
The UN Secretary-General's representative in Haiti acknowledges the existence of misunderstandings between MINUSTAH and the PNH and declares that these problems will be resolved soon under a plan of cooperation between the two institutions

Port-au-Prince, March 7, 2005 -(AHP)- Juan Gabriel Valdès, the representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Haiti, acknowledged the existence Monday of misunderstandings between MINUSTAH and the interim authorities with regard to the question of public security in Haiti.

Last Thursday Ambassador Valdès denounced brutal conduct by the police against peaceful demonstrators during a February 28th protest.

He had also indicated that such acts would no longer be tolerated, and warned that UN soldiers would intervene with force if necessary whenever officers of the national police open fire against unarmed civilians.

The Haitian police were excluded from the security arrangements utilized on March 4 during a new Lavalas demonstration that took place without incident.

At the conclusion of a meeting relating to the commemoration of International Women's Day to be observed this March 8, the UN Secretary-General's special representative announced that he is going to concentrate on this issue in an effort to find a solution to the problems under a plan of cooperation between MINUSTAH and the national police.

"We are going to work with the national police in the most serene manner that is as professional as possible to resolve these difficulties calmly after having said what has to be said", said Amb. Valdès.

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Interim Justice Minister Bernard Gousse accuses MINUSTAH of violating its mandate when it prevented the police from approaching the April 4 demonstration

Port-au-Prince, March 7, 2005 -(AHP)- Interim Justice Minister Bernard Gousse confirmed Monday that friction has existed between the UN forces and police authorities since the police violently broke up a peaceful Lavalas march in Bel-Air.

Speaking over the radio in Port-au-Prince, the Minister accused MINUSTAH of violating its mandate by deciding to exclude the police from the security plans established for the peaceful Lavalas protest on March 4.

MINUSTAH said it took this decision to prevent a repetition of the mistakes made by the police on February 28.

Minister Gousse rejected the reports of the press and MINUSTAH officials indicating that the police had killed several Lavalas activists.

Mr. Gousse also said that relations between the forces started to deteriorate at the time of the incident at Frères

when a five year-old girl was killed by the police.

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15 people have been killed in recent police interventions in Bel-Air according to CNPRDH

Port-au-Prince, March 7, 2005 -(AHP)- The National Protestant Coalition for the Promotion and Respect of Human Rights (CNPRDH) disclosed Monday that more than 15 people have been killed in the latest national police interventions in the populist district of Bel-Air.

They include Ernst Gay, a soccer trainer, Alex Michel, Dieubétite Juste, a student in the eighth year of primary school, Fritz Delva, a messenger from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Alex Jérôme, Junior Joseph, Hérard Maxo, Jeff Joseph, Dor Berman, Dane St-Vil and Célestin Adrien.

The organization said it was unable to learn the names of three individuals killed in this same neighborhood.

In a news release provided to AHP, the organization indicated that this information was obtained through an investigation in Bel-Air carried out from February 25 through 28 of this year.

The National Protestant Coalition for the promotion and Respect of Human Rights expressed profound concern at the summary executions perpetrated in the populist districts and deplored that the police always wish to present all Haitians who are killed in these neighborhoods as being bandits.

"Is it a crime to live in these districts", asked CNPRDH. The organization is seeking justice for the five people killed during the police dispersion of the February 28 demonstration.

MINUSTAH commander Augusto Heleno Ribeiro had reported that three people were killed on that day, but the CNPRDH investigators met with the families of two other individuals who died in their homes as a result of their injuries.

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