



MINUSTAH

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PRESS RELEASE

Ongoing Joint Operation by MINUSTAH and the HNP in Cité Soleil

Port-au-Prince, 14 December 2004 – The joint operation which was launched in the early hours of 14 December in Port-au-Prince by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the Haitian National Police is still ongoing.

The objective of the joint operation is to provide security for the residents of Cité Soleil, which have been the main victims of the violence caused by the armed gangs in Port-au-Prince, as well as to provide security for the entire population in Port-au-Prince in order for the population to carry on with their daily lives: leave their homes, take their children to school, go to the market, receive medical treatment in hospitals and pursue their activities without the risk of being injured or killed.

In addition, the residents of Cité Soleil will also be able to freely participate in political and social activities and contribute to the national dialogue, thus advancing towards reconciliation and peace in Haiti.

Once the operation ends, both MINUSTAH and the HNP will maintain a permanent presence in Cité Soleil, which will thus allow for the humanitarian agencies to continue implementing their programs in that neighborhood. Also, the local authorities will be able to execute their responsibilities and implement projects, with the support of the international community, related to social and economic development.

MINUSTAH asks that the residents of Cité Soleil remain calm and assures them that this operation was launched in order to allow them to live normal and secure lives. The support of the Cité Soleil residents is vital for MINUSTAH to succeed in rebuilding the neighborhood.

The operation was conducted with utmost vigilance in order to limit injuries and damages. Unfortunately, two civilians were injured during the operation and they are currently receiving medical treatment at the United Nations Military Hospital. During the operation the body of a child was found close to the Wharf police station. Investigations established that the child was killed a few hours before the launch of the operation

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More information concerning this operation will be released once they are available. For further information please contact the MINUSTAH Public Information and Communication Office at (509) 510-2563 ext. : 6343 or 510- 3183/84/85 ext. : 6037- 6034-6035 or a missions' Web Site Site at

<http://www.minustah.org>