National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH)



The events in La Saline: from power struggle between armed gangs to State-sanctioned massacre

December 1, 2018

Summary

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I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. Echoing traffic on social networks, shocking images showing dead bodies wrapped in bags, spread on pieces of cardboard on trashes or thrown floating into wastewater channels, radio stations reported the murder of several people in *La Saline*...
- 2. According to preliminary information conveyed, these crimes were allegedly committed on November 13, 2018, as part of a power struggle pitting members of two rival armed gangs against each other.
- 3. The National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH) alarmed by this information, has commissioned a field survey, which took place from November 18 to 28 2018. The findings are the subject of this report.

II. <u>METHODOLOGY OF INVESTIGATION</u>

- 4. As part of this investigation, RNDDH, visited *three* (3) times to *La Saline*, and met with:
 - Milien Roger, elected deputy for the 1st district of *Port au Prince*;
 - Joseph Pierre Richard DuPlan, departmental delegate for the West Division;
 - Bernard JOSEPH; Mayor Assessor of Port-au-Prince;
 - Gregory Antoine alias Ti Greg; agent National Police Agent; in charge of the security for the departmental delegate for the West Division;
 - The judiciary;
 - The police authorities;
 - Members of grassroots organizations;
 - Four hundred and thirty-nine (439) community members of La Saline including victims and victims' relatives;

III. PRESENTATION OF SALINE

- 5. Saline is a district of the town of *Port au Prince* that occupies a prominent place in the history of the country.
- 6. It is adjacent to *Boulevard Harry Truman* commonly called *Bicentenary*, where the Haitian Parliament, Department of National Defense, and offices of the prime minister are located.
- 7. La Saline also includes a police sub-station, the office of the *National Port Authority* (NPC), Customs (AGD), and the Port au Prince Harbor that receives cargo containers ships. These containers are sent to three (3) major terminals installed in La Saline, for verification of goods.

- 8. Finally, La Saline has an historic public market *Croix-des-Bossales*, that provides commodities from *eight* (8) ¹ the departments of the country. Wholesale and retail stores, restaurant owners and supermarkets are operating there.
- 9. It should be noted also that traders and merchants from distant areas often spend the night at the *Croix-des-Bossales* market.
- 10. Moreover, La Saline has an exceptional ability to either mobilize or thwart street demonstrations, which is why this community is often courted by opposing political clans.
- 11. Today ranked among the so-called red zones by the *National Police of Haiti* (PNH), La Saline is divided into *eight* (8) territories ruled by leaders of armed gangs:
 - 1) Base Belekou led by Iscard ANDRICE
 - 2) Delmas base 6 led by the policeman Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue
 - 3) Base Nan Chabon, headed by Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior
 - 4) Kafou Labatwa directed by Felix PYRAM alias Toutou Number One
 - 5) Base Project Saline led Noel JOEL (it was recently led by Julio Pyram alias Kiki himself assisted by Herve Bonnet Barthelemy, said Bout Jeanjan and Noel JOEL)



View of Saline Project

- 6) Nan Bwa Dom Croix des Bossales, led by Jimmy JOSEPH
- 7) Base St. Martin Street;
- 8) Base Rampart Street
- 12. Armed gangs have many soldiers assigned to their services and are themselves rooted politically with state and government authorities.
- 13. The leaders of armed gangs run or are part of community-based organizations located in La Saline. These organizations are distributing food kits, hygiene and education to the needy. They also help some parents in Saline to pay for school fees.

¹ The markets of the center of Port-au-Prince, Morphology, tours, agents, governance; Research Group on Economy and Culture (NuCEC / UFRJ), Viva Rio, September 2012

- 14. The Haitian authorities are working with these community-based organizations, which they use to reach and control the population of La Saline. Governmental authorities provide these gang leaders the means to continue to help the needy, in exchange for the loyalty of gang leaders, soldiers and their community.
- 15. Clearly, the situation of La Saline reveals that on the one hand, armed gangs are well known by state and government officials, but on the other hand, gang leaders' involvement in social and charitable assistance has increased the power of these feared leaders in La Saline, who have power of life and death over the community members.

