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English translation (Unofficial)

Flight of capital of over 10 millions dollars in only one Haitian bank because of the acts of violence and kidnappings

Port-au-Prince, June 16, 2005 (AHP)- Haitian banks continue to register enormous flights of capitals due to the volatility of the situation and acts of kidnapping.

One bank only reportedly registered a flight of capital of over 10 millions at market price, according to information given to AHP by executives at this institution. If the situation continues to degenerate like this, it will do great harm to banking institutions and to the country's economy which has been paralyzed for months, caught in an infernal cycle of violence, these same sources fear.

An important number of bank account holders have decided to transfer most of their holdings abroad since foreign government have called their citizens to leave the country or to be extra careful in Haiti. An important Haitian businessman recently told AHP that his bank account never goes over 5000 dollars now. He declared that several people who were kidnapped were told the amount of their own bank account by their kidnappers.

However, a bank director wanted to be reassuring by saying that the situation was far from being alarming. "Banks have the situation under control, but the regime in place must assume its part of responsibility", he added.

This director also denied the fact that employees communicate to other people the amount in clients' accounts. These are rumors, he said, saying that banks had taken recent measures, such as not allowing clients to make or to receive phone calls inside the banks.

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