
The five police officers kidnapped in the Central Plateau have been released: angry police officers accuse denounce the former military members and call for the dismissal of the Director General of the PNH

Port-au-Prince, August 17, 2004 (AHP)- The five police officers from the CIMO brigade of the PNH who were abducted last weekend in the vicinity of Mome à Cabris in the Center department returned to their base this Tuesday.

These police officers said they had been kidnapped by more than 30 demobilized soldiers. The police had been sent to the region to counter the acts of insecurity.

"These former soldiers beat us and seized our vehicle and our weapons", the freed police officers reported. They believe their lives were spared only because of the presence of a large number of people at the time they were abducted.

The CIMO officers pointed an accusing finger at the Director General of the Haitian National Police (PNH), Léon Charles, and the Central Director of the Administrative Police, Destourel Germain, who they believe to be involved in this act of kidnapping.

"They sent us into the area with a very precise objective", they declared. they called for the dismissal of the two men whom they accuse of supporting the actions of the former soldiers.

One of the police officers recalled having seen Destourel Germain greeting the former soldiers and giving them instructions during their parade on August 15th.

"The former soldiers are committing all sorts of abuses and the interim government has never done anything to put them in a position where they can do no harm except for a parody of a communiqué calling on them to lay down their arms by September 15 at the latest", said the CIMO members.

They announced that they will stop working until the directors of the national police come forward to clarify the circumstances surrounding the kidnapping of their colleagues.

They also denounced a plan by senior management of the national police aimed, they say, at demobilizing several specialized units of the PNH, notably CIMO and the SWAT Team.

This is a plan, they said, by former members of the military who find themselves in senior positions at the PNH, which is focused on the reconstitution of the army.

The CIMO police officers also called for the release of the commissioner from the SWAT Team and his deputy who were arrested last weekend.

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