

**Port-au-Prince, January 7, 2005 (AHP)**-Shootings broke out this Friday in the district of Bois-Neuf in Cité Soleil during an intervention from the National Police of Haiti in the district of Bois-Neuf with the support of the MINUSTAH.

The Jordanian contingent lead the operation for the MINUSTHA. 63 persons were arrested, among whom are two gang leaders, according to spokesperson of the UN mission, Damien Oncès Cardona who also declared that two foreign soldiers were injured. However, he did not react to the information given by residents of Bois-Neuf stating that there were dead and wounded people.

This situation broke into an improvised demonstration by residents of the largest shantytown in the country to protest against the presence of the police in this town. Since December 14, 2004, the MINUSTAH and the PNH have a permanent presence in Cité Soleil to allow that activities resume normally.

On another part, the Police arrested Wednesday several young people in the popular district of Fort National including a leader of a populist organization named Jimmy.

These young people are reportedly incarcerated at the anti-gang service, according to their relatives who say they fear greatly for their physical integrity. They call the national and international human rights organizations to say their word in this matter.

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**The GDP denounces the minister of justice's interference in the judges' work and demands his resignation**

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**Port-au-Prince, January 7, 2005 (AHP)**-Coordinator of the Group for the Defense of Political Prisoners' Rights (GDP), Ronald St-Jean, accused Friday Minister of Justice Bernard Gousse of interfering with the judges' work.

Ronald St-Jean declared he wants to bring this revolting situation to Haitians' and the international community's attention. He gave the example of a letter from Bernard Gousse to the doyen of Port-au-Prince's civil court in which the attorney general asks him to take judges Bredy Fabien and Jean Sénat Fleury off a series of cases.

Me Gousse tried, he said, to justify his demand with the fact that "parents of those to be tried reportedly complained about the slowness seen in treating the cases submitted to these judges in criminal court".

The judges concerned would indeed be involved in cases of a series of political prisoners.

Following Minister Gousse's request, doyen Jean-Joseph Lebrun was supposed to invite them for a meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> for a "clarification", according to an official at the Ministry of

Justice.

According to the GDP leader, it is an official from the interim government who stopped the APENA from releasing a group of 4 political prisoners who had received an order of release from prison. They are former mayor Harold Sévère, Rospide Pétion, Anthony Nazaire and Paul Keller.

Ronald Saint-Jean demands the departure of Minister Gousse as he is the "minister of injustice", he said.

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