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English translation (unofficial)

Commemoration of the September 30, 1991 coup d'état: Agents of the police and armed civilians disperse a demonstration of over ten thousand Lavalas activists

Port-au-Prince, September 30, 2004 (AHP)- The National Police of Haiti and armed civilians dispersed Thursday in Port-au-Prince a demonstration of over ten thousand persons organized on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the bloody September 30, 1991 coup d'état.

This demonstration started off in Bel-Air and had the time to go through many streets of the capital, going near the National Palace, before being scattered by gunshots shot in the air. According to numerous witnesses, several demonstrators were injured and other taken by the police.

Furious demonstrators also broke cars' windshields in commercial downtown. Following that, there was a true panic in the entire area where policemen in uniform and armed civilians were shooting in bursts, making big stores close down and small retailers run away as the public markets became empty. In a very short time, the entire downtown was deserted.

The people organizing the demonstration declared that it was CIMO agents and armed civilians who left, they believe, from the Ministry of Interior who opened fire on the demonstrators near the *Direction générale des Impôts (DGI)*.

They accused Minister of Interior Hérard Abraham of having organized a meeting the day before to plan the dispersal of the demonstration. "The interim government is the only responsible of all the violent acts seen this Thursday in Port-au-Prince by wanting to deprive Haitians from their right to freely express themselves", the demonstrators declared. They consider that the regime didn't want the foreign officials who are currently in the country including Canadian Chancellor Pierre Pettigrew to see the extent of the demonstration.

A Lavalas activists who was wounded during the demonstration asked the population to remain mobilized until the return to democratic order.

The September 30, 1991 coup d'état perpetrated under the command of General Raoul Cédras had killed between 3 to 5000 persons.

*** Several thousands of Fanmi Lavalas supporters demonstrated peacefully this Thursday in Cap-Haïtien to demand the end of the reign of arbitrary, the return to constitutional order and justice for the victims of the September 30, 1991 coup d'état.

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