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Key players in Haitian politics

Boniface Alexandre

Supreme Court chief justice took over Sunday as interim president until elections are held. Rebels say they have accepted the move. Alexandre has a reputation for honesty, but U.S. officials view him as ill-suited for the rough-and-tumble of Haitian politics and regard him as a caretaker.

Yvon Neptune

Prime minister will continue as head of the government until a successor is appointed in the next few days, a U.S. statement said. A leader of deposed President Jean-Baptiste Aristide's Lavalas party, he is taking part in talks with the Bush administration to implement a plan developed by Caribbean nations calling for an independent prime minister and unity Cabinet to be chosen from among Haiti's political movements.

Guy Philippe

The public face of the Haitian revolt, Philippe, who turned 36 on Sunday, was reportedly trained by the U.S. military in Ecuador. After Aristide disbanded the army, he became a police official in Port-au-Prince. Accused by Aristide of cocaine trafficking, Philippe fled to the neighboring Dominican Republic in 2000 after being implicated in a plot to overthrow Aristide. Philippe returned to Haiti in mid-February after unrest began in the north. On Sunday he said his band of exiled former soldiers would stop fighting.



Guy Philippe

Jean-Bertrand Aristide

Haiti's first elected president (in 1990), he is a former parish priest who became popular by denouncing longtime dictator **Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier** and the military dictatorships that ruled after Duvalier fled the country in 1986. Aristide, 50, was ousted in a coup in 1991. A U.S.-led invasion in 1994 restored him to power. He stepped aside in 1996 for President **Rene Preval**, but was re-elected in November 2000, although the opposition boycotted the vote to protest flawed parliamentary elections earlier that year. A three-year standoff stalled foreign aid, prompting unrest and finally his departure from the country on Sunday.

Butteur Metayer

Metayer instigated the current revolt in the northwest city of Gonaives after accusing Aristide of ordering the killing of his brother, Amyot Metayer, because he knew about the government's drug ties. Butteur Metayer, 33, took over his brother's motley "Cannibal Army" gang, originally armed by Aristide's party to enforce loyalty, before turning against Aristide over the murder. Metayer promised that his gunmen would surrender their weapons if Aristide resigned.



Louis-Jodel Chamblain

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Louis-Jodel Chamblain served under former strongman **Raoul Cedras**, who ruled after Aristide was deposed in 1991. Chamblain and others had fled to the Dominican Republic in 1994 after the former army was dissolved. He co-founded FRAPH, which is accused of killing thousands of Aristide supporters.

Andy Apaid Jr.

The U.S.-born factory owner is the most outspoken leader of the opposition coalition, but he can never become president because of his dual nationality.

Evans Paul

Another top figure in the opposition coalition, he is a former Port-au-Prince mayor who was in hiding from the military regime during much of his term until U.S. troops arrived in 1994. Paul, in his late 40s, broke ranks with Aristide after being left out of his inner circle.



Sources: The Christian Science Monitor, Knight Ridder Newspapers, BBC, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times