IV. PRIOR SITUATION

- 16. For several years, armed gangs of La Saline have been waging a merciless fight for control over the *Croix-des-Bossales* market. Control of the market involve extortion of businesses and allocation of coveted space for a fee.
- 17. This tug of war has already caused the death of hundreds of people in La Saline and the decimation of dozens of families who lived in the area. According to many witnesses, though at first it was just a struggle between armed individuals, today, politicians are now driving this struggle for their own interest. Politicians will back some individuals and provide them with financial supports and guns to become area gang leaders.
- 18. The population of La Saline coexists with such violence and accepts the authority of gang leaders and their soldiers. The merchants of the *Croix-des-Bossales* are required to pay the soldiers' gang leaders, who are respectfully nicknamed Papa or commander. Commanders regularly seek a fees based on the business size, in exchange for quiet enjoyment of the commercial space assigned.
- 19. In addition to extorting shopkeepers, soldiers also mug *Croix-des-Bossales Market* oppressed shoppers under the passive eyes of the unwillingly complicit Saline population, which does not act by fear of being executed.
- 20. Before 2014, two (2) armed groups controlled the neighborhood of La Saline. The Base Nan Chabon and armed gang Kafou Labatwa. The gang Kafou Labatwa then had exclusive control over the market Croix-des-Bossales.
- 21. However, in 2014, a feud broke out between *Base Nan Chabon* formerly led by Ti Macken and armed gang *The Saline Project* then headed by Serge ALECTIS alias Junior. They fought a fierce battle that lasted *nine* (9) months during which Ti Macken was killed.
- 22. It was after this battle that Serge ALECTIS Junior alias Ti was evicted from *The Saline Project* which has since was led by Julio Pyram alias Kiki and by Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY alias Bout Janjan and Noel JOEL alias Ti Joel.

- 23. After his defeat, Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior collaborated with the *Base Nan Chabon* and became its leader.
- 24. At this time, a tacit agreement was reached for control of the *Croix-des-Bossales* market, which was divided into *two* (2) main parts, one of which was controlled by the *Base Nan Chabon* and its allies gang, and the other by armed gang *Kafou Labatwa* and its allies.
- 25. On October 13, 2017, three (3) years after the reorganization of the La Saline neighborhood, Haiti's first lady Martine MOISE, Roudolphe SAINT ALBIN then Minister of the Interior, Dr Greta Marie Greta ROY CLEMENT then Minister of Public Health and Population, William Cheng-hao HU, Taiwan Ambassador to Haiti, visited La Saline for a meeting with local authorities.
- 26. For this visit and related meeting, two (2) commissions were created. The first, called internal commission, was made up exclusively of members of the La Saline community, and counted among its members the members of the Jen Kore Jen Foundation (JKJ) headed by Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY alias Bout Janjan and other members of community-based organizations. The second, called external committee was composed of a representative of National Center Equipment (CNE), and members of grassroots organizations from the Nan Chabon community affiliated with Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior.
- 27. The meeting focused on issues related to the rehabilitation of the *Ecole Mixte La Saline*, damaged by the earthquake of January 12, 2010, the creation of a vocational school in Saline, the rehabilitation of *Center for Development and Health* (CDS), transforming this institution into a health center, and involving the local youth in public administration.
- 28. The authorities present at the meeting committed to implement the promises made. In exchange, members of the neighborhood of La Saline had to commit to prevent different groups of the political opposition to go through this area during protests, or to prevent anti-government activities in Saint John Bosco, an area in front of the Tokyo neighborhood, near the intersection of Aviation, an area often used for political gatherings.
- 29. After an intense argument, this request rejected and considered bold and inappropriate by local authorities.
- 30. Meanwhile, on October 15, 2018, the day before the demonstration of October 17, 2018 (in connection with the squandering of PetroCaribe funds), members of the political opposition, including Dr. Schiller LOUIDOR, Andre MICHEL, Marjorie MICHEL, Claudy SIDNEY, MPs Roger MILIEN, Printemps BELIZAIRE and Joseph Manes LOUIS respectively of the 1st, and 3rd district of *Port au Prince* and of *Cabaret*, went to La Saline. They were welcomed by members of the *Jen Kore Jen Foundation* (JKJ) and took the opportunity to conduct a joint press conference that was seen as the La Saline official

- rallying to the movement PetroCaribe and activities to overthrow the president Jovenel MOISE.
- 31. On October 17, 2018, part of the demonstration was held in La Saline, which was a blow to the powers in place. Since then, rumors have been circulating in la Saline of a police intervention to dislodge the gang leaders in the area.
- 32. Some authorities, including the MP Milien ROGER were aware of this operation and according to him, informed the Director General of the *National Police of Haiti* (PNH).

