

**Fanmi Lavalas affirms that elections are not possible as long as its supporters are being murdered and persecuted throughout the country**

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**Port-au-Prince, April 13, 2004 -(AHP)-** The Fanmi Lavalas Political Organization announced officially this Tuesday that it stands in opposition to the Latortue government. The organization appeared at its second press conference since the sudden departure of President Aristide on February 29.

The members of the Communications Commission of Fanmi Lavalas denounced the manner in which the leaders and supporters of the ex-opposition are today acting with regard to democracy. They particularly denounced a campaign to eliminate supporters of the party launched throughout the country where more than 100 people have already perished, they said.

The President of the Senate, Yvon Feuillé, described numerous arbitrary acts and summary executions perpetrated against members of the party since February 29.

The Senator said that Fanmi Lavalas has withdrawn its representative from the government of consensus, Harold Julien, due to the violence to which members of the party have been subjected and the difficulties faced by the party in holding meetings of its members.

One of the most senior party officials, Yvon Neptune, was compelled to go into hiding due to the death threats he has received.

He declared that he does not understand how the Latortue government could nullify the 2003-2004 budget. Lavalas has problems collaborating with people who do not respect the Constitution, he added.

For his part, the former Deputy from Trou du Nord, Rudy Hérivaux, while affirming that he still recognizes today that all who wish to hold power must do so through elections, also said that conditions are not in place for the representative of Lavalas to be named to the CEP.

"How can the current government ask Fanmi Lavalas to be represented in the electoral body while it is hunting down supporters of the party throughout the entire country", the former deputy wondered.

Another Fanmi Lavalas spokesperson, Gilvert Angervil, said that supporters of the party continue to be victims of acts of vandalism by supporters of the ex-opposition and former members of the military who are in control, he said, of seven of the ten geographical departments of the country.

According to Gilvert Angervil, more than 40 people have already been killed in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area under the campaign to eliminate supporters of the party.

"The democracy that was promised is still not evident in this country" said the party leaders, affirming that elections are not possible in this situation of terror, which they said has also been condemned by international human rights organizations.

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**The Committee for the Defense of the Haitian people criticizes the NCHR report on the presumed massacre at La Scierie**

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Port-au-Prince, April 13, 2004 -(AHP)- The CDPH (Committee for the Defense of the Haitian People) declared Tuesday that it rejects the latest report put into circulation by NCHR according to which more than 50 people were killed at la Scierie, a community in St-Marc.

An official with the human rights organization, Ronald St-Jean, declared he was astonished to find that the police carried out several arrests on the basis of this report, which is derived from no concrete facts.

"Did the police go to the trouble of conducting their own investigation before proceeding to arrest these individuals including the former Minister of the interior, Jocelerme Privert, Mr. Saint-Jean wondered, asking at the same time whether a human rights organization can replace the police or the judiciary.

According to Mr. St-Jean, some international human rights organizations as well as members of the foreign press who traveled to the scene to look into the matter said that they were unable to uncover any trace of the massacre. They did say that they had evidence that five individuals had been killed during clashes.

Ronald St-Jean also stated that even the figures put forward by different officials of NCHR are contradictory.

In an interview with a private radio station, Radio Solidarité, NCHR Haiti Executive Director Pierre Espérance said that regardless of what the foreign journalists reported, there was indeed a massacre and it left 50 people dead.

However he was not in a position to say how many bodies were able to be accounted for by members of his organization when they arrived at the scene.

Dogs had had the time to eat a good number of them, he explained.

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**The President of the Senate denounces the searches carried out at the homes of sitting Senators and the seizure of six vehicles that had been made available to them for their work.**

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Port-au-Prince, April 13, 2004 -(AHP)- The President of the Haitian Senate, Yvon Feuillé, denounced the action of police from the DCPJ Tuesday who he said had seized official vehicles that had been made available to the members of Parliament.

According to Yvon Feuillé, the vehicles used by six Senators and other Senate employees have already been confiscated.