
A third MINUSTAH soldier dies of his injuries

Port-au-Prince, March 23, 2005 (AHP)- Haitian National Police (PNH) spokesperson Gessy Cameau Coicou confirmed Wednesday that one more MINUSTAH soldier died Monday as a result of injuries he received during clashes Sunday in Petit-Goâve between UN soldiers and demobilized Haitian soldiers over control of that city's main police station.

One UN peacekeeper was already known to have been killed in Petit-Goave and another in Terre-Rouge at the scene of the confrontations.

Two former members of the Haitian armed forces were killed and several others were injured and taken into custody. The injured received medical treatment at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince.

During her press briefing, Gessy Cameau Coicou indicated that 23 people were arrested by MINUSTAH during these operations, however the UN mission had disclosed that a total of 37 were arrested, including 12 former Haitian soldiers.

According to the police spokesperson only two of those arrested have been identified as former soldiers.

When asked to comment on the different number of persons arrested put forward by Ms. Coicou, the spokesperson for the UN's civilian police (CIVPOL), Jean François Vezina, who was visibly embarrassed, affirmed that the PNH spokesperson might be correct.

Mr. Vezina also indicated that officers from CIVPOL together with the Haitian police dismantled a gang working along the Jean Jacques Dessalines Boulevard specialized in automobile theft and arson.

According to the CIVPOL spokesperson, 10 suspects were also taken into custody. This joint operation, he said, proves that CIVPOL and the PNH work well together as a team.

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*** National police spokesperson Gessy Cameau Coicou declared Wednesday that steps have been taken by the authorities to combat the sale of pornographic books in Haiti.

According to Ms. Coicou, two people were arrested at the Champ-de-Mars as they were in the process of selling a large quantity of pornographic books.

These individuals will appear shortly before a judge, she said, and have been arrested on charges of committing offences against public decency.

Commenting on another incident, the National Police spokesperson also announced that the Dominican authorities in a symbolic gesture on Wednesday turned over three vehicles to the Haitian authorities.

Mme. Coicou indicated that these vehicles were stolen in Haiti and re-sold in the Dominican Republic.

Three vehicles stolen in the Dominican Republic had been turn over to this country's authorities on Friday by officials from the BLVV (the office responsible for the national effort against vehicle theft).

