

**AHP News, March 18, 2004 - English Translation (Unofficial)**

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**Citizens held prisoners at sea on a boat from the Haitian coast guard could be in serious trouble**

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**Port-au-Prince, March 18, 2004 -(AHP)-** Many members of the political organization Fanmi Lavalas and police officers who were arrested on Friday, March 13 at Port-au-Prince are held prisoners at sea on a boat from the Haitian coast guard at Bizoton (South of the capital).

Among others, there are division commissioner Jacques Anthony Nazaire, who was one of the managers of security for President Aristide; SMCRS manager, Paul Keller, police officer Pétion Ospide and a former pro-mayor of Port-au-Prince, Harold Severe.

One of these prisoners, Anthony Nazaire, who suffers from a handicap to an arm after the December 17, 2001 attack on the national palace left him with serious injuries, is allegedly in serious trouble, the AHP learned.

Suffering from sea sickness, he apparently keeps vomiting and, thus, is unable to eat anything.

The police are using security matters to justify keeping the 3 men held at sea.

Anthony Nazaire and the 2 other prisoners are accused of dealing with criminals. According to sources close to the police, some of them have been arrested for 'precaution reasons' to prevent alleged criminals from fleeing the country.

In Harold Severe's case, Judge Brédy Fabien allegedly had him arrested for his presumed involvement in the murder of Radio Haitien's manager. However, that judge's authority in this matter is in doubt, for Judge Napela Saintil, who was first in charge of the case, has not been told about the appointment of the new judge.

It is not known whether Louis Charles and Emée Luckson - a USGPN agent - who were arrested on the same day are still held prisoners at Petion-ville's police station.

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**Senate president condemns a scheme from the former opposition aimed at destroying**

## **the political organization Fanmi Lavalas**

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**Port-au-Prince, March 18, 2004 -(AHP)-** The Republic's Senate president, Yvon Feuillé, condemned Thursday a scheme from the former opposition aimed at destroying the political organization Fanmi Lavalas.

Mr. Feuillé says the persecutions of the party's activists and leaders throughout the country prove that there is a scheme.

He said his party is the most represented in the country. He regretted that the former opposition was taking advantage of the absence of President Aristide to start persecuting the party's supporters in order to keep them from regrouping.

He asked the Latortue government to guarantee multipartism in Haiti.

Senator Yvon Feuillé was also happy to see that the armed supporters of Lavalas were starting to hand over their weapons to facilitate the disarmament process. He asked the armed supporters of the opposition to do the same to help pacifying the country.

Concerning the relentless efforts from some sectors to try and destroy the Republic's Senate, the president of that institution asked these sectors to stop their fall into unconstitutionality.

The Senate, he said, is a constitutional institution. He also announced that this institution's activities would resume. The Senate is currently made of 15 members out of 27.

A plenary session will be held Wednesday at the Parliament, where many issues will be discussed, Mr. Feuillé said, adding that he was talking with other parliamentary associations throughout the world.

**AHP 18 March 2004 4:00 PM**

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## **Many ministers of the Latortue government officially sworn at their position**

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**Port-au-Prince, March 18, 2004 -(AHP)-** Many ministers of the Latortue government were officially sworn at their position this Thursday.

In his formal speech, the new minister of Justice, Bernard Gousse, announced serious reforms in the judicial system.

"These reforms have to start in the faculties of law and the country's judicial school in order to have a real impact.

"We must start now institutionalizing judicial independence without compromising", Gousse