7-4-1989

Haiti: Radio Station Shuts Down After Striking Employees Threatened By Gunmen

John Neagle

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur

Recommended Citation


This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.
Haiti: Radio Station Shuts Down After Striking Employees Threatened by Gunmen

by John Neagle

Category/Department: General
Published: Tuesday, July 4, 1989

On July 1, Haiti's Radio Soleil, operated by the Roman Catholic Church, went off the air after news editor Venel Ramarais said he was threatened by gunmen and fired along with five other employees in the midst of a strike. Ramarais said two gunmen stopped him in front of the station's gate Saturday morning, waved a pistol in his face and threatened to kill him. According to Ramarais, the station's management was "indifferent" when he told officials of the confrontation. He said he and five other employees were fired two hours later when management decided to clamp down on the strike and stop broadcasting. The station has encouraged the poor to fight social injustice. Since April, Haiti's conservative Episcopal (Bishops) Conference has fired a total of 10 of the station's 42 employees. In a communique earlier in the week, station employees said, "For about three months the new heads of the station have been running it with an antagonistic spirit," which led the staff to strike. Ramarais said he did not notify police of the encounter at the station gate. According to AP, police in Haiti rarely respond to citizens' complaints. A group of 60 parish priests said in a June 29 communique that they will celebrate Mass together Sunday and stage a procession in a show of support for the strikers. (Basic data from AP, 07/01/89)

-- End --