
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