

Haiti/insecurity: new cases of kidnapping. Kidnappers could be recruited by people deported from North America, according to the director of a Haitian radio station in Montreal

Port-au-Prince, June 20, 2005 (AHP)- At least two persons were kidnapped this Monday by armed men, in Port-au-Prince's metropolitan area.

It is a secretary and a chauffeur working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The kidnapping was committed on Airport Road, as the two employees were taking a document to a delegation of the Ministry that should leave the country for a special mission.

A Promobank executive, Joanès Saint-Rôme, and his mother were shot last weekend at Fermathe, in the heights of Pétion-Ville. Joanès Saint-Rôme worked at the branch of the Promobank on Bonne Foi Street.

An Italian storekeeper who was kidnapped last week was released after a ransom was paid, but Assistant Director of the Port Customs Mariette Thomas is still in the hands of her kidnappers.

Interviewed by a Quebec agency, Director of the Haitian radio station in Montreal CPAM, Jean Ernest Pierre, declared that the bandits are looking in Haiti for people who can pay ransoms. According to him, the kidnappers are well-organized gangs, formed, among other things, by Haitians who lived in Quebec and in the United States and who were expelled because of their criminal activities. White people living in Haiti could also be part of these criminal gangs.

For the moment, Ottawa strongly suggests to Canadians not to go to Haiti if they don't have a good reason to do so.

AHP June 20, 2005 1:40 PM
