

AHP August 30, 2004 12:45 PM

CNPRDH is "preoccupied by the increase in acts of violence and insecurity across the country"

Port-au-Prince, August 30, 2004 (AHP)- The National Coalition for the Promotion of Respect for Human Rights (CNPRDH) expressed deep concern Monday at the increase in acts of violence and insecurity affecting several parts of the country.

Normil Dorvila, a spokesperson for the organization, condemned the summary executions perpetrated in the populist districts and the abductions of police officers recently in Port-au-Prince.

Normil Dorvila is especially concerned at the absence of a willingness on the part of the government to implement a real national security plan.

The CNPRDH director said he was disturbed to find that demobilized military personnel and former members of FRAPH occupy a significant portion of the nation's territory while the Latortue government offers no response to the situation.

Pastor Dorvila asked the interim government to take a clear position on the question of the former Armed Forces of Haiti.

AHP August 30, 2004 12:15 PM

Demobilized soldiers take control of the Petit-Goâve police station: the police flee as they did during the GNB campaign

Port-au-Prince, August 30, 2004 (AHP)- Demobilized soldiers led by former captain Rémicinthe Ravix have been in control of the main police station in Petit-Goâve since last weekend and have repainted it in yellow (the color formerly used to designate buildings of the Haitian armed forces).

As in the time of the anti-Aristide GNB movement, the police officers stationed in the city vacated the premises with the arrival of the demobilized soldiers.

Rémicinthe Ravix explained this action as being necessary in order to provide security for the people of Petit-Goâve.

According to him, a staff of merely eight police officers is incapable of guaranteeing security for a population of more than 300,000.

M. Ravix deplored that the police officers deserted their stations while his men were ready to collaborate with them.

The former captain indicated that the takeover of the Petit-Goâve central police station marks the return of the soldiers to their barracks. He invited the demobilized soldiers from other regions to join them in taking on their constitutionally authorized roles.

"These foreigners who parade on the soil of our ancestors should leave one of these days", said the demobilized soldiers, who are supposed to be disarmed by MINUSTHA who will be working together with the national police.

AHP August 31, 2004 12:45 PM

The demobilized soldiers in the South announce that the army will be officially reconstituted on November 18, 2004.

Port-au-Prince, August 31, 2004 (AHP)- A spokesperson for the demobilized soldiers in the South, Rony Bernard, announced Tuesday that the Haitian army will be officially reconstituted on November 18, 2004.

According to Rony Bernard, between now and November 18, all demobilized soldiers should return to their stations throughout the country.

These demobilized soldiers who have for the past two weeks occupied the offices of the Haitian Coast Guard in the South, are preparing a military parade to mark the commemoration of the Battle of Vertières, said Rony Bernard. He explained that this action is necessary in order to guarantee what he called the security of the population.

Interim Prime Minister Gérard Latortue reiterated the determination of his government to pay the demobilized soldiers their pensions and to go ahead with a program to re-integrate them into the country's political, economic and social life.

Gérard Latortue asked the demobilized armed forces to sit around the table with members of the transition government and together find a solution to the crisis.

"The former soldiers should know that they are not facing either adversaries or enemies", said Mr. Latortue, who also pointed out that his government has neither a mandate nor the resources to reconstitute the former Armed Forces of Haiti.

Nonetheless, the demobilized forces have reaffirmed their determination to continue to campaign for their 10 years in back wages.

In related news, Guyler C. Delva, AJH (Association of Haitian Journalists) Secretary General, condemned the takeover of the offices of Radio Timoun in Haiti's Southeast by demobilized forces.

Guy Delva expressed astonishment at both the attitude of the former soldiers and the indifference shown by some of the media.

"If any other group had occupied the offices of another radio station, their would have been a tremendous outcry", said Mr. Delva.

Guy Delva indicate that he had contacted former captain Rémicinthe Ravix, leader of the demobilized forces, to ask that he ask his men to leave the offices of Radio Timoun in Jacmel.