
The MINUSTAH human rights official denounces the treatment given to former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune and declares he is worried about the treatment given to several anonymous people of this country

Port-au-Prince, May 5, 2005 (AHP)- MINUSTAH Human Rights Official Thierry Fagart criticized Wednesday the sectors that protested against the government's decision to save former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune's life.

Yvon Neptune, who has been incarcerated for almost a year under the pretext that he is reportedly involved in a presumed massacre, has been doing a hunger strike for 18 days to demand his liberation without conditions.

Criticizing the treatment given to Mr. Neptune, Mr. Fagart had said that if a former prime minister is treated this way, what possible treatment is given to the several anonymous people of this country.

The Human Rights Official also recalled that Mr. Neptune cannot be treated as a criminal since he has never even been questioned over 10 months after his incarceration. Mr. Fagart also raised his voice against those who want to make people believe that the MINUSTAH would be trying to influence the Haitian government into transferring Mr. Neptune in a hospital abroad.

The decision taken by interim authorities together with the MINUSTAH to evacuate Yvon Neptune was only motivated by humanitarian reasons, he said. But the former Prime Minister refused, explaining that he must be released first without conditions.

It is the interim government's responsibility to take measures to avoid that Mr. Neptune dies in prison in any way, Fagart also said. He expressed the wish that the Neptune case will be taken care of in a different jurisdiction.

Interim Minister of Justice Bernard Gousse had declared Wednesday in a press note that the former Prime Minister's health was not worrying and that he was still lucid and still had his physical capacities. He also declared that Mr. Neptune was under the control of the examining magistrate for now and he is the only one who can decide when the former head of government can be heard.

The postponement of the April 28th hearing is due to the fact that Yvon Neptune was completely weakened by his hunger strike, Bernard Gousse also declared.

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