

Jean-Marie Guilloux School

Port-au-Prince, June 17, 2005 (AHP)- At least 3 persons were kidnapped this Friday by armed individuals, in Port-au-Prince's metropolitan area.

Among the people who were kidnapped are a student at the Jean-Marie Guilloux School of Frères de l'Instruction Chrétienne and an Italian storekeeper who has been living in Haiti for years. At least 6 persons were kidnapped Thursday in the Haitian capital including a Mexican technician, Agustín, who was in Haiti in order to work for the Teleco cellular phone company Ti téléphone 2004.

Also, Mariette Thomas and Carmelle Desvarieux, respectively director of the port customs and head of service of this institution, were kidnapped at the beginning of the week and are still in their kidnappers' hands. It is the same thing for the daughter of late Reverend Antonio Suzan, Rachelle Suzan. Her kidnappers reportedly demanded 250.000 US dollars to release her.

In parallel, an executive from the Fondation pour la santé reproductive et l'éducation familiale (FOSREF), was released after a ransom was paid.

Spokesperson of the MINUSTAH military command, Moroccan Colonel Elousfi Boulbars, declared Thursday that the fight against kidnapping was not only the job of Blue Helmets, calling the population to collaborate with the national police in order to stop this phenomenon.

However, generalized violence and cases of kidnapping have serious consequences on the running of the country. Several foreigners including diplomats were called back in the country. The Peace Corps Volunteers suspended its operations in Haiti and called back all its 16 members. The CICR suspended provisionally its activities in Cité Soleil. Meanwhile, commercial banks register flights of capitals of millions of dollars.

Peace Corps Volunteers suspends its operations in Haiti because of violence and insecurity

Port-au-Prince, June 17, 2005 (AHP)- Peace Corps Volunteers suspended its operations in Haiti because of the persistence of the climate of violence in the country.

Spokesperson of the organization Barbara Daly declared that 16 members of the organization were evacuated. The Peace Corps' decision to leave Haiti comes three weeks after the American State Department asked American citizens not to go to Haiti and ordered the evacuation of the non-essential personnel of its embassy in Port-au-Prince.

The Peace Corps had resumed their activities in Haiti in 1996. They were forced to leave the country a first time during the period of the 1991/1994 military coup d'état, then came back 6 months later.

Leaders of the Red Cross International Committee (CICR) announced Thursday that they were provisionally closing down their offices in the populist district of Cité Soleil, because of the climate of insecurity prevailing in this area. This decision was also taken because of the fact that two volunteers of the Haitian Red Cross were shot and injured last Thursday in the Cité, during a confrontation between armed civilians and MINUSTAH soldiers.

AHP June 17, 2005 10:30 AM
