

AHP News, March 19, 2004 - English Translation (Unofficial)

CARLI deeply preoccupied by impunity for those who committed exactions on the population during the military coup of 1991

Port-au-Prince, March 19, 2004 -(AHP)- The *Comité des Avocats pour le Respect des Libertés Individuelles* (CARLI) (Committee of Lawyers for the Respect of Individual Liberties) said Friday it was deeply preoccupied by the impunity of some of the people who committed exactions on the population during the military coup of 1991.

According to CARLI, these individuals, of whom Louis Jodel Chamblain and Jean Pierre alias Jean Tatoune, are a real threat to Haitian society.

These two men had fully supported the opposition in its fight to overthrow President Aristide.

CARLI's executive secretary, Renand Hédouville, said that, when talking about human rights, no crime should go unpunished.

The perpetrators of the 1991 coup massacres who are still walking the streets in impunity should be brought before a court of law, Renand Hédouville said.

He also asked that those who 'mysteriously' escaped prison should be sent back to jail.

The doors of all the country's prisons were opened on February 29 for all those who were there for various reasons, following the departure of President Jean Bertrand Aristide in strange circumstances.

According to Mr. Hédouville, a democratic society cannot be built on forgetting the past and impunity.

He hopes the judicial structures and the judicial system's independence will be reinforced to give a stronger fight to impunity in Haiti.

Mr. Hédouville pleaded for the importance of the social, economical and cultural rights of the poor, especially women and children.

Renand Hédouville also greeted the fact that some gang members of Cité Soleil handed weapons over to the national police Wednesday.

He feels this is an important step in the disarmament process. However, he believes there is still a lot to be done in this matter.

Mr. Hédouville asks the national police to start a total disarmament operation for all the many armed gangs in the country, including the groups lead by Guy Philippe, Louis Jodel Chamblain and Jean Tatoune.

Guy Philippe's men are still active in Artibonite, the North, Northwest, Plateau-Central and Northeast where they are accused of perpetrating serious exactions on the local population.

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NCHR asks that Louis Jodel Chamblain and Jean Tatoune be sent to jail and says an investigation was opened on the case of Lavalas activists who were apparently drowned in a container at Cap-Haïtien

Port-au-Prince, March 19, 2004 -(AHP)- The National Coalition for Haitian Rights (NCHR) has asked Friday that FRAPH leader, Louis Jodel Chamblain, and Jean Pierre alias Jean Tatoune be arrested and sent directly to jail, as both of them should be sentenced to life for their participation in slaughters against the Haitian people.

This call by the NCHR comes about 22 days after these 2 confirmed criminals were accused of participating in the murder of many police officers and civilians during the fighting which led to the overthrow of President Aristide.

FRAPH is accused of participating, along with the army, in the slaughter of more than 5,000 people during the time of the coup d'état from 1991 to 1994. Jean Tatoune had been found guilty of participating in the Raboteau (Gonaïves) massacre of April 1994 which killed many dozens of individuals.

NCHR coordinator, Pierre Espérance, said it was inconceivable that these 2 criminals were still walking the streets freely. They belong in prison, as no State of law can exist with total impunity, he said.

In Port-au-Prince, many sectors state that most human rights organizations had stayed shut on these 2 men's actions when they lead the opposition's fight at the Gonaïves and other regions of the country to overthrow President Aristide.

NCHR coordinator, Pierre Espérance, also called for the disarmament of all the armed gangs of the country.

According to Mr. Espérance, the group lead by Guy Philippe and the armed supporters of Lavalas, as well as those of the former opposition, are illegal, for they are not a part of any

legal structure.

He asked the new authorities to take measures for a complete disarmament. About the gang leaders handing over many weapons to the police at Cité Soleil, Pierre Espérance felt the number of weapons handed over does not match the number of weapons in circulation in the country.

The NCHR coordinator announced there would soon be an investigation on the case of Lavalas activists who were killed at Cap-haïtien on February 22 when Cap-Haïtien went down to the rebels. The victims were apparently locked in a container before being drowned at sea.

An investigation is also underway on the bloody events at St-Marc before and after President Aristide's departure. Guy Philippe's men killed supporters and opponents of President Aristide as well as many other citizens at Petit-Gôave and Cayes.

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

Port-au-Prince, March 19, 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 Haïtien'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.