

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.