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Haiti: More violence against demonstrators.

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It is of great concern that human rights abuses against demonstrators are becoming a pattern in Haiti, Amnesty International said on the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The organization has received reports of violence against students of the State University of Haiti while they were protesting against government practices last Friday.

According to the information received, students were attacked by pro-government counter-demonstrators on university grounds, in the presence of police who did not intervene in time to stop the violence.

The university's rector, Pierre Marie Paquiot, was reportedly attacked with an iron bar, resulting in two fractured legs, while the vice-rector Wilson Laleau suffered head injuries from a similar weapon. Over 20 others, primarily students, were said to have been wounded, by firearms, batons, rocks or other weapons. The government supporters also vandalised university buildings.

The government has announced the creation of a commission which would investigate the incidents.

"The authorities have to act quickly and decisively to bring those responsible to justice, so as to break the cycle of impunity in Haiti," Amnesty International concluded.

Public Document

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