

NEWS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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RNDDH is raising the alarm about the deteriorating security situation

The ***National Human Rights Defense Network*** (RNDDH) is deeply concerned about fresh upsurge in the country, particularly in the metropolitan area, acts of insecurity and organized violence, at a time when the Haitian authorities are speaking of establishing a rule of law in Haiti.

Indeed, for several months, RNDDH notes that the Haitian population is completely left to itself. Despite the fact that the spectacular cases of murder, kidnapping for ransom, robbery, chasing people on motorcycles followed by theft, rape, fire outbreak, are perpetrated daily, the Haitian authorities are not assessing the magnitude of the situation in order to bring appropriate measures. There is no day without recording in the country automatic gun shooting. In addition, citizens are daily followed by gunmen on motorcycles when coming from commercial banks. They are beaten, shot or even killed and their money stolen.

For the period between 1st January and 14th March 2012 alone, at least *one hundred and forty-seven* (147) people died, including *one hundred and thirty* (130) shot. Among the victims are *five* (5) police officers and *one* (1) former military. The following table gives a monthly numerical and detailed summary of murder cases recorded in the metropolitan area alone.

Circumstances	January	February	Mid-March	Total
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		62	33	130
		3	1	6
Stoning	2	0	-	2
Calcination	0	2	7	9
Total	39	67	41	147

The following examples are not exhaustive; they reflect how serious the situation is:

Murders

- In January 13, 2012 a Haitian military from the demobilized Haitian **Armed Forces** (FAD'H), called Roc PRÉSENT, was riddled with bullets at **Rues des Miracles et Dr Aubry**;
- In January 19, 2012 Maxime Alcuis, driver of a journalist in Radio Metropole, Anthony Lapeyre, died from his injuries after bandits opened fire on the journalist's car, driven by his driver. The murder was perpetrated on the old aviation road of **Boenfield**.
- In January 19, 2012 Emmanuel ESPÉRANCE, a trained engineer, was murdered in **Rue Pavée**;
- In January 23, 2012, an unidentified individual was killed and six (6) other people injured during a hegemonic struggle between two (2) parties respectively called **Cameroon Base** and **Base 117**, located in **Rue Saint Martin, Bel –Air**.
- In January 24, 2012 three (3) people died from gunshot in **Port de Paix**. These people are John Odlin, bailiff of the Court of first Instance of **Port de Paix**, Atila DORÉLIEN and Héribert LAZARRE
- In January 28, 2012 Pierre Edmond DESERT, an employee in the **Programme National de Cantine Scolaire** (PNCS), received three (3) gunshots from individuals on a motorcycle. This attack was carried out at **Rue Charles Summer**
- In January 28, 2012 Wilhelm PHILIPPE, a police officer assigned to the CAT TEAM, was shot dead at **Rue Pavée**, by unidentified gunmen.
- In January 29, 2012 a police officer Yves MENARD assigned to the **Canapé-Vert** Sub Police Station was shot and wounded after the bandits opened fire on his car in **Route 9**.
- In January 30, 2012 the mutilated corpse of a young woman was found in **Carrefour**, in **Christophe Chanel** area.
- In February 8, 2012 Carlo PIERRE, owner of a soft drinks store, located in **Avenue Magloire Ambroise**, received several gunshots. These attackers were gunmen on motorcycle

nya and his two (2) daughters, Sabine CADET, and Judith
el, in **Breman** community and were murdered. Their bodies
were found in **Fauche**, in **Grand Gave** township.

