

**AHP News - May 23, 2005 - English translation (Unofficial)**

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*Dominique Levanti has died. Dodo was 64 years old when he passed away in Jacmel (in the Southeast). He was the Agence France Presse (AFP) correspondent in Haiti for the past 34 years. Condolences to his family and to AFP*  
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**U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters calls on President Bush to help obtain the release of Yvon Neptune who is "illegally imprisoned"**

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Port-au-Prince, May 23, 2005 (AHP)- California's Democratic Congresswoman from the 35th District, Maxine Waters, has written a new letter to American President George W, Bush urging him to try to obtain the immediate release from prison of former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, and protesting his illegal detention by the interim government. Mr. Neptune has been on a hunger strike for more than a month.

The letter was made public Friday and follows a previous letter sent May 13 to Mr. Bush, which was signed by 13 members of Congress. The new letter was signed by an additional 15 Congressional Representatives on top of the original 13.

The 28 signatories to the letter expressed their deep concern at the detention conditions of former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune.

Congresswoman Waters recalled that Yvon Neptune has been held in prison since June 2004 without any formal charges against him and without having been brought before a judge as is required by the Haitian Constitution of 1987.

Yvon Neptune's hunger strike seeks to bring about his immediate and unconditional release.

According to witnesses, Mr. Neptune is so weak that he can no longer walk. His vital organs are deteriorating and his life is gravely threatened, said Maxine Waters, urging President Bush to intervene quickly to save the life of the former prime minister and obtain his immediate release.

Each of the two letters were copied to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James B. Foley.

The former prime minister was supposed to travel Monday (May 23) to Saint-Marc to be interviewed by the investigating judge, Cluny Pierre-Gilles, in connection with the case of La Scierie brought by NCHR (now named RNDH), but was reportedly in no condition to travel.

Mr. Neptune voluntarily turned himself in to justice authorities after accusations were made against him by two organizations hostile to his government (NCHR - Haiti and Ramicosm) alleging that he was involved in a massacre at La. Scierie.

Neptune was singled out by the two organizations because he traveled to Saint-Marc two days before the alleged incidents in Saint-Marc where armed opponents of the Aristide government had killed police officers and looted and set fire to a police station.

To explain why human remains from the alleged massacre could not be produced, the heads of the two organizations accusing Mr. Neptune indicated that the corpses were entirely consumed by hungry dogs.

AHP May 23, 2005 12:05 PM

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**It is impossible to hold proper elections in 2005, according to the CEP's director of electoral operations**

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Port-au-Prince, May 23, 2005 (AHP)- A member of the electoral council, Patrick Féquière, said Monday that it will be almost impossible to hold elections starting in October in Haiti as was initially planned.

"Those who are suggesting that it is possible to hold elections on that date know that this is wishful thinking" said Mr. Féquière, who is in charge of electoral operations for the CEP.

According to Mr. Féquière, who was a guest on the Radio Solidarité program "Ann Pale", it may be that elections will not be possible before 2007 unless steps are taken to make corrections in the way things are going.

The reduced numbers of voters who have been registered since the start of operations is clear evidence that the next elections can not be held on the scheduled date, he said. He denounced what he called a lack of transparency and honesty at the CEP.

Mr. Féquière threatened to resign if the CEP does not manage to hold elections to enable a legitimate government to be sworn in next February.

AHP May 23, 2005 2:15 PM

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**Kofi Annan expresses concern at the situation of violence in Haiti and calls for a serious investigation into human rights violations**

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Port-au-Prince, May 23, 2005 (AHP)- UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was disturbed by the violence prevailing in Haiti in recent days.

Mr. Annan conveyed his concern through a new report by the Secretary-General (S/2005/313) regarding the socio-political situation in Haiti that was made public last Friday.

The UN Secretary-General appealed to the interim authorities to "set an example by promptly initiating an investigation into the human rights violations allegedly committed by national police officers".

An American videographer, Kevin Pina, said recently that he has proof of police involvement in the killing of demonstrators on February 28 and April 27, 2005.

Kofi Annan proposed an increase in the military component of MINUSTAH to 7,500 troops as opposed to the 6,700 currently authorized and the 6,200 on the ground as of May 11. He also proposed an increase in the ceiling for CIVPOL police to 1,897 from the 1,622 authorized and the 1,413 on the ground of soldiers and 275 CIVPOL police officers in the run-up to elections scheduled for later this year because, he observed, acts of violence are sure to increase.

Sec. Annan's proposal comes at a time when some countries that have contributed troops to MINUSTAH are

released.

For his part, interim Prime Minister Gérard Latortue, considered that the UN Secretary-General should have focused primarily on increasing the number of CIVPOL police officers rather than also increasing the number of UN troops in order to better address the persistent problem of insecurity in Haiti.

The head of the interim government also expressed hope that the new police officers who will arrive in Haiti will speak French and Creole so as to facilitate their communication with the public.

He criticized what he called the dual command structure of MINUSTAH, with UN troops and the UN police each having their own separate commanders, thus causing, he said, a real problem of integration.

AHP May 23, 2005 1:10 PM

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**At least two police officers and one local resident have been killed in Bel-Air during clashes over the weekend**  
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Port-au-Prince, May 23, 2005 (AHP)- At least two police officers were killed and several others seriously injured last weekend during an operation in the populist district of Bel-Air.

At least one resident of Bel-Air was also killed and one adolescent was seriously wounded.

Among the police who were killed is a member of the Swat Team named Gabo St-Fort.

It all reportedly began when some reports circulated indicating that a CIMO officer said to have been abducted by armed men had been executed in Bel-Air.

Colleagues of the police officer then reportedly set about immediately to take revenge, leading to deadly confrontations.

One police vehicle abandoned at the scene was set on fire.

AHP May 23, 2005 10:20 AM