V. FACTS OCCURRING DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2018

a. Attack November 1st, 2018

- 33. On November 1st, 2018, around 8:30 p.m., the residents of *The Saline Project and* its surroundings, including the local gang then headed by Julio PYRAM alias Kiki and Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY alias *Bout Janjan*, celebrated the feast of All Saints when they were surprised by armed gangs from *Base Nan Chabon*, lead by Serge ALECTIS alias Ti junior and *Kafou Labatwa* led by Felix PYRAM alias *Toutou Number One*.
- 34. The attack resulted in at least *five* (5) deaths, including P Julio PYRAM alias Kiki, Samuel LOUIS P and Jimmy PETIT-FRERE. *Nine* (9) other persons, among which *five* (5) women and Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY alias *Bout Janjan* were injured by gunfire.
- 35. Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY alias *Bout Janjan* was admitted to *Hospital Bernard Meus on* November 2, 2018, and placed under the control of the PNH, and then arrested by the police on November 4, 2018. On November 6, 2018, he was transferred to the civil prison *Port au Prince* for criminal association and illegal possession of firearms. Following his arrest and death of Julio PPYRAM alias Kiki, it is Joel NOEL who heads the gang *The Saline Project*.
- 36. Since the November 1st 2018 attack, the situation was very tense La Saline. All the community members, passers-by, shoppers, truck drivers, salespeople, vendors, small retailers, etc. lived in fear.
- 37. Moreover, sporadic gunfire from automatic weapons were heard daily. At least a (1) *forty one* (41) years Man, named, Frederic JEAN- ROBERT, was shot in the right arm on November 5, 2018 while at home. At the time this report, he has not yet undergone surgery to dislodge the bullet.

b. Attack of the November 13, 2018

38. On November 13, 2018, shortly before 16h and for over an hour, heavy fire from automatic weapons were heard in La Saline. In the pandemonium that ensued and in light of reports of dozens of deaths, many residents, fearing for their safety and their lives, left their home.

- 39. In the evening, gunmen, all members of the *Base Nan Chabon* directed by Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior broke into at least *one hundred and fifty* (150) houses located in *Project La Saline*, the Desmangles Street and the Rue du Quai, among others. They pulled men and women from their homes to execute them in the street. Some were beheaded, others chopped into small pieces and some others shot. Many corpses were also charred. For this operation, *Base Nan Chabon* was accompanied by:
 - The armed gang Nan Bwadom *Croix-des-Bossales* led by Jimmy JOSEPH,
 - The Belekou Base commanded by Iscar ANDRIS,
 - The armed gang Ti Bwa, commanded by Christ the King CHERY Chrislat alias,
 - Base Delmas 6 directed by the cop Jimmy CHERIZIER alias *Barbecue*,
 - Several policemen with close ties to Base Pilate led by policeman Gregory ANTOINE, alias Ti Greg,
 - The armed gang of St. Martin Street



House riddled with bullets at Saline Project

40. According to residents of La Saline interviewed in this investigation, these individuals used several vehicles including an armored vehicle from the Departmental Intervention Unit (BOID) and several public transport vans. Armed civilians were present with individuals sporting the uniforms of the agents of the Departmental Intervention Unit (BOID). They were divided into *four* (4) groups, and besieged the area known *Saline Project* to commit their crime.

