

**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 Comeau 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.