

"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.

AHP April 13, 2004 2:50 PM

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

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.

AHP April 13, 2004 4:00 PM

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.

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.

He also denounced the searches made by the police at the homes of several Senators who remain in office despite their right to parliamentary immunity.

Mr. Feuillé observed that this constitutes acts of harassment and flagrant violation of the Constitution of 1987, which stipulates that no person has the right to extend or shorten the term of a member of Parliament.

He downplayed rumors that the "council of the wise" can take the place of the Haitian Parliament on the basis of an accord signed April 6 between the Latortue government and the Platform of the ex-opposition.

AHP April 13, 2004 1:25 PM

Meeting between the interim president and a delegation from Fanmi Lavalas

Port-au-Prince, April 13, 2004 -(AHP)- Interim Haitian President Boniface Alexandre met Monday with a delegation from the Fanmi Lavalas regarding questions relevant to the elections.

According to a source close to the discussions, the members of the delegation took advantage of the meeting to denounce the threats and intimidation to which they supporters of president Aristide have been subjected throughout the country.

They are also said to have asked President Alexandre to adopt measures that could guarantee he free circulation of activists and leaders of Lavalas who have been ordered not to leave the country.

The delegation reportedly also conveyed to the provisional president their desire to take part in the electoral process provided there is an end to the persecution of supporters of Fanmi Lavalas.