

TAB 4

The UNNOH accuses the interim government of taking no measures to help the reopening of classes in areas considered at risk.

Port-au-Prince, January 7, 2005 (AHP)- Coordinator of the National Union of Haitian teachers-in-Training (UNNOH), Josué Mériilien, denounced Friday the interim authorities' behavior as they adopted, he said, no measures to help the reopening of classes on Monday January 10th in populist districts, notably in Bel-air and in Cité Soleil.

Josué Mériilien also criticized Minister of Education Pierre Buteau's decision to force schoolboys and girls from public schools in areas known to be at risk to take their classes in schools far from their neighborhoods. "Has the Ministry of Education planned special fees for teachers who will to pay have additional expenses to get to these new schools", Mr. Mériilien wondered.

He calls the interim government to assume its responsibilities in order to guarantee security in all schools of the country.

Coordinator of the National Union of Haitian teachers-in-Training (UNNOH), Josué Mériilien, supports the strike of resident physicians at the general hospital that has been lasting for 8 days to demand the payment of 3 months of back wages and better working conditions. Josué Mériilien also warned the doctors who would agree to make compromises with Minister of Public Health Josette Bijou in order to block the movement of resident physicians in the largest hospital of the country.

Coordinator of the UNNOH considered that the interim authorities' refusal to comply with the resident physicians' demands and therefore put an end to the crisis at the general hospital clearly proves that we are facing an ultra liberal power. He also denounced the procedures undertaken by the transition government to privatize the general hospital.

For his part, General Secretary of the Haitian Teachers National Corps (CONEH), Paul St-Preux, declared that he does not understand how the Ministry of National Education takes care of some issues, notably the poor running of the Alexandre Pétiion College because of insecurity.

Paul St-Preux also criticized the Ministry's decision to order the reopening of classes in

Gonaïves without thinking, he said, of all the children who need psychological help after the shock they lived with the cyclone Jeanne who killed thousands of people.

He wondered about the quality of the education that the Ministry of Education advocates as it is trying, he said, to exclude a category of people in society.

AHP January 7, 2005 2:05 PM

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.

AHP January 7, 2005 3:45 PM

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

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 6th 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.

AHP January 7, 2005 4:20 PM

TAB 5

Investigating Judge Jean Sénat Fleury announces that he is resigning to protest the Justice Minister's disregard for the principle of separation of powers

Port-au-Prince, January 10, 2005; (AHP)- Jean Sénat Fleury, announced Monday that he is resigning from his position as examining magistrate at the civil tribunal of Port-au-Prince.

Judge Fleury is taking this step he said, because of the violation by Justice Minister Bernard Gousse of the principle of separation of powers.

Jean Sénat Fleury said his criticism of Mr. Gousse was based on the Minister's order issued to the senior judge of the civil court, Jean-Joseph Lebrun, to remove him and Judge Brédy Fabien from a number of cases on the pretext that relatives of individuals whose cases are being investigated by the offices of these two judges have complained of the slow pace of progress of their cases.

"We condemn this act, which constitutes a flagrant violation of the Constitution and is also an attack on the honor and integrity of a magistrate", said Judge Fleury.

"With a Minister like Bernard Gousse, the Haitian judicial system can not move forward", remarked Judge Jean Sénat Fleury. He went on to describe Mr. Gousse as incompetent.

"I still represent an impediment standing in the way of many ministers who wish to act outside the law, given that I generally do not take orders from anyone with respect to the performance of my duties", declared Judge Fleury, who affirmed that he has always availed himself of the law and his own conscience.

He said he hopes that with his departure things somehow will go better within the judicial system as Bernard Gousse has suggested.

AHP January 10, 2005 3:10 PM

TAB 6

The President of the Haitian Senate claims to be the object of further political persecution

Port-au-Prince, January 11, 2005 (AHP)- Haitian Senate President Yvon Feuillé said Tuesday that he is the object of a fresh round of political persecution.

Arrested in October 2004 along with former Deputy Rudy Hérivaux at the conclusion of a politically oriented radio show on which he had appeared as a guest at a Port-au-Prince radio station, he was released on December 23rd because the charges against him could not be substantiated.

Yvon Feuillé appeared Monday before the court in Les Cayes after a local official of the OPL party (Organization of the People in Struggle) named Claude Bernard accused him of involvement in the fire that broke out at his home on February 24, several days before the departure of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Senator Feuillé appeared before Judge Fougère Jean Louis, and said this latest action was a new maneuver in the game of intimidation seeking to neutralize him, he said, in order that supporters of Fanmi Lavalas become afraid to hold meetings in the South.

"The threats and accusations are increasing because they are simply afraid of the power represented by Fanmi Lavalas", said Senator Feuillé, who reaffirmed his determination not to let himself be intimidated.

He also announced that an important rally of members of the party in Les Cayes will soon be held as a means of preparation for contributing to the process of reconstruction of the nation.

In addition, the Senator denounced the attacks made against him personally in the South department.

He charged that Coles Constant, who is an opponent of Lavalas, threw rocks at him. He survived the attack thanks to the assistance provided by the population, he said.

Yvon Feuillé deplored that Commissioner Eugène Yacinthe refused to pay any attention to a complaint he filed with the office of the prosecutor after this attack.

Supporters of Fanmi Lavalas said Tuesday that these attacks prove that the necessary conditions have clearly not been satisfied for the participate in the elections announced by the interim government.

They issue us an invitation while at the same time they attack us", said one Bel-Air activist.

