
There are doubts on the possibility of organizing elections in Haiti at the appointed date

Port-au-Prince, March 24, 2005 (AHP) - American Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld said he had some doubts about the organization of the next elections in Haiti next September.

Donald Rumsfeld who was in Argentina, mentioned the Bush administration's experience in Afghanistan and in Iraq in regards to security.

We will need a lot of efforts and planning to set up a reliable security system in Haiti, Mr. Rumsfeld declared. He said he had met Brazilian President Luis Ignacio Lula Da Silva and his Argentinean counterpart Jose Pampuro with whom he discussed the case of Haiti.

For its part, a human rights organization based in Brazil, the «Global Justice », considers that the MINUSTAH is slow in its job of re-establishing order and stability in Haiti. According to Global Justice, over a year after President Aristide's hasty departure and 8 months after the arrival of the UN forces, Haiti is more than ever a country at risk and where insecurity is raging.

The violence created by the confrontation between Jean Bertrand Aristide's supporters and opponents to Lavalas keeps increasing all the time, Global Justice pointed out.

Several sectors point out that the UN mission has been facing a smear campaign for the last two weeks from some sectors of the Haitian population. Several people reproach the MINUSTHA for opposing to the policemen's bad practices of shooting unarmed citizens or peaceful demonstrators. "Those are immoral reproaches", they declared.

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Recrudescence of violence in Haiti: the demobilized militaries abandon their uniforms and merge into the population with their arms

Port-au-Prince, March 24, 2005 (AHP)- The police declared Thursday that heavily armed individuals attacked the vehicle of the Police Captain responsible of the Central Direction of Judicial Police (DCPJ), Jude Altidor, the day before at Delmas 33. His chauffeur was seriously injured.

According to spokesperson of the PNH, Gessy Cameau Coicou, Jude Altidor was not in the vehicle at the time of the aggression. The chauffeur, a policeman, is receiving health care now and is out of danger, Mrs. Coicou declared. She announced the opening of an investigation to determine the mobile of this attack.

Also, shootings started Wednesday night in several sectors of the capital, notably at the Airport Carrefour and Nazon, which caused great panic on Delmas highway. According to Gessy Cameau Coicou, these shootings are reportedly the work of armed bandits who own, according to her, weapons that are more sophisticated than the national police's.

For their part, the UN authorities confirmed Wednesday the death of a second Sri-Lankan soldier. This soldier who was shot and seriously injured last Sunday in Petit-Goâve during a confrontation with

demobilized militaries, died from his injuries. There are now three UN soldiers who were killed.

The bodies of these two Sri-Lankans will be repatriated on March 26th. A procedure will be undertaken in order to give compensation to their families and to pay them a posthumous tribute, MINUSTHA leaders declared.

Since the confrontation between demobilized militaries and UN soldiers in Petit-Goâve and in Terre Rouge in the Central Plateau, there is general anxiety in several regions of the country.

Many fear a recrudescence of insecurity because of the decision taken by demobilized soldiers to abandon their uniforms and to merge into the civil population. Several of them reportedly took the mountains after a call to guerrilla given by one of their leaders, Joseph Jean-Baptiste

At Petit-Goâve, the policemen chased away by the former soldiers are shyly resuming their jobs at the city's police station repainted in blue and white.

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