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PRESS RELEASE

Kidnapped Russian National released by captors

Port-au-Prince, 6 May 2005 – Russian Vostok Aviation Company employee Dmitry Khmelevsky (31) was released unharmed and without payment of ransom in the late afternoon on 5 May 2005. He had been held captive by unknown armed suspects since Saturday 30 April 2005 after being kidnapped in his private vehicle near the Haiti International Airport.

A collaborative investigative effort between MINUSTAH's Civilian Police (CivPol) and the Haitian National Police (HNP) helped to ensure Khmelevsky's release. A turning point in the joint investigation was the possible identification of his captors and of the location where he was being held.

A joint police operation involving the HNP, CivPol Technical Advisors, Formed Police Units and military units was launched in the Cite Soleil area, shortly after his release, in an attempt to arrest the perpetrators of this crime. The search for them is continuing and it is hoped that they will be arrested soon.

The recent spike in kidnapping and carjacking incidents remains a matter of high concern for the Haitian National Police and MINUSTAH. A solid joint capacity is being built to combat criminal activity and reduce other serious crimes.

The common effort between CivPol and the Haitian National Police in improving the security environment in Port-au-Prince and other parts of the country will continue. It is hoped that the HNP and MINUSTAH could benefit from an increased cooperation from the public.

For additional information regarding this matter, please contact Daniel Moskaluk at 408-6430 / 244-2050 ext 6413

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