TAB 7

Council On Hemispheric Affairs

MONITORING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC ISSUES AFFECTING THE WESTERN
HEMISPHERE

Memorandum to the Press 05.03

Thursday 13, January 2005

Word Count: 750

Buying Off Haiti's "Thugs" Washington still supports Latortue's Failed State

- There is an emerging consensus that Haiti's interim government is a bankrupt regime.
- Payments to ex-soldiers reward violence and is a pure case of succumbing to extortion.
- Washington does not deign to comment on the Haitian ex-military's successful extortion even though it helps to pay the bill.

For months, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) has been calling attention to the incompetence, irresponsibility and blatantly lawless practices of Prime Minister Gerard Latortue's interim government in Haiti. Though COHA has repeatedly referred to Haiti as a "failed state," the national press has methodically ignored the regime's capacity for corruption, profligacy, extensive human rights violations and systematic flouting of the rule of law. Recently, however, a consensus has begun to emerge among international policymakers that Latortue and his rogue Justice Minister, Bernard Gousse, are indeed leading a failed state, replete with multiple assaults against basic democratic institutions. As reported on January 2 by Michael Kamber in the New York Times, one of the interim prime minister's own officials stated, on condition of anonymity, "Latortue is not serious about the security situation. The civil wars in Somalia and Lebanon started like this and that's where we are heading." Added to this already explosive situation was the manner in which the Latortue regime botched preparations for Tropical Storm Jeanne in which several thousand Haitians lost their lives, and the chaotic manner in which he handled its aftermath.

Bribing Thugs

One of the most distressing developments in Latortue's mishandling of his governmental responsibilities was his recent decision to virtually bribe members of the ex-military in the hope of appeasing these perpetrators of violence. Last month the government began paying off the 5,000 ex-members of the Haitian military after a number of them had raided and set up shop in Aristide's former Port-au-Prince residence. A longstanding demand of the soldiers was to be compensated for the period since Aristide disbanded the military in 1994, a move that was roundly welcomed at the time by Haitians. The situation

has now become all but surreal: an illegal and rogue military force that had been disbanded by Aristide for its hideous human rights abuses under the 1991 – 1994 military dictatorship of General Raoul Cedras has now intimidated Latortue into paying them five thousand dollars each for having murdered up to six thousand civilians during the period of military rule.

Dereliction of Duty

The disbursement of such bribes to the ex-military, particularly after the brutality they displayed to pro-Aristide civilians in the month preceding the February 29, 2004 ouster of Aristide, is just one of the many reasons why the Southern Command of the United States army now refers to the regime as “the now-discredited Latortue government.” Astoundingly, Latortue has claimed he does not have a mandate for dealing with the ex-military. In response, one could say that Latortue has no mandate to exercise any authority whatsoever since he was installed by the U.S. under a hastily provided, but entirely fabricated scenario. Moreover, under the command of Brazilian General Augusto Heleno, the U.N.’s Mission Force in Haiti, MINUSTAH, is not prepared to take on the ex-Haitian army either: Heleno has declared, “I command a peacekeeping force, not an occupation force.”

It is patently clear that the time has come to transfer MINUSTAH into an occupying force – or whatever terminology is required to satisfy General Heleno – in order to end the malignant threat posed by leaders of the former Haitian armed forces. If not, it will continue to pose a mortal danger to civil society. As things now stand, the ex-army is growing in power daily and may use extortionist means to hold up the election next November or, at the least, keep Aristide’s Lavalas party supporters from the polls, particularly if there is any interruption in payments to the ex-armed forces.

This already emboldened “band of thugs,” to use Secretary Powell’s words from only days before Aristide’s ouster, can only further erode the UN’s credibility so long as Latortue plays lap dog to the former coup plotters. A renewed mandate for MINUSTAH must include the authority to go after Haiti’s ex-military. Until then, it will only be perceived by the Haitian people as the international wing of Latortue’s ineffectual and corrupt regime.

This opinion-editorial was authored by COHA Senior Research Fellow, Seth R. DeLong, Ph.D.

January 12, 2005

COHA HOME PAGE

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TAB 8

Four people die during a police operation in La Saline: tension reigns and rounds of gunfire are heard in several other districts of the capital

Port-au-Prince, January 12, 2005 (AHP)- At least four people were killed and several others injured this Wednesday in La Saline in the context of an operation led by the Haitian National Police (PNH) and supported by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

According to PNH Spokesperson Jessy Cameau Coicou, an M-14 rifle was seized by the police during the operation at the bus station in La Saline serving passengers to Gonaïves and Port-de Paix.

During another police intervention at Croix-des-Bouquets, seven suspected bandits were taken into custody, added Ms. Coicou.

Knives, ammunition for automatic weapons, and marijuana were also seized according to the police spokesperson.

And there was a tense atmosphere this Wednesday in the Haitian capital.

Heavily armed individuals caused a panic in several parts of Port-au-Prince, notably the downtown area and in Poste-Marchand, Lalue, and in the vicinity of the Champ-de-Mars.

This situation caused activities to slow down in the downtown business district.

Some schools had to close their doors in these areas as parents hurried to pick up their children.

Along Avenue Pouplard and in Nazon, the situation was not noticeably different. A vehicle of the CNE was set on fire by armed men who fired their guns.

In these neighborhoods, truck drivers, taxi drivers and passers-by ran in all directions.

AHP January 12, 2005 2:45 PM

TAB 9

**Judge who recently ordered release of pro-Aristide priest resigns in Haiti**

By AMY BRACKEN

Associated Press Writer

469 words

10 January 2005

05:42 pm

Associated Press Newswires

English

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PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - A judge who recently ordered the release of a Roman Catholic priest with ties to ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned Monday, citing government interference with his duties.

Judge Jean Senat Fleury had ordered the release of Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste in November after the priest -- who was a vocal Aristide supporter -- spent nearly seven weeks in jail. Fleury said there was not enough evidence to accuse Jean-Juste of planning acts of violence, including murder.

