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A murder and new cases of kidnapping in Port-au-Prince  
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Port-au-Prince, June 3, 2005 (AHP) - A Haitian business man was killed this Friday in Port-au-Prince.

The owner of the shop named "Elegancia ", Pierre Guillaume Amazan, was killed by armed individuals in Delmas as he was driving his children to school.

At the same time, close to ten kidnapping cases were reported in the capital.

Four shopkeepers and the cashier from an electronics store were abducted this Friday. Four members of the same family were also kidnapped. At the same time, a student from the Sainte-Rose School in Lalue was abducted and then released after a ransom was paid.

As of this Friday, the family of Jean Gérard Gilbert, the director of the Classic Training Center, who was kidnapped Wednesday had heard no more news about him, despite having paid the ransom that was demanded by the kidnappers.

The school director's wife, Maryse Gilbert, said that according to the latest information received from the kidnappers, her husband was said to be in a coma.

Prime Minister Gérard Latortue blamed the kidnappings on ex-prisoners who have arrived in Haiti through a program of forcible deportation from the United States. He called for an end to these deportations, judging that most of these individuals have learned to kill and steal outside Haiti.

On Thursday, several people suffered gunshot injuries Thursday during clashes between Haitian police officers and a group of heavily armed individuals in the Poste-Marchand district.

Heavy weapons fire was heard in several other parts of the capital, notably in the Bel-Air, Nazon and Lalue districts and in the vicinity of the National Palace.

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Radio Galaxie declares that it has received threats - the following is a press release issued by the newsroom  
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"The Management of Radio Galaxie, targeted with persistent threats

A plot aimed at kidnapping or attempting to kill one or several members of the management team of Radio Galaxie has been organized and is set to be put into action shortly by unidentified armed groups, according to various messages received by the station, some threatening, others conciliatory and urging prudence.

What is disturbing is that the authorities in the country, the PNH and MINUSTAH first and foremost, were contacted by letter three days ago. These authorities, who often hide behind the excuse that they were not informed in a timely manner, have as of Friday June 3rd, not even deigned to call the Station; it is just like refusing to assist a person in danger, a display of contempt which places the staff of the Radio in terrible distress.

In at least two circumstances, one of the senior directors of the Radio has barely escaped being kidnapped; the first time he was able, by reflex, to thwart the maneuvers of armed men trying to force their way into his vehicle as he was on his way home. On a second occasion, he was saved thanks to the miraculous assistance of a vigilant friend at the Radio Station who, risking his own life, courageously opposed the actions of four assailants who lay in ambush outside his vehicle to attack him as he left a friend's house after a visit.

Without wishing to give in too quickly to a kind of alarmist feeling, the rampant insecurity together with the staggering increase in criminal acts reported in diverse corners of the country, and with a particular intensity in the metropolitan area - a situation before which the citizens are completely disarmed and all the more abandoned to their own fate - we are nevertheless issuing this invitation to pay scrupulous attention to these items of information.

The motive of those passing the instructions in this plot and of the possible authors of these planned crimes aimed at chopping off the head of Radio Galaxie is thus far unknown. For the moment, one is reduced to suppositions.

Perhaps the Management of Radio Galaxie is being targeted by the new "growth industry" of our time, which is in search of ransom payments and easy money, that is, the industry consisting of the kidnapping of ordinary citizens, an industry always in search of fresh prey. To think this way would however, strangely enough, be mistaken.

Radio Galaxie, because of its philosophy guided by a passion to communicate, by an obsession to serve the public well, by its concern for excellence at all times, has never been and can not be a lucrative enterprise; its members and its directors are artists placing the quality of the Radio's production above all else; thus it is not necessary to point out that the station has only been able to get by from the beginning because of its passion for sports and music which motivates the entire staff,

Perhaps one is trying to attack the rigorously professional profile of Radio Galaxie? There can be no doubt that this profile, made of objectivity, jealously cultivating its independence, deliberately refusing to yield to the sirens' calls and to play the game of petty, partisan and self-interested calculations, placing itself resolutely above the fray, buttressing itself by the truth as if it were a compass, disturbs and angers more than one person.

But this line we have drawn, we adhere to it and we will adhere to it until the end toward and against everything. Perhaps one is also aiming through these cowardly acts that are planned, to strike a blow that could grab hold of people's imaginations and further dramatize public opinion at a time when there may be a need for those who sow the seeds of grief, operating with complete impunity, to instill new momentum into their strategy

of orchestrated terror with a consummate art? Perhaps also is this a question of minor chieftains (caciques) lurking in the shadows to take advantage of the outrageously deleterious atmosphere which rages with an alluring constancy for some time in the country and which spares almost no one as it attacks citizens who have committed the sole mistake of failing to worship them and of having always refused to align themselves and bow down before them?

It is always the case that these macabre plans are part of a long criminal drama that has, alas, gone on too long already! It would also be irresponsible for us to take them lightly! Thus, we denounce them. Here we are, even more aware of the fact that, in these troubled moments through which the country is passing, Radio Galaxie has, over the course of its history paid a heavy tribute to the defense of freedom of expression and to the dream, shared by millions of compatriots, of making Haiti a normal country, and putting heading irrevocably toward modernity.

For about 14 years, our station has been shedding warm tears, and continues to do so, at the abduction and then the brutal disappearance which to this day remains unexplained, of one of its co-directors and co-founders, Félix Lamy. To this very day, his murderers walk the streets. And his family (having taken refuge through a long exile since December 10, 1991, in the U.S.) and his friends are still waiting for justice to be rendered to him.

Well beyond this, throughout its short period of existence, the radio station has been sacked, its equipment destroyed on at least two occasions; worse yet, the compensation promised by agreements, notably the Governor's Island agreement, in the form of restitution of materials and equipment, have never been honored. c

At this crossroads in the life of the country, we appeal to the public authorities and above all to the solidarity of the people, for an end to this descent toward the inferno toward which Haitian society seems to be plunging irresistibly, in order that the country, at last rid of its demons, may recover hope once more and live;

One does not kill an idea!  
By the Newsroom of Radio Galaxie.  
CHARLES constel"

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