that 3 policemen were killed in the Lavalas demonstration. However, in a declaration made the same day on the air of a private radio station of the capital, Director of the Police Léon Charles had rather said that bandits had attacked a police patrol and that two policemen had been injured but that they were out of danger. "The attack took place earlier this morning, close to the Jérémie wharf" (in the neighborhood La Saline), Mr. Charles pointed out. It is during that attack perpetrated a long time before the Lavalas demonstration, that these 3 policemen, whose names we don't have, could have been killed, a source close to the policemen who were killed pointed out. The injured policemen are presently at a hospital in the capital. The interim prime minister claims that the situation is under control and said that he intended to forbid all Lavalas demonstrations.

Lavalas activists organized this Friday a rally in the populist neighborhood of Bel-Air in Port-au-Prince to denounce the murder of several of their members during a demonstration violently repressed the day before. Among the activists who "fell" under gunshots in this demonstration that was organized to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the 1991 military coup d'état, are two MONSA members, Maxo Casséus and Wilson Jean-Bart called Tupac. An old lady of over 60 years old named Piersine Adéma was killed this Friday in Cité Soleil. A spokesperson of Lavalas activists, Jean Mary Samedi, declared that over 10 of them were killed in the demonstration. he neighborhood of Bel-air was barricaded this Friday. "It is to avoid that Fanmi Lavalas supporters continue to be victims" because the government has prepared a plan to massacre the poor in populist neighborhoods, Mr. Samedi pointed out. Flamed tires barricades were also put up in several other neighborhoods of the capital, including Delmas 18 and Lassaline, while hails of bullets were heard all day long. Commercial banks downtown closed earlier than usual. Public transportation and commercial activities were also disturbed on Lassaline Boulevard, and Jean-Jacques Dessalines as well as on Rue Pavée, and in the neighborhood of Sans-Fil. (AHP, 10/1)

On Saturday October 02, 2004, Haitian police forcibly entered Haiti's Radio Caraïbe and arrested three former parliamentarians from the Fanmi Lavalas party who had criticized the Interim Government during a radio program. They arrested a fourth former legislator who protested

the arrests. The warrantless arrests were illegal and a clear violation of the detainees' freedom of association and of expression. They take place in the context of a wave of police persecution of human rights critics, and verbal attacks on critics by Haiti's Prime Minister. Many media reports claim that demonstrators retaliated against the police on September 30, killing three. But before the demonstration started, the police had reported three police officers had been attacked in a firefight with a crime gang early that morning, with one killed and two wounded. The Interim Government claims to have recovered three bodies of decapitated officers, but did not announce their names and the Port-au-Prince morgue had not received the bodies of any of the three as of 4 PM on Friday. Media reports also say that the violence occurred when demonstrators tried to pass before the National Palace. In fact, the unprovoked shooting happened several blocks beyond the Palace, at the Rue des Casernes. The end of last week saw a sharp increase in warrantless arrests and shootings of Lavalas supporters by police and anti-Lavalas paramilitary groups. IJDH has received reports from all over Port-au-Prince, especially in poor neighborhoods. The cases that we have been able to confirm so far are:

September 30: Marguerite Saint-Fils, 35, shot in her home by police from the CIMO unit during the course of an operation in La Saline. Accel Savain, age 23 a Lavalas leader. Police searched his home without a warrant, and although they found no illegality, they arrested him after finding a T-shirt supporting President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Amel Prince, 25; Lamarre Prince, 21; Amboise Frantz, 20; Wilfred Amboise, 32; Jean Noel, 14; Laurent Yves, 21; Johnny Rudolph, 23; Sonel Laguerre, 26; Michelin Michelle, 26, all arrested on Boulevard LaSaline, on September 30, all without warrants. October 1: Wendy Manigat, age 15, shot and killed by police during an operation in Bel-Air. Roland Braneluce, 28, shot by police during a demonstration at Rue Tiremasse. Lesly Gustave, a member of the National Committee of Reflection of Famni Lavalas, was arrested at approximately 4 PM on October 1, without a warrant. Police are reportedly searching for the remaining members of the committee. In addition to police persecution, residents of Cite Soleil report that anti-Lavalas armed gangs have been targeting Lavalas supporters over the last few days. Those killed include: Maxo Casséus, a leader of a grassroots organization in Cite Soleil, killed on September 30. Piersine Adéma, a resident Soleil 9 in her sixties, killed while sitting in front of her house, reportedly by the same group that killed Maxo Casséus. (Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, www.ijdh.org, 10/2)

