

Human rights violations in Port-au-Prince

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List of violations committed in the last 7 days in the neighborhoods of Bel Air and Koridor Bassia, allegedly by heavily armed police officers wearing black uniforms and balaclavas.

Killings

January 30: koridor Bassia

1. Wilken Bosse (17): he was reading outside his house where he was dragged out into the street and executed some distance away. He was taken away by the police and his body was found at the morgue;
2. Rodrigue Bonin (44): he was dragged out of his house and taken outside where he was shot twice in the head. He died on February 4. He was an artist (he used to paint Aristide's pictures on T-shirts and sold them downtown with his brother) but he also made several items (e.g. backpacks) for sale;
3. X: a young man who recently moved to the neighborhood and who lived next door to Rodrigue Bonin. He was dragged into the street and executed. His body was taken away by the police.

All 3 were killed during the same police operation.

February 4: Rue Sans Fils (Bel Air)

1. Jeff Joseph (14) was shot and killed on his way back to his home after visiting his grandmother. He was shot in the leg and minutes later was shot a second time and killed after he was heard crying for help.

February 5: Rue des Fontforts (Bel Air)

1. Steve Blemy (21): his hands were tied up behind his back and he was told to run. When he refused, he was pushed and shot in the leg. As he dragged himself away, he was shot in the head and killed. Witnesses allege that a police attaché called Gwo Nasson was among the police officers who killed Blemy.

February 6: Rue du Peuple (near Bel Air).

3 alleged thieves were shot by police in the early morning (2 am). They were brutally shot and left lying for dead on the street. Police came back later to pick up the bodies and on finding that one person was still alive, shot him dead. Their bodies have not been delivered to the morgue. The identities of these persons are unknown.

These killings seem to have been brutal. Bits and pieces of their brains and other organs were lying on the street where they were killed.

Wounded

January 30: Koridor Bassia

1. Wesner Pierre (18) was shot and wounded when he was urinating on top of his house. After refusing to go to hospital, he was taken away by MINUSTAH's personnel to receive treatment after his family was assured that only foreigners will treat him.

February 4: Rue Sans Fils (same area where Jeff Joseph was killed)

1. Lucien Leonard: was shot in the neck. He is refusing medical treatment at hospital for fear of being taken away by police.

February 2: Koridor Bassia

1. Pouchon (19) was shot and wounded. He is currently receiving treatment.

Houses burned:

January 18: at least 18 houses burned at Koridor Bassia and Mon St Michel;

January 25: at least 5 houses burned at Mon Marinèt;

February 5: one "room" burned and others partially destroyed at Rue des Cesars, Bel Air

Arrests:

January 30: Rue Tiremasse Prolongee (outside Koridor Bassia, during the same operation when killings took place): a witness described police officers in black uniforms taking away more than 15 young men. Their identities are unknown.

February 5: Rue des Pucelles

Claye Erard (22) was taken away by the police officers involved in the killing of Steve Blemy.

Many more arrests were made during police operations almost everyday during the last week. These arrests were conducted when the police were supposedly monitoring road cleaning operations in these neighborhoods.

Perpetrators

According to residents from these neighborhoods, these killings and other violations are being perpetrated by police together with attachés, wearing black uniforms. These attachés are allegedly former members of a group called "zero tolerance" from Poste Marchand. They used to operate under Aristide's regime. They have now changed sides and are acting as police informants and executioners. The most common names cited by residents are:

1. Maraige Laguerre (alias Elius);
2. Jean Yves Gerard (alias gwo Nasson);
3. Frantz Thomas (alias Fanfan);

4. Clermond Senghor (alias Periklèm).

Calls from Residents

All week, residents from these neighborhoods have been repeatedly calling on MINUSTAH to offer them protection. More than anger, there is a sense of despair. The continued shootings and killings as well as the burning of houses are causing people to be terrified and not knowing what to expect next. More significantly for peacekeeping, there is reason to expect that these acts of terror will in turn cause residents to organize themselves in groups of self-defense or to join those who have guns in order to protect themselves. More violence will then be inevitable.