Violence has swelled in the slum strongholds of Aristide since Sept. 30, leaving more than 200 people dead, as his partisans stepped up demands for his return from exile in South Africa. Jean-Juste was detained in October.

In addition to accusing prominent Aristide allies of orchestrating the violence, Haiti's U.S.-backed interim government has also blamed Aristide himself for supporting the violence from abroad. Aristide, who left the Caribbean country of 8 million people on Feb. 29, denies the charge.

In a resignation letter addressed to Justice Minister Bernard Gousse and obtained by The Associated Press, Fleury cited an order by Gousse to give all his cases to other judges, saying he was moving too slowly on them.

"Considering that such measures constitute a grave attack on my honor and integrity as a magistrate, a flagrant violation of the Constitution and the laws of the country, particularly in the separation of powers ... I resign as judge of the First Instance Court of Port-au-Prince," he wrote.

Fleury, who did not specifically cite a link between his resignation and the Jean-Juste case, had worked at the court for 18 years. Fleury was not immediately available for comment.

Gousse had ordered the transfer of all Fleury's cases, as well as those of Judge Bredy Fabien, in a Dec. 30 letter to the court clerk, a week after Fabien ordered the immediate release of four prisoners, all once connected with Aristide.

Prison officials disregarded Fabien's release orders and the four men remain in custody.

"Gousse took away their cases just after blocking the release of the political prisoners," said Ronald Saint-Jean, a prisoner rights activist. "It is evident the move was political."

Gousse told private Radio Solidarite his move was simply to speed up the judicial process. He said his office had received reports that some judges were not doing their work, so officials ordered the court clerk "to take the cases from those judges and give them to other judges with the competence, intelligence, to do the work."

Some human rights organizations claim there are more than 100 political prisoners in Haiti's jails, while the government says there are none.

(ab-fg)

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Document APRS000020050110e11a00ogx.

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TAB 10

A political prisoner's lawyer declares that he registered a complaint against the director general of the APENA for refusing to release a prisoner for whom an order of release had been given

Port-au-Prince, January 13, 2005 (AHP)- Lawyer of former police captain Anthony Nazaire, Me Coque Junior, announced Wednesday that he had registered a complaint against the director general of the National Penal Administration (APENA), Claude Junior Théodate for confining one his clients illegally, he said.

The APENA director still hasn't followed the order of release written for Mr. Nazaire and former mayor Harold Sévère despite the fact that an order of release has been written for them. Out of the 4 Lavalas prisoners concerned by this order of release written by the criminal court, only 2 have been released, Pétion Rospide and former CNE director Paul Keller.

Me Coque declared that political hands were behind the APENA director's decision. "I thought the reign of arbitrary was over, he declared.

For his part, leader of the *Alliance pour la libération et l'Avancement d'Haïti* (ALLAH), Rénoïd Georges, declared he was shocked by the decision not to release prisoners for whom an order of release has been written. Me Georges reminded APENA officials that they are representatives of the public prosecutor and that they are supposed to follow the justice's decisions by the book.

"If APENA officials refuse to comply, they must be put in isolation, dismissed and judged, in accordance with the penal code", Me Reynold Georges declared.

AHP January 13, 2005 11:30 AM

A subordinate reportedly stopped the APENA director general from releasing Anthony Nazaire

Port-au-Prince, January 13, 2005 (AHP)- The director of the Arcahaie civil prison reportedly decided to keep political prisoner Anthony Nazaire in prison against the advice of APENA director general Claude Théodate, despite an order of release written by examining magistrate Brédy Fabien.

According to leader of the Group for the Defense of Political Prisoners' Rights (GDP) Ronald St-Jean, Claude Théodate reportedly went to Arcahaie himself to release the prisoner, but was reportedly kept from doing so by a subordinate, the director of this town' prison. This director reportedly declared that he had received a different order from a police higher official.

The GDP coordinator denounced this insubordination and this attempt from the Executive to muzzle the judicial apparatus, he said. Ronald St-Jean called the APENA director general who is known to be an honest man to assume his responsibilities and to allow the release of

TAB 11

AHP News January 14, 2005

English translation (Unofficial)

Agents from the Haitian police seize a camera from Télé Ginen and they give it back hours later without giving back the tape

Port-au-Prince, January 14, 2005- (AHP)- Agents of the National Police confiscated for several hours Friday a camera from the private television "Télé Ginen", during an operation covered by journalists in the Village de Dieu, and in which two persons died.

The policemen accused the cameraman to have only made a point of filming the police officers in action, instead of showing, they said, the bandits which maintain violence in this popular district the capital.

The journalists who was with the cameraman, Harry Francillon, compared the policemen's action to a serious case of aggression. They were very threatening when they seized the camera, he also declared.

The materiel was given back several hours later to a journalist from the television at the Police Departmental Management Office of the West (DDO) at Champ-de-Mars. However, the tape of the report was not given back. The television is now being checked to make sure it was not damaged.

AHP January 14, 2005 3:30 PM

Journalists from the Nouvelliste daily newspaper severely beaten up in Bel-Air

Port-au-Prince, January 14, 2005- (AHP)- Two reporters of the Nouvelliste daily newspaper were severely beaten this Friday by armed individuals in the popular district of Bel-Air in Port-au-Prince.

Claude Benard Sérant and Jonel Juste were in report in this district suffering with serious violence since several months, when they were the targets of these individuals. Both reporters intended to draw up the state of the place after the cleaning operations done in Bel-Air by patrols of United Nations Mission to Stabilize Haiti (MINUUSTHA), editor of the Nouvelliste, Pierre Manigat Junior pointed out.