VI. REPORTS FOR THE EVENTS RECORDED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1 AND 13, 2018

- 41. The record of events recorded in La Saline during the month of November 2018 is heavy:
- 42. On November 1, 2018, *five* (5) persons were killed and *firearms injured nine* (9) others.
- 43. On November 13, 2018, *seventy three* (73) casualties were recorded by the RNDDH. Among them, *fifty-nine* (59) people were killed, *two* (2) people are missing and bullets *injured five* (5) *people*. Furthermore, *seven* (7) women were raped.
- 44. For people murdered on November 13, 2018, RNDDH was able to meet with the families of *forty five* (45) of them. Corroborating information were provided to the RNDDH regarding the other *fourteen* (14) victims, whose full names were

- not available because they were not living in the community. The people were locals or shopkeepers who were caught in the events.
- 45. Among the *fifty-nine* (59) people killed, the RNDDH has identified *sixteen* (16) women and *six* (6) minors, *two* (2) of which were only *three* (3) years old. The others were respectively *nine* (9) years, *ten* (10) years, *sixteen* (16) and *seventeen* (17) years old. *Two* (2) of the people injured by firearm on November 13, 2018, were women.
- 46. One hundred and fifty (150) houses located between Project La Saline, the Desmangles Street and the Rue du Quai, among others, were vandalized or riddled with bullets. In addition, many houses localized in Nan Chabon were also completely burnt by the very people who were active in these bloody events.

a. People Killed

- 1) Gerard ANTOINE was *twenty seven* (27) years old. Armed individuals broke into his house, dragged him into the street before chopping him with machetes. His remains were thrown near the old *Lemaire Shop*, an area now called Bo Leme, where they were devoured by pigs. He was father of *two* (2) children, including a *fourteen* (14) months old girl;
- 2) Stanley ARISTHENE was *seventeen* (17) years old. When armed men broke into his home he tried to flee but was shot. He received several projectiles in the stomach;
- 3) Tiga ARISTHENE, *eighteen* (18) years old. Armed individuals broke into the home where he lived with his sister. They first shot his body before dragging to the streets to chop it with a machete. His remains were charred;
- 4) Geralson BELANCE, old *ten* (10) years old. Armed individuals broke into his house and killed him. He was shot several times. His body was put in a bag and carried away by his killers;
- 5) Abigaelle CHARLOT was old *three* (3) years. She was killed with stones while she was at home;
- 6) Jude CHARLOT, thirty nine (39) years old. He was shot several times;
- 7) Ruben CERISMA, *twenty six* (26) years old. He was murdered with a machete after being shot several times;
- 8) Wadson DACEUS, according to his wife, was killed by gunmen;

- 9) Jordan EDMOND was *twenty five* (25) years old. He was killed by machete. His body was taken and thrown to the pigs, not far from the old *Lemaire Store*:
- 10) Tide ELIPHETE was nineteen (19) years old. He was murdered in The Saline Project. According to agents of the Commission of Saint Joseph, his body was recovered by members of his family;
- Jamesin ELOGE was *three* (3) years old. He was killed while he was in the house of his father. He received *three* (3) bullets;
- 12) Emmanuel ESTIME, twenty eight (28) years old. He tried to escape during the first attack but was shot several times around 16h. He was father three (3) children, including a girl two (2) years old;
- Jameson ETIENNE, twenty four (24) years old. He tried to escape from his home when he was shot several times before being chopped with machetes. His remains were burned. He was living in concubinage with Kettely SAINVILUS, pregnant four (4) months.
- Emmanuel ETIENNE, alias Manno was *thirty* (30 years old. He was leaving his shop at 15:30 when gunmen shot him several times in front of his wife who was able to flee. He was a father of *three* (3) children;
- 15) Arnold FREDERIC *twenty* (20 years old. He was considered a spy for *The Saline Project gang* led by Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY alias Bout Janjan. He has received several shots before being chopped with a machete. He was the father of a baby less a (1 year old;
- 16) Frederick JEAN- Francois was murdered by armed individuals;
- 17) Stevenson JEAN-BAPTISTE, old *thirty-two* (32 years old. During the attack, he was shot several times while he was at home;
- 18) Gerald JEANTY, old *twenty eight* (28). It was chopped with a machete. He was father *two* (2) children including a girl;



Houses burned to Nan Chabon

19) Gerard JOSEPH alias ti Gera, also known under the nickname DJ Totoy. He was of *twenty eight* (28 years. He received several bullets and machete. His body was found not far from the old *Lemaire Store*;

