

Privert, was arrested during the night on Monday in Port-au-Prince.

He is presently incarcerated at the National Penitentiary.

Latortue government Minister of Justice Bernard Gousse, said that Mr. Privert is accused of involvement in the lethal incidents that took place in Syrie after the Saint-Marc police headquarters was captured by rebels.

An arrest warrant was issued against Jocelerme Privert, he said, by the investigating judge of Saint-Marc.

The minister promised that his government will bring about respect for the law.

He said that every person who is in contravention of the law will be prosecuted regardless of political affiliation, and denied that supporters of Fanmi Lavalas are the object of political persecution.

Accused of practicing a selective policy, Bernard Gousse retorted that if that were the case you would see mass arrests and mass dismissals.

"Such is not the case", he said.

However Bernard Gousse did not wish to comment on the cases of two convicted individuals who are presently walking the streets, Louis Jodel Chamblain et Jean Tatoune.

Mr. Gousse had recently raised the possibility of a second trial for Mr. Chamblain, who was convicted in absentia for abuses committed during the time of the coup d'etat of 1991, and had also suggested that the convict Jean Tatoune might possibly be pardoned for his participation in the Raboteau massacre in April 1994.

For his part, one of the leaders of the platform of the ex-opposition, André Apaid, Junior, welcomed the arrest of Mr. Privert.

He said that the former minister of the interior has be held accountable for a whole series of incidents that took place recently in Haiti, including cases in Cité Soleil and the events in Saint-Marc.

However he said he "did not wish to give the impression that he was participating in a witch-hunt".

The leader of the Group of 184 had recently gotten into a dispute with Jocelerme Privert over the question of his nationality.

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Reynold Georges describes the arrest of Jocelerme Privert as illegal and unconstitutional

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004 -(AHP)- Lawyer Reynold Georges has labeled the arrest of the former minister of the interior, Jocelerme Privert, "illegal and unconstitutional".

Reynold Georges said that Mr. Privert was arrested at his home Tuesday at 2 o'clock in the morning. This is contrary to the law, he said, which requires that all arrests be carried out between 6 AM and 6 PM.

He considers that this arrest is part of a witch-hunt.

"Certain judicial actions by the Latortue government are dictated by individuals who are pulling strings", said Reynold Georges.

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George Honorat denounces a campaign of denigration of the PPN and acts of repression against elements of the disadvantaged populations

Port-au-Prince, April 6, 2004 -(AHP)- The PPN Party (National Populist Party), denounced Tuesday a campaign it claimed was designed to tarnish its image.

A PPN official, Georges Honorat, said that this campaign is fueled through the spreading of rumors against the party.

Mr. Honorat also denounced the acts of repression perpetrated, he said, against elements of the most disadvantaged sectors.

He accused members of the interim government of involvement in a scandal of overbilling of the fuel that was ordered for the Haitian electric company.

The PPN also accuses the Latortue government of collaborating with the occupation forces, in particular the French and the Americans, said Mr. Honorat.

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