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PRESS RELEASE

MINUSTAH launches a set of military operations with success



Port-au-Prince, 7 June 2005 – The military forces of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), commanded by General Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, launched a series of operations, on Monday, 6 June 2005. The operations targeted areas populated by armed criminals in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

The Cite Militaire and Pele districts were completely surrounded by a significant amount of troops belonging to MINUSTAH's Brazilian contingent at the daybreak of 6 June 2005. During this operation, Haiti's international airport, Toussaint Louverture, was entirely secured. Simultaneously, armored vehicles, together with more than 150 men, patrolled the area on foot throughout the day. Armed criminals fired against the troops and the MINUSTAH forces were able to counteract the situation.

In addition, the population living inside the most unprivileged areas of Port-au-Prince manifested great satisfaction towards the deployment of MINUSTAH troops to a zone where criminals encumber them from their fundamental rights. An active collaboration amongst the residents of Cite Militaire and the blue helmets facilitated the arrest of various gangsters, which were caught in action while attacking civilian vehicles.

A similar operation was conducted at daybreak on Tuesday, 7 June 2005, targeting the hideout of criminal Dread Wilme located in the neighborhood of Bois Neuf in Port-au-Prince. During that operation, MINUSTAH troops came under fire by criminals in that neighborhood and fortunately did not suffer any injuries. Deaths or injuries of gangsters have not yet been reported.

These operations fit in the framework of the battle carried out by MINUSTAH's blue helmets against those groups who refuse to see the establishment of a secure environment in Haiti.

For additional information, please contact MINUSTAH's Office of Communication and Public Information at tel.: (509) 510-2563 ext.: 6343 or 510- 3183/84/85 ext.: 6037- 6034-6035 or consult the Mission's Internet site at <http://www.minustah.org>.

Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haïti
Bureau de l'Information et de la Communication,
387, Avenue John Brown, Bourdon – Port-au-Prince, Haïti