Supporters demanding the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide hurled stones and fired shots in the air on Saturday, the third straight day of violent protests that have killed 12 people so far. 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. 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 Cite Soleil, a seaside 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 the capital Port-Au-Prince, police said. 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 -- referring to the U.S.-led force that followed Aristide's February ouster and U.N. peacekeepers who have taken over since June. "The attackers are gangsters, political opportunists who are taking advantage of the three-day commemoration to terrorize the people, to destabilize the country to make it easier to rob and rape," said Jean Louis, a 30-year-old mechanic in the slum of crumbling cinderblock homes. "Their power is fire power, not persuasion." Some Haitians are criticizing the failure of U.N. peacekeepers to control the violence. Most streets vendors in the capital stayed home Saturday as Aristide supporters took to the streets. Masked gunmen fired into the air before dawn in the traditionally pro-Aristide neighborhood of Bel Air, radio station Signal FM reported. "There is shooting. They are throwing rocks. People can't walk on the street," said Bonhomme Esperance, 42, an unemployed security guard in the area. There was more gunfire Saturday in the slum of La Saline, where police found the headless bodies of the three officers a day earlier. Police came under heavy gunfire when they retrieved the bodies, police spokeswoman Jesse Coicou told Radio Metropole. Some people in the area stoned cars, residents said. (AP, 10/2)

Two Lavalas activists among whom is a young 15-year old, Wendy Manigat, were killed Friday during a police raid in the populist neighborhood Bel-Air in Port-au-Prince. Lavalas activists declared that at least ten of theirs were killed. However, the Reuters correspondent claimed that he had checked only two bodies. Several other members of Fanmi Lavalas' grassroots groups were also arrested in the last 24 hours, including Mr. Lesly Gustave. This is a true manhunt, officials of the party declared. They say they want to disarm Lavalas activists who would have arms, while soldiers of the MINUSTHA and police patrols mix with heavily armed demobilized militaries every day", a Lavalas executive denounced. He asked to remain anonymous for security reasons. (AHP, 10/2)

Police stormed a radio station and arrested Haiti's Senate president and two other members of the Lavalas Family party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide after a day-long standoff on Saturday. Dozens of heavily armed police surrounded the building of independent Radio Caraibes FM in the capital, Port-au-Prince, to arrest the Lavalas partisans. They were arrested in connection with the killing of three police officers during a series of violent protests in which 12 other people also died during the last three days, officials at the radio station said. One of those arrested was Senate President Yvon Fuille, who denied involvement in the violence and who has immunity from arrest under Haiti's constitution. "I am not involved in any criminal activity. I am the president of the Senate and, according to the

Haitian constitution, the police cannot arrest me even with a warrant," Fuille said during the standoff. "This is totally arbitrary and this shows the will of the government to persecute members of the Lavalas family party." One policeman was shot and killed in Thursday's confrontation and two decapitated bodies believed to be those of missing plainclothes policemen were recovered during a gunfight in the Cite Soleil slum on Friday. Twelve other people have also been killed in subsequent police raids in the pro-Aristide slum neighborhoods, including a 15-year-old boy who was shot in the head. (Reuters, 10/2)

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 Caraïbes in handcuffs Saturday night after a judge entered with an arrest warrant to negotiate their surrender. 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. (AP, 10/2)

Early Saturday evening, the National Police arrested without mandate three Fanmi Lavalas executives, two senators in office Yvon Feuillé and Louis Gérald Gilles and a former deputy, Rudy Hériveaux. The policemen were accompanied by Judge Gabriel Ambroise as they made that arrest in the middle of the private station, Radio Caraïbe, after they had forced the institution's doors open. It all started around 11 o'clock in the morning at the end of the program "Ranmasé" in which they had participated with two political leaders of the former opposition, Evans Paul and former Colonel Himmeler Rébu. As they were getting ready to leave, dozens of policemen from all specialized corps of the PNH and civilians with war weapons surrounded the area around Radio Caraïbes and all the streets near by in order to arrest the 3 executives of the party of President Jean Bertrand Aristide. Initially, officials tried to explain that they wanted to arrest the three men because weapons would have been found in the vehicle of one of them. But they forgot about that accusation after they were denounced by all those who were inside the station, including journalists of Radio Caraïbe who said it was a set-up. Indeed, the vehicle in question was brought in front of the radio by a police official. The parliamentarians were then going to be accused of being responsible of the death of 3 or 4 policemen killed Thursday under circumstances that are still unclear. These murders were attributed to Lavalas activists. But the 3 parliamentarians pointed out that all the acts committed since the beginning of the week were part of a plan to put Lavalas out of the running. Meanwhile, lawyers called by the Lavalas executives, Reynold Georges and Mario Joseph, denounced the government's practices and compared its actions to politician maneuvers. (AHP, 10/2)

