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# Jamaican students protest penalties on college tuition

*Hundreds demonstrate against a decision to remove students from registration lists for late payments*

BY HOWARD CAMPBELL  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Police fired tear gas Wednesday to disperse more than 800 students protesting their university's decision to take students off registration rolls for failing to pay tuition on time.

The students blocked the entrances to the University of the West Indies in Mona, a suburb of the Jamaican capital of Kingston, forcing the suspension of classes. Six students were treated for tear gas inhalation, but there were no serious injuries, police said.

Wednesday was the third day of protests against the administration's decision to take 2,800 students off registration rolls for failing to pay the Jamaican \$120,000 (U.S. \$2,000) yearly tuition by Sept. 3.

"If it takes marching around this

campus until the walls fall down, we won't stop," said Damion Crawford, president of the University Guild of Graduates.

University officials had agreed to extend the deadline to Oct. 16, but students complained that still wasn't enough time. University officials were meeting Wednesday to discuss options, said Joe Pereira, an administration official.

About 11,000 students are enrolled at the Mona campus, according to the Web site of the university, which also has campuses in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

Education Minister Maxine Henry-Wilson said the government would not get involved in the dispute.

"We believe that the question of timely fees rests with the administrators," she said.

# Aristide supporters on beheading spree in Haitian capital

*U.N. makes 75 arrests for the deaths of at least 19 foreigners murdered by ex-president loyalists*

BY AMY BRACKEN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Enraged supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide armed themselves with machetes, guns, rocks and bottles and roamed a downtown slum, threatening to behead foreigners after U.N. peacekeepers and Haitian police arrested dozens of people Wednesday.

As gunfire crackled and two helicopters roared overhead, peacekeepers in armored personnel carriers moved into Bel Air, trying to put down a campaign by Aristide loyalists who have carried out gory beheadings in imitation of Iraqi insurgents.

Wednesday morning, the headless body of a man lay in the street in La Salines, a seaside slum. Last week, three police officers were decapitated when Aristide supporters stepped up protests demanding his return from exile in South Africa, launching what they called "Operation Baghdad."

One angry man in Bel Air thrust a gun into the face of an Associated Press reporter Wednesday, yelled expletives against President Bush and U.N. peacekeepers, then screamed: "We are going to kidnap some Americans and cut off their heads."

At least 19 people have been killed in Port-au-Prince. Relief workers say the violence could paralyze attempts to feed tens of thousands of people in the northwest port city of Gonaives, which was devastated by Tropical Storm Jeanne last month.

Aristide loyalists had sealed off Bel Air, a warren of concrete homes overlooking the National Palace in Port-au-Prince. In Wednesday's operation, U.N. troops and Haitian police surrounded the district, searching cars and people at checkpoints near torched cars that residents were using to keep them out.

Police Director Renan Etienne said they detained 500 people for questioning during the sweep of Bel Air, but found no weapons.

"They were all bandits .... They had been firing at police," Etienne said.

Police spokeswoman Jesse Coicou said 75 people were arrested.

On Tuesday, a dozen young men and children in Bel Air shot a man and tried unsuccessfully to hack off his head, accusing him of spying for rebels who overthrew Aristide, said Ninger Napoleon, a reporter for Radio Antilles.

The troops and police withdrew from Bel Air Wednesday morning, leaving deserted streets to men and boys armed with various weapons. They lit bonfires to block roads with torched cars, tires, mattresses and old furniture.

"We demand Aristide's return," they said.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Lartigue — whom protesters have threatened to behead also — accused pro-Aristide street gangs of instigating the violence. Aristide supporters say the police started it by firing at unarmed protesters.

"This threatens to paralyze all the humanitarian efforts we have in Gonaives. It's extremely serious," said Anne Poulsen of the U.N. World Food Program.

She said the unrest had scared away workers from the port, stranding 2,430 tons of food there.

The government has only 3,000 ill-equipped officers to police a country of 8 million people, and the Brazilian-led U.N. peacekeeping force has 3,000 troops — well under the 8,000 promised.

Associated Press writer Stevenson Jacobs contributed to this report from Gonaives.

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