
The director of Caribbean projects at the Inter-American Dialogue finds that the situation in Haiti remains explosive

Port-au-Prince, March 10, 2005 (AHP)- Dan Erickson, director of Caribbean projects at the Inter-American Dialogue, observed Thursday that the political situation in Haiti remains explosive despite the efforts of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The political leaders and the international community have still not shown themselves to be ready for the holding of elections announced for this year in Haiti.

Several regions of Haiti are still under the control of demobilized soldiers and their supporters who took up arms against the Lavalas government said Dan Erickson. Armed civilians continue to cause panic in Port-au-Prince, and the interim government is facing an opposition calling for its departure while the United Nations is working hard to achieve disarmament.

According to him, what is most disturbing is the decision taken by the U.S. administration to entrust the restoration of order and security in Haiti to Latin American countries. That is a very poor calculation that will have serious consequences for U.S. interests in the Caribbean.

He also said he acknowledges that without a serious disarmament program in Haiti and without adequate training of the national police, the Bush administration risks further commitment in Haiti upon the departure of the UN force.

Referring to the latest demonstrations by Fanmi Lavalas, which peacefully called for the return of Mr. Aristide, Dan Erickson said that nobody could pretend not to have understood.

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