

## **Revolt In Haiti: Summary Of Events & Statements, April 6-10, Part 2**

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Later on Saturday, the government said it had crushed the mutiny, and that most of the rebels had been arrested. In a statement read on state-run radio, army adjutant Gen. Andre Jean-Pierre said, "The soldiers of the Presidential Guard presently occupy the Dessalines Barracks." The government communique said the rebel prisoners implicated drug traffickers in the efforts to overthrow Avril that began April 2 with an attempted coup. It said an anti-government plot was organized by Haitian exiles formerly associated with the ousted regime of dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier. The communique claimed the mastermind of the revolt was former Interior Minister Roger Lafontant, currently residing in the Dominican Republic. The statement was issued at 5:15 p.m. EDT after several hours of heavy shelling of the barracks compound and firefights. Shooting had died down shortly before the announcement. The communique did not say how many rebels were captured or had escaped. Haitians monitoring military radio broadcasts said reports indicated the Presidential Guard suffered 15 casualties. US Embassy spokesperson Susan Clyde said it was believed two Presidential Guard soldiers were killed Saturday. "The casualty figures apparently are going to be lower than the level of noise might have indicated," she said. April 9: Unidentified Haitian medical workers told the New York Times that about 25 rebels and five soldiers of the Presidential Guard died in the fighting on Saturday. Radio Soleil reported that five civilians had been killed, and 40 wounded. Loyalist troops on Saturday defeated the largest rebel unit, the Dessalines Battalion, although some soldiers from that unit were still at large on April 9. Members of the Leopards Corps were still holding out on Sunday. They said they were ready to negotiate with the government, insisting that corps members not be subjected to reprisals, and that the unit remain intact. At the Leopards camp on the outskirts of the capital on Sunday afternoon, the rebels told reporters that they had not yet received a reply from Avril. They said they felt they had been "thrown into this" rebellion by their commander, Col. Himmler Rebu, who was expelled from Haiti last week for his role in the attempted coup. Maj. Jean Lucien Cazeau said, "It's not that we had a problem with the president." Last month, the US Congress approved a limited restoration of aid. Over the weekend eight members of Congress, including Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called for "urgent humanitarian assistance" for the Avril government as well as cash allotments for government operating expenses. The members of Congress also said that a "limited amount of military assistance may be needed on an urgent basis to maintain public order." Government communiqués released late Sunday night lifted news censorship and loosened an overnight curfew. April 10: Shops, offices and schools were open and traffic was back to normal in Port-au-Prince. One body was found in a street early Monday morning. Radio Soleil said 30 soldiers 25 rebels and five loyalists and four civilians were killed in the fighting on April 7 and 8. A Haitian doctor speaking on condition of anonymity said at least 15 soldiers of the Presidential Guard were wounded but he had no report on injured rebels. According to Radio Soleil, one of the four officers accused of masterminding the attempted coup on April 2, Dessalines Barracks commander Col. Guy Francois, received asylum in the Vatican Embassy. At a news conference at the national palace, Lt.Gen. Avril said loyalist troops fired mostly blank shells to avoid casualties in the weekend assault.

He added, "We in the Presidential Guard are aware of our power, but we never wanted to use it against our brothers." According to Avril, due to the loyalist troops' restraint, only six soldiers were killed in the fighting Friday and Saturday. A seventh died Sunday trying to recover an undetonated grenade. Avril said one civilian was killed in the crossfire, and 75 people were wounded 43 soldiers and 32 civilians. Avril said that throughout Friday night and for much of Saturday, the Presidential Guard fired blank shells from howitzers and cannons at the barracks "to shake them and make them run." After the rebels occupied the Roman Catholic seminary near the palace, he said, the guard decided to launch a full-scale attack with live ammunition. Three soldiers were killed. After the news conference, Foreign Minister Serge Elie Charles said soldiers captured in the weekend assault were allowed to return home and the government was holding no prisoners as a result of the operation. He said the Dessalines were ordered to report to army headquarters on April 11 for instructions. US federal aviation officials said two deserters from the Dessalines Barracks hijacked a twin-engine aircraft carrying seven missionaries from Cap Haitien on the country's northern coast to Fort Lauderdale. The plane was diverted to Miami International Airport before the hijackers surrendered peacefully. The twin-engine Cessna 402, owned by Missionary Aviation Fellowship of Redlands, California, landed at 2:30 p.m. in Miami, where they surrendered. The FBI would not immediately confirm the arrests. (Basic data from AP, 04/06-08/89, 04/10/89; DPA, 04/07/89, 04/10/89; Xinhua, 04/08/89; AFP, 04/10/89; New York Times, 04/08-10/89)

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