

Aristide supporters kidnapped in Haiti

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Haitian police are investigating the kidnapping of a high-ranking member of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas Family Party.

Maryse Narcisse, who served as spokeswoman for Aristide shortly after his February 2004 ouster amid an armed uprising, was kidnapped by gunmen Saturday night, according to police and Aristide supporters.

Narcisse is the second high-profile Lavalas member to be abducted in the last two months in Haiti. In August, Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine also disappeared after leaving his home just after midnight, according to Aristide supporters.

"Up until now we have no information," on that report, said police spokesman Frantz Lerebours.

According to an e-mail sent out by Aristide followers, Narcisse was "seized by a group of armed men as she reached her home after leaving a meeting with . . . and others of Lavalas Family, and driven off in a car with her abductors."

The e-mail also said kidnapers were demanding \$300,000 for Narcisse's release, but Lerebours said he had no information about the negotiations.