

ISSUE

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) -- Haiti's president tried to **halt** a week of **rioting** by calling for tax cuts on imported food, but the capital descended deeper into **chaos** as **looters and protesters** took control of the streets. Bands of young men carrying sticks and rocks set up roadblocks of burning tires. **Mobs** looted stores, **warehouses** and government offices, and gunfire rang through **slums** and upscale neighborhoods alike.

Food prices, which have risen 40 percent are causing **unrest** around the world. But they pose a particular threat to **democracy** in Haiti, where most people live on less than \$2 a day.

VOCABULARY WORDS

halt
rioting
chaos
looters and protesters
mobs
warehouses
slums
unrest
democracy

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1) How did the Haiti's President try to stop the week of rioting?
- 2) What did the looters and protesters do?
- 3) What causes the riot?
- 4) Why do you think democracy will be threatened in this kind of situation?

LET'S TALK

1. If you live in a country with a situation like in Haiti, are you going to join the protest and riot? Why/why not?
2. What can you say about the economic status of Japan now?
3. What do you think the President of Haiti should do to solve such catastrophe?
4. Who should take the blame in Haiti's situation?
5. Compare Haiti's economic status with Japan's.