TAB 12

CARLI condemns the attacks against the journalists of Le Nouvelliste and a news crew from Télé Ginen

Port-au-Prince, January 17, 2005 (AHP)- The Committee of Lawyers for the Respect of Individual Liberties (CARLI), spoke out Monday to condemn the savage attack against Claude Bernard Sérant and Jonel Juste on Friday January 14 by armed individuals in the populist district of Bel-Air.

CARLI also expressed indignation at the behavior of the police toward television cameramen from Télé Ginen, who were forced to turn over their camera to the police on the pretext that they had done a poor job of filming the unfolding of a police operation at Cité de Dieu on January 13.

According to CARLI, these practices show the extent of intolerance and barbarity that is characteristic of Haitian society, and recalled that journalism is a freely practiced legitimate profession, recognized and protected by the Constitution and international human rights treaties.

"The journalist freely exercises his profession under the law. This exercise can not be submitted to any authorization nor censorship except in the event of war; he can receive and transmit information and ideas by any means of expression available, without regard to borders", recalled CARLI.

CARLI went on to express its deep concern at reports suggesting that sitting judges are the object of threats, pressure and intimidation from officials at the Ministry of Justice.

CARLI stressed that justice is to be dispensed in an atmosphere free of any unjustified intervention or interference, and asked the authorities instead to offer Haitian judges more resources with respect to the fulfillment of their mission in order to facilitate an improved distribution of justice, which is a sine qua non condition for the construction of a state governed by the rule of law.

Several foreign journalists currently reporting from Haiti have been outraged at the latest attacks suffered by the two groups of Haitian journalists: the two reporters from Le Nouvelliste and a news crew from Télé Ginen.

The foreign reporters considered that the assaults on freedom of the press represent very serious setbacks for any system that wishes to be democratic.

They also denounced any selective or discriminatory coverage of events. "This is an attitude that is contrary to professional ethics and risks encouraging and aggravating the polarization of Haitian society, which is already torn apart", they said.

Ronald Saint-Jean also criticized what he indicated was an effort by NCHR to trivialize the case of Jimmy Charles by explaining that he was released before he was executed.

AHP has been unsuccessful in its attempt to reach an NCHR official by telephone in order to obtain NCHR's version of the facts.

AHP January 17, 2005 1:00 PM

At least 10 people have been killed and dozens others arrested in the latest police operations in the populist districts

Port-au-Prince, January 17, 2005 (AHP)- One person was killed and several others arrested this Monday by officers of the Haitian police during a new intervention in the populist district of Fort National.

According to local residents, the victim is known as Ti Pouchon and is not a criminal, contrary to the allegations of the police.

In related news, no information has been brought forth to date to shed light on the killings of close to 10 youths this past October in this same neighborhood by men wearing police uniforms and riding aboard a police vehicle.

At least ten people have been killed and dozens others arrested last week alone during police operations conducted in the various populist districts of Port-au-Prince.

Officials of the Haitian National Police have explained that these individuals, described as bandits by the police, were killed during exchanges of gunfire with officers of the PNH.

Residents in these populist districts reject these accusations and instead are accusing the police of wishing to silence everyone whom they suspect of not supporting the plan to hold elections this year.

In addition, several schools in the center of the capital, particularly those on Lamarre Street at the entrance to the populist district of Bel-Air, said they were facing great difficulties this Monday when police officers who were pursuing a group of armed men fired tear gas grenades, some of which landed in the school playgrounds.

The directors of these schools asked the police to act with greater discipline and professionalism in the course of these operations to prevent students and other members of the public from becoming victims.

For their part, residents of Dieu Village continue to abandon the neighborhood, saying they fear renewed police operations.

According to residents of this community, six people including an adolescent have already been killed by officers of the PNH.

"The worst thing is that anyone at all can end up a victim because the police consider everyone they see through their rifle sites to be bandits", exclaimed an elderly man who felt compelled to abandon his home.

The residents of Village de Dieu asked officials of the Haitian National Police (PNH) and MINUSTAH to help the police conduct their operations lucidly to prevent creating any more innocent victims from among the population.

AHP January 17, 2005 2:30 PM

TAB 13

Haiti News Roundup

January 18, 2005

Hardbeatnews.com

Violence Continues In Haiti

Hardbeatnews, PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Mon. Jan 17, 2005: A U.S. travel warning remained in place for Haiti last night, on the conclusion of a weekend that was marked by robbery and violence in this strife-torn Caribbean nation.

On Friday, reporters Claude Bernard Serant and Jonel Juste, of the *Le Nouvelliste* newspaper, were beaten and robbed by several men in the slum of Bel Air.

And yesterday, Raymond Lafontant, the chief adviser to interim prime minister, Gerard Latortue, was shot and wounded during a failed carjacking attempt in Port-au-Prince.

Government spokesman, Mike Joseph, was quoted in wire reports as saying Lafontant was shot in the stomach when a small group of men trying to steal his car could not get it started.

The robbery and violence continues in several sections of the capital, despite the presence of 7,400 U.N. peacekeepers and as Juan Gabriel Valdes, the top U.N. envoy to Haiti, urged followers of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to reject violence and take part in elections slated for later this year.

Meanwhile, Barbados' foreign minister, Dame Billie Miller, has told the United Nations Security Council on Haiti, that while CARICOM remains committed to the people of Haiti, concerns persist over breaches of fundamental rights by a persistent failure to prosecute the "rebels" for their criminal activity.

While calling for free and fair elections, Miller said, the "... building of democracy in Haiti and the creation of a stable political, social and economic order require the long term commitment of the Haitians and of their partners in the international community."

