

Yvon Neptune resumes his hunger strike at the Argentine hospital and affirms his desire to continue the strike until the de facto authorities and the UN either release him unconditionally or play a direct role in his death

Port-au-Prince, April 20, 2005 (AHP)- Former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune announced Wednesday that as of Sunday April 17 he resumed the hunger strike he had begun at the National Penitentiary to obtain his release.

Yvon Neptune was incarcerated for many months at the National Penitentiary before being transferred to MINUSTAH's Argentine hospital to receive treatment.

Mr. Neptune turned himself in to justice officials following accusations brought against him by the organizations NCHR and RAMICOSM relating to an alleged massacre said to have been perpetrated in mid-February 2004 at La Scierie, a Saint-Marc community.

In a news release dated April 20, Yvon Neptune said that this time he is waging a total hunger strike.

"I will consume neither food nor liquid. I will continue the strike until the de facto authorities proceed either to release me unconditionally or participate directly in my death," said Mr. Neptune.

The former Prime Minister denounced what he called "the mental torture that APENA officers continue to inflict" upon him as they constantly lurk near him at the Argentine hospital.

According to Mr. Neptune, the de facto authorities have been doing everything they can to humiliate him as they seek to keep him in prison as long as possible or to send him to St-Marc regardless of the conditions.