- 20) Jameson JOSEPH, old *twenty two* (22 years old. He was killed by machetes and then his body was charred;
- 21) Jean Pierre JOSEPH, *twenty six* (26) years old. He was shot dead before being chopped. He was father *two* (2) children;
- 22) Frantz LISME, twenty-seven (27 years old. He was killed at his home in the presence of his four (4) years old son and his pregnant concubine.
- James LOUIS, twenty-two (22 years old. He has received several machete blows while trying to escape. His body was dumped near the old Lemaire store to be eaten by pigs;
- 24) Wadson MICHEL, twenty-eight (28 years old. It was in front of his house when he was dragged into the street by armed men to be executed. He was shot in the head;
- 25) Adeline MILTY, aged seventy three (73) years. She was a delegate to the Organization Fanm Vanyan (OFAV). She was murdered in her home:
- 26) Altidor PIERRE, twenty-two (22 years old. He received two (2) shots in the neck and died. He was father of two (2) children. His wife is pregnant.
- 27) Morris PIERRE alias Ti Moris old *least fifteen* e (50), was murdered by gunmen. He was the spouse of Magdalene PIERRE;
- 28) Magdalene PIERRE, Spouse of Morris PIERRE was old *forty-five* (45 years old. She was killed in her home;
- 29) Robenson PIERRE, son of Morris PIERRE and Magdala PIERRE was at home when he was assassinated with his parents;
- 30) Billy PIERRE, *thirty-seven* (37 years old. He was at his home when gunmen chopped him with machetes. He was the father of *three* (3) children;
- 31) Edward PIERRE, *twenty-one* (21 years old. He was murdered in his home. He received shots before being chopped with a machete. His remains were thrown near the old Lemaire Store;
- 32) Jean Renel PIERRE, *sixteen* (16 years old. He was in a depot where food from Jacmel is stored when he was shot several times before being chopped with machetes;
- 33) Jimmy PETIT-FRERE, *eighteen* (18) years old. He was murdered in the first attack of November 13 2018. He was on the porch of his

- grand-mother when he was hit by a bullet in the stomach. He died soon after:
- 34) Francoise ROYACK was riddled with bullets while she was in her house with Nehemiah SIMEON;
- 35) Ricardo SAMEDI *twenty-five* (25 years old. He was returning home at *seventeen* (17) hours when he received several projectiles. He was the father of *two* (2) boys in infancy;
- Joel SANON, *thirty* (30 years old. He received *three* (3) shots while he was outside his house. He was the father of *three* (3) children:
- 37) Nehemiah SIMEON was riddled with bullets with her friend Francoise ROYACK with whom she was during the attack;
- 38) Junior SOUVERAIN, *twenty six* (26) years old, received several machete blows while he was home. The next day, while fleeing, on November 14, 2018, his sister noticed the head of Junior SOUVERAIN at the market *Croix-des-Bossales*;
- 39) Flerimond SUPRIEN, eighteen (18) years old. He was in the house of his parents and his brother Junel SUPRIEN, himself old twenty-three (23 years. The latter has had time to escape through a window when gunmen tried to enter the house. Flerimond SUPRIEN who was still there was murdered. He received two (2) gun shots;
- 40) Ander ST-FLEUR was *forty-two* (42 years old. Armed individuals entered his home and shot him several times. He was father of *two* (2) children;
- 41) Guerline ST-FLEUR, *nine* (9 years old. The gunmen killed her while she was at home with his father Donald ST. FLUER. He had time to escape;
- Ronald ST-FLEUR, *twenty-nine* (29 years old. He was shot dead while he was in his house with his *two* (2) girls. One of them died;
- Claudy THOMAS alias Adriano was twenty-one (21 years old. He received several bullets in the head and foot before being executed with machetes; He was handler Terminal Caribbean Port Services (CPS). His corpse was thrown to the Boulevard La Saline, and devoured by pigs;
- 44) Ricardo was *twenty three* (23) years old when he was chopped to death with machetes. His remains were burned at St. Martin Street. He was the father of *two* (2) children. While the RNDDH met with his mother for this investigation, she was not able to provide her son family name due to her state of shock.

