

On his part, the head of MINUSTAH, Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdes, saluted the efforts agreed to by the Haitians in order to sit down together at the same table to look forward to resolving the problems of their country.

These efforts encourage the international community to accompany the Haitians in their initiatives to develop the country, indicated Juan Gabriel Valdes, that remind us that a number of countries in crisis have already passed through this process.

Mr. Valdes said it encourages Haitians on the road to dialogue.

The representative of UNDP in Haiti, Adama Guindo, on his part said that the signing of this agreement constitutes the reflection of a consensus that starts to release itself among the Haitians in their quest for the solutions to the problems of Haiti.

According to Mr. Guindo, it is extremely important for the international community to accompany the efforts of the Haitians to move the country out of the impasse.

The president of the commission charged by the interim power to promote national dialogue, Micha Gaillard, reaffirmed that it is important to hold a national conference in the country to seek to resolve the problems.

Micha Gaillard also stated that this project must cover the periods before and after the elections.

On his part, the American Ambassador in Haiti, James B. Foley, connected the success of the upcoming elections with a sincere dialogue between all Haitians to define together, he said, their points of divergence."

According to James B. Foley, the organization of the upcoming elections is required passage for the Haitian people to be able to choose their leaders and permit the country to take the rails of development.

The executive secretary of the Group 184, Anthony Barbier, considered also that national dialogue is necessary for the success of the upcoming electoral campaign.

Anthony Barbier encouraged Haitians to take the road to save the country.

AHP February 14, 2005 2:05 PM

Samba Boukan says he fears for the lives of eight of his comrades arrested by MINUSTAH soldiers during an operation in Bel-Air

Port-au-Prince, February 14, 2005 - (AHP) - The spokesman for the militants of Lavalas of Bel-Air, Samba Boukman, denounced on Monday the arrests of February 10th, 2005 of eight of his comrades by MINUSTAH at the time of an operation in that zone.

Samba Boukman deplored that "foreign soldiers inflicted corporal punishment on some peaceful citizens who they arrested illegally, while they were going about their business."

He also denounced the fact that the parents of certain youth who were arrested were not able to find them either at the police station holding cells or inside the prisons.

Samba Boukman underlined that on several occasions many individuals who were arrested by the soldiers of the UN Forces and then handed over to the police, were later found at the morgue of the General Hospital.

He invited the High Command of MINUSTAH to assume their responsibilities to the fullest in the framework of these new arrests.

AHP February 14, 2005 12:50 PM