
Violence and kidnappings raging in Haiti: the US embassy will remain open and its activities uninterrupted despite the fact that non-essential personnel was called back, the spokesperson declares

Port-au-Prince, May 27, 2005 (AHP)- Spokesperson of the American administration Mara Tekach-Ball reconsiders the decision taken the day before by the State department to call back all American citizens living in Haiti, because of the climate of insecurity raging in the country.

Armed individuals opened fire Tuesday morning on a vehicle from the American embassy, at Cité Militaire, at the north of the capital.

Mrs. Tekach-Ball declared that the American authorities' decision has nothing to do with this incident. The embassy will remain open and its activities uninterrupted. Most American diplomats will stay in the country for their mission, which is to ensure good elections this year and promote security and stability in the country, she declared.

The American government had urged Thursday its non-essential personnel to leave Haiti as soon as possible because of the violence, saying at the same time that travelling in Haiti could be dangerous.

In Port-au-Prince, the embassy spokesperson declared that her country intended to increase its activities in Haiti in order to stop armed gangs", Mrs. Tekach-Ball declared. She is confident that these elections will be organized in conformity with the electoral calendar. According to her, the United States will continue to cooperate with the interim government, the National Police of Haiti and the MINUSTAH.

Kidnapping is clearly increasing in Port-au-Prince where there are cases almost daily. At least 6 persons, including a college boy and a citizen were kidnapped since the beginning of the week.

A young woman working for a cellular phone company was killed Thursday night in Delmas as she was in her vehicle.

Heavy gunfire by automatic weapons were also heard most of the night in this district that was for a long time the bastion of former military soldiers before the death at the beginning of April of Rémicinthe Ravix and René Jean Anthony who were killed in a confrontation, according to the police.

According to many observers, insecurity comes from the fact that the population doesn't know exactly where violence, kidnappings and danger in general come from because of the numerous armed gangs in the country.

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