

The demobilized soldiers of the Central Plateau say their numbers have been reinforced by colleagues from the North and that they are ready to teach a lesson to the interim government

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Plateau-Central, March 15, 2005 (AHP)- The demobilized soldiers from the Central Plateau declared Monday that they are preparing to provide a response to the interim government following the attack against them last week by the Haitian National Police (PNH) in Morne à Cabris.

According to demobilized soldiers in this region, no serious demobilized soldier will agree to join the PNH because, they said, the Constitution of 1987 recognizes the police and the armed forces as two legal forces in the country.

They denounced a plan by the transition government to create a split among the soldiers by distributing money surreptitiously to a small group to sow dissension.

With respect to the ceremony at which guns were symbolically handed over last Saturday in the North, the soldiers of Terre-Rouge said that the majority of their brothers in the North has already joined the demobilized soldiers in the Central Plateau bringing their high performance weapons along with them.

"It is now that we are equipped to assert our rights in the country", said the demobilized soldiers of the Central Plateau.

For their part, the demobilized soldiers of Les Cayes criticized their colleagues in the North who turned over seven of their guns, accusing them of thoughtless behavior by supporting the interim government.

The spokesperson for the demobilized soldiers of the South, Jean Onel Loradin, declared that his men are determined to fight until receive their indemnification and that they are still following orders from commander Ravix Rémissainthe.

For his part, the OPL coordinator in Cap-Haitien said the interim government is deceiving the demobilized soldiers by making promises to them in order to persuade them to lay down their weapons.

According to Pastor Milton Chéry, if the former soldiers decide to stop their work, it would be a severe blow in the fight against insecurity in the country's second city.