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An ICRC employee in Haiti has been found dead after he was kidnapped

Port-au-Prince, June 30, 2005 (AHP)- An employee of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Haiti was found dead Thursday after having been kidnapped Wednesday as he was returning home, according to a statement from the international organization.

"The ICRC is extremely moved by the loss of this collaborator who has demonstrated his commitment for the past ten years in support of the organization's humanitarian objectives. The ICRC expresses its deepest sympathies to his family, friends and colleagues", the statement declared.

The International Committee of the Red Cross expressed "its profound concern" at the deterioration of the security situation, which constitutes an additional threat to the Haitian population, the note continued.

The kidnapping took place against the backdrop of a similar incident, as an employee of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations was kidnapped June 28 and released unharmed the following day after an intervention by MINUSTAH forces.

The ICRC delegation in Haiti will continue to fulfill its mission through neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian actions to benefit the populations affected by the violence that is presently gripping the country, the ICRC communiqué concluded.

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Mirebalais, June 30, 2005 (AHP)- A resident of Mirebalais (in the Central Plateau) was kidnapped several days ago by individuals who demanded a significant sum of money be paid as ransom in order to obtain her release.

The husband of the victim, who spoke out Wednesday against the kidnapping, said that it is totally impossible for him to obtain access to such a large sum of money.

He appealed to the interim government to provide security for the population and condemned the action of these men who are in the process, he said, of increasing his suffering at a moment when extreme poverty rages in Haiti.

Hundreds of people have been abducted over the past few months in Port-au-Prince.

Provincial cities, which also suffer from insecurity, were until now spared this new form of criminal behavior.

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