

AHP March 22, 2004 11:45 AM

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**A professor who is a member of Fanmi Lavalas denounces the continuation of abuses against party supporters in the north of the country**  
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Port-au-Prince, March 22, 2004 -(AHP)- Lorgeat Claude, a young professor who belongs to Fanmi Lavalas, criticized Monday the physical abuses he suffered at the hands of members of the Army of the North, who abducted him, he said, during the night of March 12.

In an interview with AHP, Lorgeat Claude explained that these men, who were hooded and wearing camouflage clothing, had fired rounds of machine-gun fire at his home in Barrière Boutelle, at the entrance to the city of Cap-Haitien, before kidnapping him and taking him to a torture center set up in a customs hall in the city.

He stated that his abductors were angry about his political affiliation and accused him of possessing illegal weapons.

Lorgeat Claude said he was released several hours after his abduction and denied that he possessed any illegal weapons. "No weapon was found on me at the time of my abduction", he added.

Lorgeat Claude has been in hiding since he was released. He said he was severely beaten, especially on the face and the hip. He said he still suffers from the blows he received.

Mr. Claude also explained that due to this campaign of repression, many residents of Cap-Haitien are starting to leave the city to take refuge elsewhere in order to escape the fury of the armed men.

They say they fear for their security despite the deployment in the region of French military forces who are co-habiting, they say, with the men of the army of the north, who they say remain very active on the ground.

AHP March 22, 2004 11:05 AM

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**Thirteen firearms are handed over leaders of the armed front of the opposition in Gonaïves**  
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Port-au-Prince, March 22, 2004 -(AHP)- A leader of the armed front of the opposition in Gonaïves, Butteur Métayer, handed over 13 firearms Saturday to the new police authorities under a disarmament program launched in the country since the departure of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

This hand over of weapons took place on the occasion of the visit on Saturday of the newly-designated prime minister at the city of independence. He was accompanied by the minister of the interior, Hérard Abraham, and the minister of justice, Mr. Bernard Gousse.

When questioned about the quantity of weapons possessed by the front for its effort to overthrow President Aristide, Butteur Métayer declared that they have no more than 45 weapons for all their men deployed in Port-de-Paix, Cap-Haitien and Gonaïves.

Butteur Métayer said he is ready to hand over the other weapons whenever they are collected.

At the beginning of February, however, Métayer, Winter Etienne and the fugitive from justice, Jean Tatoune had declared that they had enough weapons and ammunition to fight for two years.

The new prime minister, Latortue, said he considers this arms hand over a symbolic gesture by the leaders of the front and that there remains much to be done in the area of disarmament.

The ministers of the interior and justice, Hérard Abraham and Bernard Gousse, respectively, said that the information available on the members of the front will be examined scrupulously with a view to learning whether or not they can be integrated into the Haitian National police.

**AHP March 22, 2004 12:25 PM**

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**Two individuals close to the opposition political Platform were very seriously injured Saturday evening by soldiers from the Multinational Force in the Canapé-Vert district**  
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**Port-au-Prince, March 22, 2004 -(AHP)-** Two individuals were very serious injured by gunshots Saturday evening in the Canapé-Vert district of Port-au-Prince by American soldiers from the international force that has been deployed in Haiti since the departure of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on February 29.

One of the victims, Louis René Balmyr, known as Babal, a regular participant in demonstrations by the political platform that was formerly in the opposition, was struck by at least seven bullets as soldiers opened fire on his vehicle, a white Toyota Land cruiser which was riddled with bullets.

Mr. Balmyr is in serious condition at a hospital in the capital.

A passenger in the vehicle, a man named Marcel, was struck in the buttocks by a bullet.

According to some witnesses, the two men hesitated to stop during a search operation carried out near the building housing the administrative offices of the national telephone company (Téléco).

Other witnesses indicated that the occupants of the vehicle, which they say was traveling at a fairly high speed, did not understand in time the gesture made by the soldiers, in light of the fact that there was no electricity.

According to a police source, the soldiers reportedly had been provided in advance with details about the vehicle.

For his part, Louis René Balmyr reportedly said to a friend that he was driving home his friend Marcel when a hail of bullets struck his car right outside the neighborhood mini-market.

According to some reports, Mr. Balmyr was driving to buy medicine when the incident took place. Other reports state that he was returning from a meeting.

Balmyr was also reportedly handcuffed before being taken to a hospital by a police patrol some 20 minutes after the incident.

The vehicles blood-stained interior was still at the scene of the incident Sunday morning. The incident took place Saturday evening at approximately 10 PM.