

-----  
**Former Captain Jackson Joanis has been released: pressure has reportedly been applied by justice officials to obtain his release**  
-----

**Port-au-Prince, June 14, 2005, (AHP)-** Former Haitian Army Captain Jackson Joanis, who was sentenced in absentia for his presumed role in the murder of business leader and political activist Antoine Izméry, was released from detention last Friday.

Sources close to the judiciary indicated that pressure had been exerted by the most senior justice officials to obtain his release.

Jackson Joanis took refuge in the United States before his trial in absentia and was arrested by U.S. justice officials on charges of violating human rights. He was subsequently deported to Haiti.

The interim authorities organized a trial in August 2004 which resulted in the exoneration of Jackson Joanis and the man who was formerly second in command of the FRAPH paramilitary organization, Louis Jodel Chamblin.

However due to the outcry caused by the verdict from this trial organized for Joanis and Chamblin and conducted at lightning speed, the two men were kept in detention on other charges.

Some human rights organizations such as NCHR/Haïti, had indicated at that time that they were receiving threats because of the fact that they said the trial was a sham.

An NCHR official, Marie Yolène Gilles, at that time mentioned the name of Bernard Gousse as being one of the sources of pressure against her organization. As of Tuesday morning, NCHR had still not reacted to the news of the release of Joanis.

While the former captain has reportedly been released, Louis Jodel Chamblin remains in prison, accused of having taken part in arson attacks that burned down several hundred homes in Cité Soleil in December 1993.

According to reliable sources, the former FRAPH leader is very depressed.

Before turning himself in to justice authorities in April 2004, Chamblin, who had participated in the armed insurrection against the Aristide government, met with Justice Minister Bernard Gousse.

Sources close to the interim government indicated at that time that the former FRAPH leader had been assured that his detention would not be for a long period of time.

**AHP June 14, 2005 2:10 PM**