

## Ex-Haitian rebel denies drug allegations

*by UPI*

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Just days after fleeing authorities trying to capture him, former Haitian rebel leader Guy Philippe has denied engaging in drug trafficking. In a statement played on Haitian radio Monday, Philippe said he is innocent. U.S. forces based in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, used helicopters and jets last week to try and capture Philippe, who escaped from his home in southern Haiti. The 39-year-old Philippe -- who ran for president of Haiti last year -- in February 2004 led an insurrection that prompted former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to leave Haiti.

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