

**Gunmen Ambush Police in Haiti's Capital**

By STEVENSON JACOBS

Associated Press Writer

273 words

28 March 2005

07:44 pm

Associated Press Newswires

English

(c) 2005. The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - Gunmen with assault rifles ambushed a group of police in Haiti's capital on Monday, spraying their car with bullets in a bold daylight attack that killed two officers and a driver, officials said.

The shooting in the volatile Delmas neighborhood of Port-au-Prince follows several recent attacks on police and a government building that officials say are aimed at destabilizing the country ahead of key fall elections.

Three police officers were riding in a white station wagon when the attackers opened fire, U.N. spokesman Damian Onses-Cardona said. The car burst into flames.

U.N. civilian police said street gangs or member's of Haiti's disbanded army were likely behind the attack, which came about a week after two U.N. peacekeepers and two ex-soldiers died in clashes in two rural towns. Last week, a former military leader called on ex-soldiers to remove their uniforms and wage "guerrilla war" against U.N. peacekeepers and police.

The incident was the latest in a spate of recent attacks in the capital. On Friday, someone lobbed a live grenade into the compound of Haiti's electoral office, slightly damaging the structure but injuring no one. Days earlier, gunmen opened fire on the house of Haiti's interim justice minister, killing a police officer guarding the property.

The attacks come as the 7,400-strong U.N. force and Haiti's national police struggle to restore calm to Haiti more than a year after an armed uprising ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

7

Document APRS000020050329e13t000pi

© 2005 Dow Jones Reuters Business Interactive LLC (trading as Factiva). All rights reserved.