The United Nations Security Council agreed to organize a mission to Haiti before 1 June, possibly in conjunction with a mission of the UN Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. – Hardbeatnews.com

TAB 14



Sen. Nelson on Haiti Coup: "Hard to Say We Support Democracy and Elections and then We Go and Push [Aristide] Out"

Wednesday, January 19th, 2005

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=05/01/19/1510217>

At her confirmation hearing for Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice was questioned about the situation in Haiti and the 2004 coup d'etat that ousted the democratically-elected President Jean Bertrand-Aristide. We play an excerpt of the hearing and speak with Larry Birns of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs. [includes rush transcript]

At the hearing, Rice was also questioned about another country in the Western hemisphere: Haiti. Last year the democratically-elected president of Haiti, Jean Bertrand Aristide, was overthrown in what he calls a modern-day kidnapping in the service of a coup d'etat backed by the United States.

Since then, the situation in the country has deteriorated rapidly under the new, unelected government, which the Caribbean Community bloc CARICOM refuses to recognize.

A new report released by the Center for the Study of Human Rights at the University of Miami School of Law describes the situation like this "Haiti's people churn inside a hurricane of violence. Gunfire crackles, once bustling streets are abandoned to cadavers, and whole neighborhoods are cut off from the outside world. Nightmarish fear now accompanies Haiti's poorest in their struggle to survive in destitution. Gangs, police, irregular soldiers, and even UN peacekeepers bring fear."

At Rice's Senate confirmation hearing yesterday, Democratic Senator Bill Nelson of Florida was one of those who questioned her about Haiti.

- Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) questioning Secretary of State nominee Condoleezza Rice about the situation in Haiti, January 18, 2005.
- **Larry Birns**, Director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington DC.

RUSH TRANSCRIPT

This transcript is available free of charge, however donations help us provide closed captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing on our TV broadcast. Thank you for your generous contribution.

favor to win, if it doesn't win, we cut off all aid. In regard to Haiti, there is a totally failed, superimposed interim government, the Latortue government. There is a minister of justice, who is really the minister of injustice. You talk about a failed state under Aristide. In fact, the United States froze all aid to Haiti, and wouldn't even send riot control gear to Aristide. He did not have the weapons to defend himself against a resuscitated military force of the old Haitian military under the military junta that ruled from 1991 to 1994. This junta was approaching -- these forces were approaching Port-au-Prince, and Colin Powell said we will not permit a gang of thugs, the military, to overthrow a constitutional president, which is precisely what he allowed to happen.

AMY GOODMAN: And Condoleezza Rice's direct involvement in dealing with, even pressuring the prime minister of Jamaica not to keep -- allow Aristide to stay there.

LARRY BIRNS: Yes, yes. That was when Aristide was allowed to visit Haiti -- Jamaica for 30 days. She described that as an unconstructive act. Unmitigated -- that is, unremitting pressure was brought upon the prime minister to get rid of Aristide.

AMY GOODMAN: Larry Birns of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs. We thank you for being with us. We will continue to cover the Rice hearings tomorrow on Democracy Now!, as well as the confirmation hearings of others in President Bush's cabinet.

www.democracynow.org

TAB 15

The AJH Secretary General believes he has reliable information that the police did indeed execute journalist Abdias Jean

Port-au-Prince, January 19, 2005 (AHP)- Guyler C. Delva, Secretary General of the AJH (Association of Haitian Journalists), spoke in condemnation Wednesday of the killing of journalist Abdias Jean in Village de Dieu during a police operation conducted in that populist district on Friday, January 14.

Guy Delva said he has solid information indicating that the crime was committed by police officers who pursued Mr. Jean to a house after he witnessed their crimes.

Two other youths were killed during this police sweep.

Mr. Delva said he was amazed to find that police officers are summarily executing journalists and seizing the tools of their trade because they have witnessed criminal conduct.

"I can not comprehend how such practices can take place at a time when one is talking about the rule of law and democracy", declared Mr. Delva.

He called for the opening of a rigorous investigation into this case.

For his part, Ronald St-Jean, director of the Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the Haitian People (CDPH), took issue with the recent statements of interim Prime Minister Gérard Latortue assuring that his government would not sink to engaging in arbitrary practices.

By way of examples, Ronald St-Jean cited the case of the summary execution of Lavalas activist Jimmy Charles, whose bullet-ridden body was discovered Saturday in La Saline though he was known to have been in police custody, and the case of journalist Abdias Jean who was killed Friday in Village de Dieu during a PNH intervention in this populist district.

Mr. St-Jean strongly urged that an autopsy be performed on the body of the journalist as a means of producing additional verification.

He also condemned the behavior of the police toward journalists from Télé Ginen during the same operation.

PNH officers had seized the video camera of the journalists and only returned it several hours later without the video cassette that had been in the camera.

According to the CDPH official, this attitude clearly shows that the police are trying to hide their misdeeds.

Haitian Police - PNH - Accused of Eliminating Witnesses of Brutality
Agence Haïtienne de Presse - Haitian Press Agency - AHP
January 19, 2005

Consternation following the murder of a journalist in Cité de Dieu during a police operation: the mother of the victim accuses the police of having acted deliberately to eliminate an embarrassing witness

Port-au-Prince, January 19, 2005 (AHP)- The mother of a journalist murdered during a Haitian police intervention in "Village de Dieu", Port-au-Prince accused officers of the force of having summarily executed their son.

Abdias Jean, correspondent for WKAT 1360 radio in Miami and a law student as well, was killed Friday while he was covering the police sweep that resulted in two other deaths.

According to Mme. Raymonde Jean, the police murdered her son because he was a witness to the abuses committed by the police in Cité de Dieu.

"He was eliminated despite the fact that he had been clearly identified", she said. She denounced the indiscriminate actions of the police when it intervenes in the populist districts.

For her part, National Police spokesperson, Jessy Cameau Coicou, rejected any responsibility on the part of the police force in the killing of the journalist.