Gunfire erupted in a slum teeming with loyalists of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Sunday, sending people scattering through trash-strewn streets following days of political clashes that have left at least 14 dead. Residents said men fired into the air, stole food from market vendors and burned tires in the streets in the slum of La Saline. The unrest came a day after police arrested Haiti's Senate president and two other pro-Aristide politicians following a six-hour standoff in a radio station. Justice Minister Bernard Gousse told reporters the three were suspected of being "intellectual authors" of the violence that erupted Thursday during demonstrations demanding Aristide's return. The politicians, who insisted they were innocent, were led out in handcuffs from the offices of Radio Caraibes Saturday night after a judge entered to negotiate their surrender. Gousse said police found in one of their cars an Uzi submachine gun and a T65 assault rifle, which are illegal in Haiti. "They're people who are barbaric and violent," he told reporters. Pro-Aristide groups criticized the arrests, saying police didn't have a warrant and had planted the weapons. Heavy gunfire rang out Saturday night and Sunday in parts of Port-au-Prince. No one was reported killed, but streets remained blocked with overturned wooden market stalls in some areas. (AP, 10/3)

Reports are surfacing from many neighborhoods in the capital of paramilitary forces aligned with the US-backed regime of Latortue patrolling at night and shooting suspected supporters of ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Witnesses in the neighborhoods of Delmas 19, 30, 32 and 33 report heavily armed men in civilian clothes pulling up in cars and commandeering intersections at approximately 6:30 PM for two nights in a row. This new development comes after four days of confrontations between the Haitian National Police (PNH) and supporters of Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Family Lavalas party. Violence broke out throughout the capital of Port au Prince on September 30th after the police fired at unarmed demonstrators demanding Aristide's return. Bel Air, a slum in the capital that has served as a launching site for recent Lavalas demonstrations, is under nightly siege by the police. According to witnesses elements of the PNH attempted to enter Bel Air for a second straight night in a row and were repelled by residents. Political tensions ratcheted up further after three Lavalas representatives were arrested yesterday after participating in a broadcast on local Radio Caraibes FM. During the course of the program, former Deputy Roudy Hérivaux, former Lavalas Senator Yvon Feuillé, and former Lavalas Senator Gerald Gilles denounced the violence and condemned the police for firing on unarmed demonstrators on September 30th. At 5:55 PM the police entered Radio Caraibes and arrested the three on charges of "inciting violence" related to September 30th. The police action was condemned by the management of Radio Caraibes stating that it "harms the reputation of the station and is an infringement of freedom of expression." Radio Caraibes announced it would suspend broadcasting indefinitely in protest. (Haiti Information Project, 10/3)

Opposition Members Close Public Offices and Halt Activities in Petit Goave:

A group of armed individuals who participated in the anti-Aristide GNB campaign closed most public offices in Petit-Goâve this Friday and left with the keys. These individuals demanded from the transition government that it look immediately into the matter of former military forces who demand the reconstitution of the army. They also say they will reopen the public offices only when all those they call the "chimères Lavalas" will be arrested. "As long as the interim authorities refuse to come and negotiate with us, the situation will remain paralyzed in Petit-Goâve", the supporters of the former opposition at the power declared. In parallel, these individuals blocked National Road #1 to increase the pressure. It is the second time within ten days that supporters of the former opposition paralyze activities in Petit-Goâve. (AHP, 10/1)

Elections:

Haiti's interim prime minister said Friday he plans to hold elections next year, even as violence broke out in the streets of the country's capital and survivors of catastrophic floods waited in desperation for relief. Gerard Latortue, who heads an interim government that replaced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February, said recent disasters should not prevent the country from moving forward with its democratic plans. "We will not use violence and all of our problems must be solved through elections, which will take place next year," he said at The Miami Herald's Americas Conference in Coral Gables. (AP, 10/1)

New President of the Bar Determined in Questionable Elections:

Lawyer of the Group of 184, Me Gervais Charles, was elected Monday new President of the Bar of Port-au-Prince in elections that are considered irregular. These elections took place among strong protests and discussions between Me Gervais Charles's supporters and his competitor, Me Pierre C. Labissière's supporters. The divergences were caused by the question of the vote by proxy. Indeed, candidate Gervais Charles got about 35 proxies from lawyers who were absent from the assembly. The outgoing President, Me Rigaud Duplan, who is accused of supporting Me Charles, ignored Me Labissière's demands. He didn't even give time to check the validity and authenticity of the proxies. He closed the matter by saying that the vote by proxy was part of the Bar's practices. This situation raised a wave of protestation among the lawyers who cried to imposture. They mentioned the case of the doyen of Saint-Marc's criminal court, Ramon Guillaume, suspended from his lawyer profession and who would have given a proxy to a colleague to vote in his name. Despite these irregularities, the contested president considered that he had been elected and he intends to assume his responsibilities. He even accused the Labissière camp of orchestrating disorders in order to disturb the elections for a political sector he didn't name.

