

**Gunmen wound two peacekeepers, two Red Cross workers at checkpoint in Haiti**

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PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - Gunmen opened fire on U.N. troops at a checkpoint in a Haitian slum, wounding two peacekeepers and two Haitian Red Cross workers, a U.N. official said Friday.

The attack occurred Thursday in the sprawling seaside slum of Cite Soleil, the site of frequent clashes between well-armed gangs and peacekeepers patrolling the area, U.N. spokeswoman Myrna Domit said.

Five soldiers were at a checkpoint near a hospital when unknown gunmen began shooting, Domit said.

A Bolivian soldier was shot in the knee, while a Jordanian military interpreter was hit in both legs, Domit said. Two Haitian Red Cross workers were slightly injured. The four are being treated at a U.N. hospital in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The attack came the same day U.N. mission chief Juan Valdez vowed to hunt down gang leaders who control parts of Port-au-Prince slums and have been blamed for recent shooting and kidnappings. Valdes urged citizens to volunteer information on criminals through a new telephone hot line.

The 7,400-strong U.N. force has been criticized for a lack of aggressiveness in cracking down on militants since the February 2004 armed uprising that forced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to flee Haiti.

On Thursday, Roger Noriega, the U.S. assistant secretary for western Hemisphere affairs, urged the Brazil-led force to be "more pro-active" in combatting gangs, which he said were trying to derail election scheduled for October and November.

Clashes between pro- and anti-Aristide gangs, Haitian police and peacekeepers have killed more than 700 people since September, when Aristide supporters stepped up calls for his return from exile in South Africa. Human rights groups have warned voters could be too scared to vote in the fall elections.

A top aid to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Jorge Armando Felix, was traveling to Haiti on Saturday to evaluate stabilization efforts and discuss the possibility of new technical help for the interim government.

Also Friday, police secured the release of an interim Foreign Affairs Ministry official who had been kidnapped by armed men the day before in Port-au-Prince, police spokeswoman Gessy Coicou said. She declined to say if a ransom was paid to free Eric Perreau, the ministry's chief of protocol, or if any arrests were made.

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