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Ex-rebels are accused of abuses in the Central Plateau and in Belle-Anse

Port-au-Prince, April 13, 2004 -(AHP)-The ex-rebels based in the Central Plateau have been accused of committing grave abuses against the civilian population.

These rebels, for the most part former members of the ex-Haitian Armed Forces, are performing the functions of police and judicial officials. Many citizens have been arrested and tortured on the basis of wild accusations, according to reports received from some members of the population.

The residents of Belle-Anse (in the Southeast) have also been living through difficult moments since the occupation of the police station of this district by former military personnel.

This police station is now being run by a former member of the Haitian army. The population does not know where to turn to get out of this situation.

In Cap Haïtien, the former rebels, still active, have had to vacate the customs offices, which they have occupied since February 22.

The men of Guy Philippe, abandoned what they considered to be their general headquarters, at the request of the commander of the French contingent deployed in Cap-Haitien.

This measure was taken after soldiers from the multinational interim force were accused of co-habiting with former rebels possessing illegal weapons.

Commander Le Roy said that no illegal weapons will be tolerated in the city, arguing that only the national police have the job of providing security in the region.

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NCHR accuses the justice system of laxness in the cases of Louis Jodel Chamblain and Jean Tatoune

Port-au-Prince, April 13, 2004 -(AHP)- The National Coalition for Haitian rights (NCHR) denounced Tuesday the behavior of the judicial authorities, who have thus far done nothing, said NCHR, to arrest the number two in command of the FRAPH paramilitary organization, Louis Jodel Chamblain along with Jean Tatoune.

These two men, the first sentenced to prison for abuses committed by FRAPH during the period of the coup d'état, and the second convicted for his participation in the Raboteau massacre (April 1994) have played a leading role in the struggle waged by the opposition to overthrow President Aristide.

NCHR Haiti Executive director Pierre Espérance, who is facing serious criticism for his controversial report of the incidents at La Scierie, said that nothing justifies the presence of Tatoune and Chamblain on the streets because they have already been sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor, he said, by the Haitian legal system.

NCHR insists that there was a massacre at La Scierie at which 50 people were killed by police and partisans of

Fanmi Lavalas.

Foreign human rights organizations and members of the foreign press who traveled to the scene have said they were unable to find any trace of a massacre and that the government has been content to echo the reports broadcast by some of the media.

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