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Gunshots, widespread panic and enormous traffic jams strike several parts of Port-au-Prince: at least one person has been injured

Port-au-Prince, April 18, 2005 (AHP)- At least one person suffered gunshot injuries this Monday in Port-au-Prince during exchanges of gunfire between heavily armed individuals and joint patrols of the Haitian police and MINUSTAH in the center of the capital.

Gunfire was heard notably in Lamarre Street as well as Rue Montalais, Lalue and in the Nazon district.

This situation caused a general panic and huge traffic jams. Pedestrians and drivers were dashing about in all directions in hopes of avoiding becoming victims.

Shop owners and school principals in these areas hurried to close their doors.

A similar situation occurred last Friday in several parts of the capital, especially the downtown central business district where at least one death and several injuries were reported.

At the same time, clashes between MINUSTAH soldiers and armed men resulted in at least a dozen deaths and more than 20 injuries in Cité Soleil.

Among the dead was reportedly an individual who was alleged to have been one of the killers of a Philippine MINUSTAH soldier.

Cité Soleil residents also reported that a protestant pastor was killed.

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