

Reuters AlertNet Full site

[Homepage](#) | [Login](#) | [Newsdesk](#) | [From the field](#) | [Emergencies](#) | [Relief resources](#) | [Africa](#) | [Americas](#) | [Asia](#) | [Europe](#) | [Middle East](#) | [Country profiles](#)

NEWSDESK

08 Sep 2004 23:24:48 GMT
Haitian police kill three rebels

(Updates with third rebel killed, police held hostage)

By Joseph Guyler Delva

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Sept 8 (Reuters) - Haitian police and U.N. troops shot and killed three rebels, and another group of rebels retaliated by briefly holding a group of policemen hostage on Wednesday.

Violence has escalated in the last few days as the national police and rebel former soldiers battle for control of security in Haiti.

Police killed two rebels who ignored warnings to put down their weapons at a checkpoint in Port-au-Prince on Tuesday night, Police Commissioner Fritz Gerald Appolon said. The two wore camouflage uniforms and rode in a vehicle that had been seized from police and relabeled as an army vehicle, he said.

"One of them got off the vehicle with an M-14 (rifle), we ordered him to lay down the weapon. Instead, he shot at a policeman ... then we replied and both of them were killed," Appolon told Reuters on Wednesday.

The two came from Petit-Goave, a southern town seized nearly two weeks ago by former soldiers who want to re-establish the army, which was disbanded in 1994 by then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Rebel leader Remissainthe Ravix condemned the killings and said: "We are preparing an appropriate response to what happened."

Hours later, a rebel group fired gunshots at a police station in the central town of Hinche. Police and U.N. troops fired back, killing one of the rebels, witnesses said.

In Petit Goave, rebels took four policemen hostage and seized their weapons, but later released them.

Ravix fought alongside top rebel leader Guy Philippe during the armed revolt that toppled Aristide's government in February. He said interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue helped finance the revolt, but Latortue's office declined to comment.

The rebels called Latortue and other interim government officials traitors.

"Latortue told us he would restore the army and satisfy several of our demands. He did just the contrary. It seems he hasn't learned any lesson from what happened to Aristide," Ravix told Reuters.

Haitian police, backed by U.N. troops sent to restore stability to Haiti, raided the town of Saint-Marc north of Port-au-Prince on Tuesday and took back the city that rebel former soldiers had seized a day earlier.

Ravix has refused to meet with a commission named by Latortue to negotiate a political compromise between the interim government and the former soldiers. Interim authorities have said they will let up to 1,000 former soldiers join the police force but rejected their demand for 10 years worth of back wages.

AlertNet news is provided by **REUTERS** 

[Email this article](#) [Send comments](#)