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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