

## NEWS

from the office of

### CONGRESSMAN CASS BALLENGER

10<sup>th</sup> District, North Carolina

[www.ballenger.house.gov](http://www.ballenger.house.gov)

---

2182 Rayburn House Office Building \* Washington, D.C. 20515 \* 202-225-2576

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 18, 2004

Contact: Preston Hartman  
(202)225-2576

## Chairman Ballenger: Chamblain Acquittal in Haiti Disappointing

(Washington, DC) – Congressman Cass Ballenger (R-NC) termed yesterday’s decision by a Port-au-Prince court to acquit former paramilitary leader Louis-Jodel Chamblain and former police official Jackson Joanis for their role in the 1993 murder of businessman Antoine Izmyery “deeply disappointing.” Ballenger serves as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

Chairman Ballenger issued the following statement:

“The summary acquittal of Chamblain and Joanis on these charges is deeply disappointing. The Bush Administration has properly expressed its deep concern. The Haitian government has to have the capacity, security, and political will to bring violent criminals from the former Army and from Aristide’s gangs to justice. The fact is that Haiti’s fragile judicial system is open to threats by violent thugs from the disbanded Haitian Army and from groups armed by the Aristide regime.

“Extremists from the former military and the Aristide regime who employ violence and extra-constitutional means represent a clear threat to law and order and democracy. The United Nations mission in Haiti should provide appropriate technical, material and especially security support to the interim government and Haiti’s judiciary to help them face this threat. The United States must continue to provide sustained, strong support for the interim government and the U.N. mission in Haiti.”