

AHP News - April 19, 2005 - English translation (Unofficial)

The IHECE Vice-Dean who was abducted Thursday has been released

Port-au-Prince, April 19, 2005 (AHP)- Prosper Jean-Charles, aged 75, the Vice-Dean of the Institute for Advanced Commercial and Economic Studies (IHECE) who was kidnapped last Thursday in Delmas 33, was released by his abductors Monday. They had demanded a ransom payment of \$180,000 (U.S.).

The Dean of the Institute, Raoul Berret, declined to disclose the amount paid for the release of the vice-dean but said that Mr. Jean-Charles was not ill-treated by his kidnappers.

At the same time, Dean Berret observed that in light of the advanced age of Prosper Jean-Charles, his abduction might have a negative impact on his health.

The dean urged that all feasible measures be enacted to guarantee security for the population, otherwise it will be impossible to teach in Haiti, he said.

Students at IHECE who organized a sit-in Monday in front of the Institute voiced satisfaction at his release, while calling for students and university officials to be prudent.

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A group of Americans and Haitian-Americans were abducted and later released near Les Arcadins

Port-au-Prince, April 19, 2005 (AHP)- A group of Americans and Haitian-Americans who traveled to Port-au-Prince last week to participate in an NGO board meeting were abducted Friday and held for several hours by armed individuals.

The incident took place near the Arcadins coast where the meeting was scheduled to be held, one of the five members of the group told AHP after returning to the United States.

He said that the armed men blocked their vehicle as they were slowing down at a turn.

"We were subjected to death threats the entire time we were kidnapped", he explained. "Our vehicle was stolen along with our money, our passports and our other travel documents", he added.

The Americans and the two Haitian-Americans were assisted by church officials in the area who helped them return to the capital.

A lawyer who was part of the group vowed that she would not return to Haiti.

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