



### **Three Brazilian peacekeepers wounded in Haitian slum over two days of violence**

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PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - One Brazilian peacekeeper was wounded Saturday and the charred body of a man burned alive with a tire around his neck lay in the deserted street of a slum where shots rang out and people peered fearfully from barred windows.

It was the second day of violence in Bel Air, where at least two civilians were shot and killed Friday, allegedly by Haitian police, and the U.N. mission reported two Brazilian troopers were shot by snipers.

Bel Air is a warren of alleyways lined with tin-roofed homes on a hillside behind the National Palace where Haitian police have been struggling for months to regain control from armed militants loyal to ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Women laboring uphill, balancing buckets of water on their heads, scurried down a street where residents said Haitian police came Friday night, apparently looking to arrest Aristide supporters.

Witnesses too scared to give their names said a man in civilian clothes accompanying the police was captured and burned alive by residents, who accused him of being an "asayant" -- in Creole a hired gun.

Tire tracks remained around the neck of the corpse, indicating he had been "necklaced" -- killed by a burning tire set around his neck.

"We are ready to die for Aristide," who was ousted by an armed rebellion a year ago, said one resident, looking up at a white U.N. armored car.

Brazilian troops in armored cars with mounted submachine guns moved into Bel Air early Saturday and came under fire, said Cmdr. Carlos Chagas Braga, a spokesman for the 7,400-member U.N. peacekeeping mission led by Brazil.

A bullet from a high-velocity weapon ricocheted off one vehicle, sending fragments into a soldier's face and shoulder, said Chaga.

He said two other Brazilian peacekeepers were shot in the arm in two similar attacks Friday.

"These injuries were minor," Chaga said. At least nine peacekeepers have been wounded since the mission began in June.

He said in both instances U.N. troops did not return fire because of a policy of "shoot only when you can see your target."

Bel Air residents claimed the peacekeepers often shoot at them.

"Before only the police would come in here and kill us," said a man who declined to give his name. "Now peacekeepers are coming in to the corridors (alleyways) and just opening fire."

Residents also charged that the peacekeepers stood by Friday while Haitian police shot and killed at least two men in Bel Air. The peacekeepers said they did not collaborate with police in any Bel Air operations on Friday.

Two bodies lay on the street there Friday, though residents claimed as many as 12 people were killed. Eight bodies with bullet wounds arrived at the capital's main morgue Friday.

Haitians in Port-au-Prince say scores of people have been killed by police backed by U.N. troops since September, when Aristide followers stepped up protests to demand his return from exile in South Africa.

At least 270 people have been killed in the capital, including 25 police officers.

Aristide supporters say the interim government is persecuting Aristide loyalists, detaining dozens who are being held without charge.

A massive jailbreak last week -- nearly 500 of 1,250 prisoners escaped the national penitentiary -- underscored persistent insecurity that threatens to thwart plans to hold general elections later this year.

Aristide supporters plan large demonstrations Monday, the anniversary of his ouster.

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