"These are nothing more than gratuitous accusations against the PNH (Haitian National Police)", Ms. Coicou indicated. The police force has nothing to do with the cases of summary executions and arson attacks on homes of activists who are being sought by the police, she insisted.

The police spokesperson also said that the police have no complaints with the press, and she invited members of the public and journalists alike who are victims of abuses by the police to file a complaint against any officer responsible for abuses.

During the police operation that took a tragic turn for Abdias Jean, PNH officers also mistreated a news crew from the private television broadcaster Télé Ginen, confiscating a video camera and only returning it several hours later but without the cassette containing

video of the police action.

The majority of people killed during these police sweeps in the populist districts are generally described by the PNH as bandits who are killed during an exchange of gunfire.

However several other sectors have accused the police of engaging in summary executions, in collaboration with attachés (civilian irregular police auxiliaries). Some residents have even accused the police of setting up a unit called "the zero tolerance brigade".

These revelations have been backed up by the recent statements of a leader of the former opposition to Aristide. Jean Nazaire Thidé of the National Alliance of Democratic Forces, spoke out Tuesday to denounce the summary executions carried out, he said, by Haitian police officers working together with "attachés".

"I am astonished to find that the police continue even today to engage in summary executions of Haitians", said Mr. Thidé, adding that many individuals have been killed even after having been subdued by the police.

At least four young people have been killed at Corridor Bassia: the police are suspects in the incident

Port-au-Prince, January 19, 2005 (AHP)- At least four youths were killed and several homes of members of Populist Organizations were set on fire during a vast police operation conducted Tuesday at Corridor Bassia, on Félix Street in Port-au-Prince.

Residents of these populist districts charged that officers of CIMO (The specialized Unit for Intervention and Maintaining Order) as well as attachés had summarily executed the youths before setting several homes on fire.

One of the youths was killed as he returned from work at the National Port Authority, said local residents.

The mother of Clairmond Déricé, one of the young people killed on Félix Street, accused the police of having carried off the body of her son.

The families of the other victims denounced the executions which have become almost a daily routine in the populist districts. They also criticized what they called the complicit silence of some human rights organizations with regard to these killings.

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The PNH spokesperson states that the force has no responsibility toward chained and injured prisoners who are without health care at the General Hospital due to the strike by resident physicians
.....

Port-au-Prince, January 19, 2005 (AHP)- National Police spokesperson Jessy Cameau Coicou said Wednesday that the doctors at the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH) are the only ones responsible for providing health care services for Haitians who suffer bullet wounds during police interventions and who are identified as dangerous bandits.

Ms. Coicou was reacting to criticism lamenting that these individuals, who are held in chains, are practically abandoned to their fate at the General Hospital where they risk dying because of the unlimited doctors strike, already in its third week.

"The doctors should shoulder their responsibilities by resuming work at the country's largest hospital center, said Mme. Coicou, who is herself a doctor.

"No special treatment has been foreseen for chained prisoners", she said, explaining that providing health care services to the sick is not the job of the police.

AHP January 19, 2005 2:00 PM

TAB 16

Haitians accuse police of killing radio journalist

By Joseph Guyler Delva

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Jan 19 (Reuters) - Haitian police executed several youngsters and a radio journalist during a raid in a slum stronghold of support for the country's ousted president, witnesses and a human rights group said on Wednesday.

On Friday, dozens of heavily armed policemen raided Village de Dieu, a Port-au-Prince shantytown believed to be a bastion of gangs loyal to former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was driven into exile during an armed revolt last year.

Police acknowledged killing several people during the raid, and described them as bandits killed in an exchange of gunfire.

Ronald St-Jean, an activist with the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of the Haitian People, and several residents said at least a dozen people were killed by police during the raid. They said several of them were executed, including a journalist, Abdias Jean, who may have seen police shoot and kill three youngsters.

"The police called three young men that were coming out of a corridor. The police were pressing the youngsters to tell them where armed bandits were hiding," said Maxon Beauduy, who said he saw the incident from inside his house. "When they (the youngsters) said they did not know, the police killed them after blaming them for hiding criminals."

Another witness, Magalie Jean, said that as she took cover, she heard Jean screaming, "Don't kill me, I am a journalist. Why should I be killed like that?"

"Then I heard a series of gunshots and it was over for him," she told Reuters.

Maxon Beauduy, who also said he witnessed the incident, said police severely beat Jean and then, "After beating him, they took him a little farther and shot him dead."

A police spokeswoman, Jessie Coicou, refused on Wednesday to confirm or deny the allegations and urged families to "file complaints before relevant courts of justice if they think they have a case."

The police don't have to defend themselves before the media. Since I heard there are several witnesses, I hope they will accept to testify before a judge," Coicou said.

"I can tell you that the police high command has never instructed policemen to perform such behavior," Coicou said.

Police said the raid was part of a broader effort to crack down on armed gangs. Some 200 people have been killed since early September in gang wars and clashes between Aristide supporters and foes.

U.N. troops were sent to stabilize the chaotic country after Aristide's departure. The U.N. secretary-general's special representative in Haiti, Juan Gabriel Valdes, said last week that he was concerned about reports that Haitian police have been responsible for repeated human rights abuses.

TAB 17

Some see quagmire for Brazil troops in Haiti

By Angus MacSwan

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan 20 (Reuters) - It all started so optimistically for Brazil's peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

Back in June, a grateful population welcomed the troops. Brazil's soccer superstars showed up to play a special "peace game" and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited the blighted Caribbean country to spread his brand of good cheer.

The mission would show that Brazil was ready to assume a role as a regional diplomatic power with a more socially aware approach than the heavy-handed United States.

It is turning out to be more complicated than that.

Armed factions in Haiti have grown more violent and clashes between peacekeepers and Haitians have raised the risk that people will turn against the foreign troops.

