
New cases of kidnapping in Port-au-Prince: the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs rejects any possibility of holding talks with terrorists in the case of a Canadian citizen from Montreal abducted in Port-au-Prince

Port-au-Prince, June 15, 2005, (AHP)- At least five people have been abducted over the past 24 hours in Port-au-Prince. Three of them, including a high-ranking official of a private bank, were kidnapped on Wednesday.

The customs director at the port and a department head at the customs service were taken hostage Tuesday.

As in most cases, the kidnapers are asking for large sums of money to set their captives free.

At the same time, the Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, Pierre Pettigrew, said that his government would not negotiate with terrorists to obtain the release of a Canadian citizen from Montreal, Huguette Boulay, who was abducted Sunday in Port-au-Prince.

On Tuesday, another official of the government of Prime Minister Paul Martin affirmed that negotiations were in progress with the kidnapers of Mme. Boulay.

A delegate from the Canadian government and a police officer are in Port-au-Prince in connection with these discussions, according to a news agency, which cited the Canadian official.

Ms. Boulay's kidnapers are asking for a ransom of \$300,000.

AHP June 15, 2005, 4:00 PM

AHP June 14, 2005 1:30 PM

CARLI reports that many residents of the poorest districts find themselves forced to move out due to repeated raids by the police; they have no place to go

Port-au-Prince, June 14, 2005, (AHP)- The Committee of Lawyers for the Respect of Individual Liberty (CARLI) on Tuesday denounced what it said was the difficult situation of several hundred Haitian families living in the populist districts of Port-au-Prince.

In a note sent to AHP, CARLI deplored that these families, which are mired in misery without any source of income, have been compelled to leave their homes without having any destination, following the overwhelming power of the operations conducted by the national police in its fight against violence in Haiti.

According to CARLI, since the killing of some 20 people in the populist district of Bel-Air on June 3, the migrations out of this district and other populist districts of the capital have intensified.

Today, the most vulnerable social categories are increasingly threatened, as much by armed gangs as by the police authorities, acting in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other international human rights instruments, said CARLI.

The human rights organization reminded the transition government that it has the obligation of taking the necessary and urgent steps that will guarantee security for all individuals and satisfy the basic needs of the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

AHP June 14, 2005 3:10 PM