Me Rigaud Duplan also rejected the accusations according to which the

Bar would be a political group since it is a member of the coalition of 184. Rigaud Duplan said the lawyers who give those arguments are ignorant and they don't know what they are talking about. (AHP, 9/28)

Resurgent Military:

A delegation of demobilized military forces of Petit-Goâve visited this Monday their brothers of arms of Jacmel. The objective of this delegation lead by self-proclaimed Commandant Michel Alophène, is to inform the demobilized military forces of Jacmel about the clauses of the agreement signed between the commission formed by the former militaries and the commission of the interim government. The spokesperson of demobilized military forces of Jacmel, Sergeant Prophète Dervil, declared he was satisfied with this meeting since, he said, the demobilized militaries now know where they stand. The delegation coming from Petit-Goâve will also go in other departments of the country to invite the demobilized military forces to accompany the national police in its mission to protect and to serve. Leaders of demobilized military forces also declared that procedures are underway with the interim authorities to get the equipment they need to give their support to the population of Gonaïves who is currently facing great difficulties after the last floods. (AHP, 9/28)

Rising Gas Prices:

General Secretary of the National Association of Owners and Drivers of Haiti (ANPCH), Quétant Louinel, denounced Wednesday an increase de facto of the price of gas in gas stations. Because of this increase, the drivers of different routes had to raise their prices. Mr. Louinel calls the interim authorities to assume their responsibilities by fixing clearly the prices of gas and the costs of the different routes in order to avoid altercations between drivers and passengers. Kétant Louinel invites all drivers of public transportation and the owners to wait on the word from the association to get to action in order to block the country if the authorities do nothing to regularize the situation. Already, the drivers of public transportation in Croix-des-Bouquets stopped working while they wait for the State to adopt a position on the question. The gallon of Kerosene went from 70 to 85 gourdes ; regular gasoline is sold at 115 gourdes and the 95 is sold at 125 gourdes ;diesel is raised of 15 gourdes, going from 55 to 70 gourdes. The leader of the CNPCH also criticized the decision of the Direction Générale des Impôts (DGI) to give only one plate to the vehicles in circulation in the country. According to him, this decision will bring a rise of insecurity in the country since, he said, the situation is difficult with two plates, so imagine with only one, he said. (AHP, 9/29)

China Sending Riot Police to Haiti:

China is to deploy riot police in Haiti next month as part of a U.N. peacekeeping mission there, seeking to boost its profile internationally. China has participated in peacekeeping missions since

2000 in East Timor, Liberia and Kosovo, among other places, but it has never sent combat troops. The 125-member team in Haiti will be its first contingent of riot police. "According to the information we have received from the U.N., lately the Haiti police organisation has been really damaged," said Zhao Xiaoxun, captain of the riot police unit for Haiti. "Our main responsibility for this mission is to help the peacekeeping troops -- the most important thing is to train the local police," he said after surveying his troops showing off martial arts moves worthy of Jackie Chan. (Reuters, 9/29)

Bodies Found in Delmas:

Several bodies were found last week-end in many neighborhoods in the town of Delmas, and many others were shot and wounded in other regions of the capital. Many of the persons who were found dead would have been shot, other would have been stabbed with a knife. Resident of Delmas who refused to be recorded declared that political motives would be the reason of these murders. However, it was impossible to verify those declarations. We still don't know if the victims were killed in this town or if they were carried in the area. Delmas' mayor Prisca Jean Vilfort confirmed that bodies were found. Some of them have started to decompose already, he declared, announcing the opening of an investigation to find the origin and the authors of these odious acts. However, the new spokesperson of the police, Jessie Comeau Coicou, declared that the police knew nothing about those acts of insecurity. Mrs. Coicou declared that she had been informed of the increase of acts of insecurity only through the press. However, she also announced that the police opened an investigation to stop those acts of insecurity in case they would be true. (AHP, 9/27)