Haiti's infrastructure is in ruins and promised helpings of international aid are slow to appear, exacerbating tensions.

In Brazil, critics say the venture could become Lula's first foreign policy mistake.

"Haiti is a quagmire. I think that Brazil should find a way out," said Ivan Valente, a congressman in Lula's ruling Workers Party who opposed the deployment.

The Brazilians arrived to lead the U.N. mission in June, following a rebellion that forced elected Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide into exile in February. An interim government has promised elections by the end of this year.

The military deployment was Brazil's largest since World War Two. It was part of a foreign policy drive by Lula that would give the South American giant an international influence which matched its size -- and boost its bid for a permanent seat on a revamped U.N. Security Council.

Brazil stressed Haiti's problems were social and economic and that while foreign troops could provide security, the country needed rebuilding for any lasting solution.

The interim government and some U.S. officials chided the U.N. force for failing to disarm former soldiers and pro-Aristide gangs who have fought frequent street battles.

Brazilian officers complained they were hampered by a slow troop buildup. About 6,000 soldiers and 1,400 police are now there, still 1,000 short of the authorized U.N. contingent.

"I refuse to use blind violence without any planning or strategy, which could create many innocent victims because that could trigger an unbearable climate throughout the country," force commander General Augusto Heleno Ribeiro told Haiti's Radio Metropole, responding to the criticism.

But over the last month the soldiers have raided dangerous slums to search for weapons, been attacked by angry mobs, and fought gunmen over police posts and other points around the capital Port-au-Prince.

"NIGHTMARISH FEAR"

A report by the University of Miami's human rights center released on Wednesday said as the violence grew worse, Haitians were living in a "nightmarish fear."

"U.S. police and soldiers, unable to speak the language of most Haitians, are overwhelmed by the firestorm," it said.

Lula's adviser for foreign affairs, Marco Aurelio Garcia, has warned a new crisis could erupt if the international community fails to

deliver \$1 billion in promised funds.

Brazilian opponents of the mission say it gives legitimacy to what they see as a U.S.-engineered coup against Aristide.

"The Brazilians can be seen as an occupation force and instead of being against the real destroyers -- Haiti's elite and U.S. imperialism -- the people could turn against us," Congressman Valente said.

Money and resources would be better spent on Brazil's own problems of poverty and crime -- or sending troops into Rio de Janeiro's violent slums, they say.

Congressman Antonio Carlos Pannunzio of the Brazilian Social Democratic Party said the Lula government had underestimated the situation.

"Lula is obsessed with a permanent seat at the U.N. and he thinks Brazil leading the peacekeeping force is going to get it for us," Pannunzio said.

Still, the Haiti mission has had little impact on Lula's high approval ratings at home, which have been boosted by a booming domestic economy.

And analyst Luis Bitencourt of the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington said Brazil had been right to assume a global role and responsibilities.

If it has to pull out of Haiti because of U.N. failings, its image as a nonaggressive power would not be tarnished. If its soccer diplomacy works and aid arrives, it will look good.

"Brazil has already acquired considerable political and strategic capital," Bitencourt said.

(Additional reporting by Natuza Nery in Brasilia.)

TAB 18

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At least two people were killed and some homes were been set on fire Sunday during clashes between the police and armed gunmen in two parts of the capital
.....

Port-au-Prince, January 24, 2005 (AHP)- At least two people were killed and several others injured Sunday during clashes between the National Police and armed civilians in the Bel-Air and Poste-Marchand districts.

One of those killed was a shoe shiner.

At least two buildings including the home of "Fenol Dry Cleaning" were also set on fire during these confrontations.

Residents of Poste-Marchand have accused the police of having created a "Zero Tolerance" brigade for carrying out summary executions and burning down home belonging to individuals suspected of opposing the interim government.

AHP January 24, 2005 11:25
.....
.....

TAB 19

**Haiti: Watchdog condemns murder of journalist, calls for safeguards for media
BBC Monitoring Service - United Kingdom; Jan 24, 2005**

Text of press release by US-based Inter American Press Association on 24 January

Miami, 21 January 2005: In a letter sent by the Inter American Press Association (IAPA) to the prime minister of Haiti, the organization condemned the murder of a journalist and asked for a prompt investigation, as well as safeguards for journalists in that country, where there have been reports in past days of incidents of violence against the media.

The letter addressed to Haitian Prime Minister Gerald Latortue and signed by Committee on Freedom of the Press and information chairman Gonzalo Marroquin condemns the murder of Abdias Jean, a correspondent for a Miami radio station and deplors other incidents against journalists and the media.

The matter of violence and other murders that remain unpunished in Haiti will be part of the agenda during an IAPA Emergency Forum to be held in Port-au-Prince on 3 February. In early October, the IAPA organized a training seminar on journalism in danger zones in which 30 journalists from around the country participated.

The following is the complete text of the protest letter:

"Mr Prime Minister:

On behalf of the 1,300 representatives of media outlets who are members of the Inter American Press Association throughout the western hemisphere, we express our condemnation of the murder of reporter Abdias Jean. We ask for an immediate investigation to find those responsible and demand there be the necessary safeguards for a free press in Haiti.

According to reports received at our organization, on 14 January radio reporter Abdias Jean was covering a police operation and raid in the Village de Dieu sector of Port-au-Prince - considered a stronghold of supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. According to the information received, Jean was allegedly killed in retaliation for having witnessed the execution of three children in a case in which members of the National Police are also being blamed.

The reporter's murder is a serious attack against press freedom and the public's right to information since several people stated that Jean identified himself as a journalist before being killed.

Therefore, we urge you to take adequate and immediate measures so that the respective authorities can launch an in-depth investigation to bring those responsible to justice.