- In February 14, 2012 Edmond PIERRE was murdered in **Jacmel**, in the **Mayard** community by gunmen.
- In February 15, 2012, Patrick CELESTIN, forty-one (41) years old, a PNH officer, assigned to **Brigade d'Intervention Motorisée** (BIM) was killed during an attack by gunmen on a motorcycle. This attack occurred in **Delmas 18**. During an argument, another (1) policeman called Retz DOMINGUE was wounded.
- In February 23, 2012, Angelo PIERRE-LOUIS, a PNH officer was assassinated by gunmen while he was in **Martissant**. He was assigned to the SWAT TEAM
- In the night of 23 to 24 February 2012, a minor of *twelve* (12) years old was abducted from the house by gunmen who were wearing the PNH uniform.
- In February 24, 2012, a person called Junior GASSANT, aka Jiji was killed at the **Rue Nicolas** and **Avenue Magloire Ambroise**.
- In February 24, 2012 the driver of a transport minibus was shot dead. A passenger who boarded the vehicle was also seriously wounded during a robbery perpetrated by gunmen. This incident took place in **Rue Saint-Honoré**
- In February 29, 2012 two (2) unidentified persons were shot dead. The same day, a young man was found dead in **Portail Léogane**.
- In March 3, 2012 at **Rue du Centre**, Mario Labadie, Justice of Peace of **Croix-des-Bouquets**, forty (40) years old, was shot dead.
- In March 5, 2012 Jean-Liphaite NELSON, thirty-eight (38) years old, director of **Radio Boukman**, a community radio station in **Cite Soleil** 95.9 FM, was shot dead. The accompanied person was also killed.
- In March 5, 2012 early in the morning, Mr Jeanty R. DURAND, a lawyer practicing in **Port-au-Prince**, was shot dead in the courtyard of his residence, by gunmen
- In March 6, 2012 Venel JOSEPH, former governor of the **Banque de la République d'Haïti** (BRH), was murdered.
- In March 6, 2012 Wilner CAZEAU was gunned down at **Avenue Christophe**.

an-Philippe, aka **Samba Boukman**, was riddled with bullets in
re he was waiting for his daughter. **Samba Boukman** is known
to have been in 2004 the spokesman for the **Baghdad operation**

- In March 12, 2012 a driver travelling between **Port-au-Prince / Port de Paix** was assassinated at the terminal in **Port de Paix** in an armed attack.
- In March 12, 2012 unidentified gunmen, boarded three (3) motorcycles, opened fire on a police checkpoint in **La Saline**. The police officer Serge CASÉUS succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital
- In March 12, 2012 Justin SAINT-VILIEN, a currency trader working in **Gonaives**, was shot dead by gunmen.

Conflagration

Two (2) public markets, namely **Marché de Tabarre** and **Marché Carton** were completely burned. A fire reported in **Marché Hyppolite**, was put under control before total calcination. In addition, other fires were reported around the country. Here are some examples:

- In February 8, 2012 a fire burned down **Camp Argentine**, located in the **Saint Martin** street. Kimderline DAMUSTE, a two (2) years old girl was burnt. In addition, three hundred (300) temporary shelters were completely destroyed.
- In February 24, 2012 unidentified gunmen set fire on **Tabarre Public Market**
- In February 26, 2012 unidentified individuals set fire to an old house at **Rue Lamartiniere** and **l'Impasse Lavaud**. One person was killed, another one injured.
- In March 11, 2012 a conflagration destroyed part of the accommodation camp located in the courtyard of **Lycée Toussaint Louverture**. Nineteen (19) out of thirty (30) tents in the camp were burned. Three (3) persons including one (1) child were killed.
- In March 13, 2012 five (5) members of same family were murdered before being burnt in the fire that was put to the cottage located in **Avenue N** where they were.

In this sense, RNDDH would like to draw attention of relevant authorities about the many heavily armed groups, which include individuals claiming to be demobilized soldiers. Most of them have been in trouble with legal authorities and have escaped from prison. They are reported namely in **Terre-rouge**, **Croix des Bouquets**, **Camp Corail**, **Maïssade** and **Lamentin**. They train regularly. In some parts of the country, they set up check points, thus forcing their presence on the people.

are a real and serious threat to security in the country. In fact, ed in a fight against the PNH, a struggle for hegemony and an

RNDDH condemns with utmost vehemence the unfortunate laxity of the government with respect to the increasing degradation of security issues in the country

RNDDH believes the issue of security is an important matter which should be treated seriously, with respect to citizens. In any case, it can be translated into a personal matter, guaranteed by the citizens themselves whether they are holders of weapon and blunt weapons or not.

In light of the above, RNDDH urges the relevant authorities to:

- ***immediately*** take all necessary measures design to restore a livable situation in the country, particularly in ***Port-au-Prince*** and its surroundings;
- Strengthen police check points in ***Port-au-Prince*** and its surroundings
- Monitor motorcycles stations, particularly those near commercial banks;
- Urge commercial banks in the country to encourage citizens to use banking services such as credit cards, debit cards, checks, bank transfers, instead of cash;
- Arrest and prosecute every individual involved in any of theses acts mentioned above:

The Haitian people are tired of always reporting damages and making statements to the police and judicial authorities, of murders of her children in abominable circumstances.

Port-au-Prince, mars 15, 2012