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English translation (Unofficial)

The Haitian Interim Prime Minister informs that sometimes the authorities have to buy arms through smuggling "because of the embargo on arms selling in Haiti"

Port-au-Prince, October 4, 2004 (AHP)- Haitian Interim Prime minister Gérard Latortue said Sunday that sometimes, it is through smuggling that his government manages to buy arms.

M. Latortue who was giving a press conference as he returned from his visit in the United States, declared that the authorities cannot buy arms normally because, he said, of the embargo on arms selling in Haiti. "This is why we buy arms through smuggling sometimes. And therefore, they cost us ten times more", Latortue pointed out.

The interim prime minister underlined that the police is facing serious difficulties to fight crime because of a lack of arms and ammunitions. The head of interim government also declared that 200 policemen who are presently in training will soon be at the service of the population.

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Reactions against the irruption of the police and Judge Ambroise in the office of Radio Caraïbe: the Carli compares that to the hardest times of the Duvalier regime

Port-au-Prince, October 4, 2004 (AHP)- Leader of the Lawyers Committee for the Respect of Individual Freedoms (CARLI), Renan Hédouville, declared Monday that he was shocked by the interim authorities' attitude as they decided to arrest without a warrant Fanmi Lavalas executives, including two parliamentarians in office.

Renan Hédouville also denounced the violation of Radio Caraïbes' premises by heavily armed policemen. "This action strangely reminds of the hardest times of the Duvaliers father and son's regime", he declared.

For his part, leader of the National Coalition for Haitians Rights (NCHR), Pierre Espérance, declared that we cannot talk of flagrant offense in the case of the vehicle full of weapons brought in front of Radio Caraïbe's premises. Everyone agrees that this vehicle was not at the service of the parliamentarians, but was brought there by people close to the government, he declared.

In regards to the other accusation saying that the Lavalas executives would be involved in the violent acts perpetrated Thursday in the capital, Mr. Espérance pointed out that the parliamentarians were arrested over 48 hours later.

The leader of the NCHR also said that the presence of Magistrate Gabriel Ambroise in the premises of Radio Caraïbes cannot replace in any way a warrant, but he said he'll have to wait to hear the prisoners before giving his opinion on the explanation given by Interim Minister Bernard Gousse to try to justify the 3 men's arrest.

Pierre Espérance also condemned the violation of Radio Caraïbes' premises. The Radio stopped its broadcasting Saturday to protest against the behavior of the magistrate and the police.

For his part, the general secretary of the Haitian Journalists Association considered that the interim authorities committed a serious violation of the freedom of the press and freedom of expression by forcing the doors of Radio

Caraïbe to arrest 3 Fanmi Lavalas executives, among whom are 2 parliamentarians, who had just participated to a program.

"What happened is irreparable", Mr. Delvas considered. He also rejects the question of flagrant offense given by the interim authorities against the Fanmi Lavalas executives. How can we talk about flagrant offense for them as the acts they are accused of were committed by other citizens, Mr. Delva wondered. He calls the interim government to apologize for what they did inside Radio Caraïbe.

AHP October 4, 2004 12:00 PM

Senator Louis Gérald Gilles demands the release of his colleagues as well as his own

Port-au-Prince, October 4, 2004 (AHP)- One of the Lavalas parliamentarians, Louis Gérald Gilles, who has been incarcerated since Saturday with two other Lavalas executives at the Port-au-Prince police station, rejected Monday the interim prime minister's declarations in which he said that he could be released because he was not concerned by the accusations against his other two colleagues.

The 3 men are accused of being involved in the violence committed Thursday in Port-au-Prince. At least two Lavalas activists were killed by the police as they were participating o a demonstration. Early in the morning that same day, 4 policemen were also killed by armed bandits in the north-west of the capital.

The senator of the Grande-Anse declared that his colleagues and himself have nothing to reproach themselves. He demands their release at the same time as his own. If the interim authorities refuse to do so, he would continue to show solidarity to them, he said, so that the 3 of them are released at the same time.

Louis Gérald Gilles also demands the release of Me Axène Joseph, who was arrested by the police as he was at Radio Caraïbe to give a juridical assistance to the 3 Lavalas executives in difficulty. The policemen arrested him to answer the demands of about ten pro-governmental demonstrators who wanted his imprisonment because he wanted to stop the arrest of the 3 parliamentarians.

The parliamentarian of the Grande-Anse condemned the violation of their parliamentary immunity since , he said, Yvon Feuillé and himself are senators in office. The Senate's checking account which had been frozen by the interim authorities was just unblocked. The senators receive their checks and fees regularly", a source close to the government declared, underlining that the last check cashed by the parliamentarians in office was dated of September 30th.

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A Lavalas activist would have been kidnapped from the hospital where he was getting health care, according to his wife

Port-au-Prince, October 4, 2004 (AHP)-A man named James Petit Frère alias Billy, shot and wounded during the violence in Port-au-Prince since last Thursday and who was in the hospital at Bernard Mevs Medical Center, would have been kidnapped Sunday by policemen in uniforms and armed civilians.

His wife, Linda Geffrard, who announced the news, declared that she didn't know where her husband had been taken. They would be looking for James Petit Frère because of his status of Fanmi Lavalas strong activist, Linda Geffrard also declared.

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