We have also been made aware of a series of attacks reported in the past few days against media workers. Last Friday two other journalists, Claude Bernard Serant and Jonel Juste,

from Le Nouvelliste, were assaulted by Aristide supporters. On another occasion, in recent days, the police confiscated videos and working materials from Harry Francillon, from Tele Ginen, in Port-au-Prince. We have also been informed of death threats against Joseph Guyler Delva, president of the Haitian Journalists' Association.

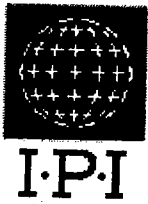
Mr Prime Minister, we cannot ignore the fact that one of the pillars of democracy is a free press. Therefore, it is essential that journalists be given respect and the necessary safeguards to conduct their work freely.

We hope that the attacks and murder of Abdias Jean, as well as the cases of other murdered journalists, Jean Leopold Dominique, Brignol Lindor, and Gerad Denoze, are investigated and those responsible severely punished promptly."

Source: US-based Inter American Press Association, Miami, in English 24 Jan 05

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TAB 20



INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE

IPI, the global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists, is dedicated to the fur of press freedom, the promotion of the free flow of news and information, and the improvement of

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PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, 26 January 2005

IPI Left Fearful After Criticism of Reuters' Haitian Correspondent

The International Press Institute is extremely concerned about the safety of a Haitian journalist who has been unjustly criticised by the Haitian Prime Minister.

On 23 January, the press office of Prime Minister Gerald Latortue issued a statement quoting the prime minister as saying that a recent report from Reuters' correspondent, Guyler Delva, was a "shameful machination" and that Delva "does not miss an opportunity to provide disinformation about Haiti, and basically preaches to his own political clique." Latortue then went on to question Delva's ethics and those of the journalism profession.

Besides working for Reuters, Delva is also the head of the Haitian Journalists' Association. He has a long history of defending human rights and democracy in Haiti and has often criticised both the government and opposition parties. In addition to this attack, Delva has also received death threats.

At present, there is considerable concern for the safety of Haitian journalists. On 14 January, police in the Village de Dieu sector of Port-au-Prince killed radio reporter Abidias Jean. He was allegedly killed after witnessing the execution of three children during a police raid on the area. At least a dozen people were killed in the raid. Police claim they were involved in an exchange of gunfire with "bandits."

There have also been a spate of other press freedom violations. Also in January, supporters of the former Prime Minister Jean-Bertrand Aristide attacked two journalists from Le Nouvelliste, Claude Bernard Serant and Jonel Just. In addition, police recently confiscated material from Tele Ginen journalist Harry Francillon.

"Given the extreme tensions that exist in Haiti at present I am fearful that the comments by Prime Minister Gerald Latortue have endangered Guyler Delva's life. The prime minister must surely be aware of the recent death of a journalist in Haiti, as well as the other assaults on journalists and I find it irresponsible of him to have criticised Delva in this manner, said IPI Director, Johann P. Fritz.

"Delva has already received death threats and these ill-timed and unjustified comments will appear to give official sanction to those threats."

"Rather than criticising journalists, the prime minister should be adding his weight



IPI DEATH WATCH

40 journalists killed so far in 2005

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

NEPAL, 8 July 2005

IPI Part of International Freedom of Expression and Media Rights Mission to Nepal

IPI DEATH WATCH, 8 July 2005

Journalists Under Threat: 40 Journalists Killed So Far In 2005

USA, 7 July 2005

IPI Views Journalist's Jailing as Assault on U.S. Press Freedom

USA, 6 July 2005

IPI Says Continued Pursuit of Time/N.Y. Times Journalists Unreasonable

RUSSIA, 5 July 2005

IPI Strongly Condemns Journalist's Murder in Dagestan

SIERRA LEONE, 4 July 2005

IPI and WAN call for repeal of seditious libel law under which editor Paul Kamara is currently imprisoned

ETHIOPIA, 29 June 2005

IPI Criticises Arrest of 4 Editors in Ethiopia, Says Government Must Stop Harassing Media

ZAMBIA, 29 June 2005

IPI Concerned by Zambian

to the call for more investigations into the murders of journalists. It is well known that in Haiti the murderers of journalists escape with impunity and the prime minister should be doing everything possible to ensure that under his premiership this stops," added Fritz.

Editor's Summons to Police Station

RUSSIA, 16 June 2005
IPI Shocked at Five Year Prison Sentence for Russian Journalist

EU/CHINA, 16 June 2005
IPI criticizes EU over People's Republic of China

NEPAL, 15 June 2005
IPI Condemns Continued Harassment and Arbitrary Arrests of Nepalese Journalists

ZAMBIA, 15 June 2005
IPI Worried by Assault on Newspaper Vendors in Zambia

ETHIOPIA, 14 June 2005
IPI Views Newspaper Distributor's Arrest as Attempt to Disrupt Information Flow

ETHIOPIA, 9 June 2005
IPI Condemns Continued Harassment of Journalists Covering Events in Ethiopia

NEPAL, 8 June 2005
IPI Denounces Journalists' Mass Arrest in Nepal

UZBEKISTAN, 6 June 2005
IPI Concerned about the Ongoing Media Crackdown in Uzbekistan

LEBANON, 6 June 2005
IPI Outraged by Lebanese Journalist's Murder, Says Impunity Continues in Many Cases of Murdered Journalists

BOTSWANA, 3 June 2005
IPI Condemns Deportation of Professor Kenneth Good from Botswana, Says Decision Undermines Country's Position as One of Africa's Freest

SIERRA LEONE, 1 June 2005
IPI Condemns Seditious Libel Charges Against Two Sierra Leonean Journalists, Calls for Release of Paul Kamara