

affluent members of the government have constantly rigged the scales of justice", asserted Yvon Neptune.

The former Prime Minister declared himself ready to contribute freely toward the interests of the Haitian people, who persevere, he said, in their quest for progress and peace, by continuing to devote themselves at great risk and sacrifice to the slow and painstaking process of re-founding Haiti on the basis of justice.

He denounced the de facto government which, in collusion with economic or political actors whose democratic credentials are at the very least dubious, has seized control of the judicial system, which has been in decay for a long time with the objective of bringing about the disappearance of Fanmi Lavalas from the political landscape and guaranteeing the privileged interests for networks of wheeler dealers and political types to the detriment of the life and durable progress of the Haitian nation.

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Further condemnation of the trials of Chamblain and Joanis: Bernard Gousse is on the hot seat

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Port-au-Prince, August 24, 2004 (AHP)- The Platform of Haitian Human Rights Organizations (POHDH), expressed disapproval Tuesday of the trial of Louis Jodel Chamblain and Jackson Joanis, accused of involvement in the murder of the businessman and political Antoine Izméry.

In a statement sent to AHP, the POHDH said that this trial was held solely to get rid of the question of the killing of Mr. Izméry while at the same time reassuring certain social groups, particularly the former members of the Haitian armed forces.

These former soldiers provided their support last February to the anti-Aristide GNB movement by launching an armed insurrection that had caused many deaths and the destruction of numerous police stations, State offices and businesses.

POHDH Secretary Eliphètre St-Pierre stated that before even turning themselves in as prisoners the two men in question were assured they would be released.

According to Mr. St-Pierre, the working conditions of the judges and the timetable allowed for the preparation of the case are evidence of the clear determination to make the job of the defense lawyers easier.

He also stressed that the interim government can not guarantee the safety of the witnesses who have been called to appear before the court, because the soldiers have yet to be disarmed, he said.

Well before he turned himself in to justice officials, Louis Jodel Chamblain had met one-on-one with Minister Gousse.

In Mr. St Pierre's view, the justice system once again lost out on an opportunity to earn the confidence of the people.