Tibot was a security guard at terminal *Caribbean Port Services* (CPS). He was home in the *Fort Touron* Labatwa area in the company of his wife when he was murdered with knives. His wife was also murdered.

b. Missing Persons

- 47. Two (2) people are missing. It is:
 - 1) Mary Madelene BRUMAIRE, thirty-four (34) years old.
 - 2) Fuji ROSEMOND, twenty four (24) years old.

c. Raped Women

- 48. At least *seven* (7) women were raped during the attack of November 13 2018. The RNDDH able to interview *three* (3) there of them² who agreed to share with the organization information regarding this painful time in their lives. It is:
 - 1) B.C. *Nineteen* (19) years old. At least *five* (5) armed individuals entered her home. She was in the company of *two* (2) others who have had time to escape. She was a victim of gang rape.
 - 2) J.J. twenty seven (27) years was at home when two (2) armed individuals entered his house and raped her in turns;
 - 3) J.J.L. *twenty six* (26) years. Armed individuals entered her home, raped her, ransacked her home and took away everything she owned prior to the fire. Her business was also carried away by her attackers.

d. People Wounded

49. The survey revealed the case of at least *five* (5) people who were injured by bullets on November 13 2018. These are:

- 1) Tanie ASTRENE, *seventy three* (73) years old. She was hit by a bullet in the buttocks;
- 2) Enel BELANCE, *thirty two* (32) years old, has been hit by a bullet in the foot;
- 3) Delince BRUMAIRE, *sixty* (60 years old, trying to escape upon receiving a ball at the rear of its right leg.
- 4) Watson JEAN-Francois, *twenty-eight* (28 years old. He was returning home around 16:30 when hooded men shot him. In his fall, he cuts himself with a sharp object, which caused many injuries to the left

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² The names of rape victims are not published in order to protect and preserve their dignity.

- side. Watson JEAN-Francois is a father of two (2) boys aged respectively ten (10) years old and six (6) months;
- 5) Elisabeth TOUSSAINT trying to escape when she received a projectile in the right foot.

e. People Have Lost Their Property

50. Among the *four hundred thirty-nine* (439) victims interviewed by the RNDDH as part of this investigation, some said they had lost everything. They had abandoned their homes at the arrival of armed individuals. Upon their return, they found that all their belongings were taken away.

VII. STATEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION

- 51. For some, the events in La Saline in November 2018 are the work of armed gangs fighting to take the place of Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY alias Bout Janjan who controlled the area of *The Saline Project* before his arrest.
- 52. For others, it is rather the executive powers who, dissatisfied with the involvement of the community of La Saline in the event of October 17, 2018, decided to use Serge ALECTIS aka ti Junior, himself chief *Base Nan Chabon* to permanently dismiss the gang once led by Herve Bonnet BARTHELEMY Bout alias Janjan and allow the executive to take control of La Saline.
- 53. In addition, those interviewed as part of this survey pointed to some authorities who they accuse of orchestrating the events in La Saline in November 2018. These are:
 - Fednel MONCHERY, Director General of the Ministry of Interior and local authorities.
 - Joseph Pierre Richard DUPLAN, West Divisional Delegate;
 - Gregory ANTOINE, alias *Ti Greg, Police Officer*, deployed with the West departmental delegate;
 - Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue, HNP agent;
- 54. Fednel MONCHERY is alleged to have participated in the planning of the bloody events of November 13 2018 and of having provided weapons and government vehicles for armed gang members for the commission of the attack.
- 55. Joseph Pierre Richard DUPLAN, presented as an influential man of La Saline, is accused of providing firearms and uniforms of the HNP to armed individuals who took part in the killings on November 13, 2018;
- 56. Gregory ANTOINE alias Ti Greg presented by all interviewees as the Chief of *Base Pilate* is accused of having actively participated with his troops, alongside the *Base Nan Chabon* in the killings of November 13, 2018.

- 57. A Jimmy CHERIZIER aka BBQ, presented by all interviewees as Chief Delmas Base 6 is alleged to have participated with his troops to the bloody events of 13 November 2018 in La Saline;
- 58. In addition, it is reported that a planning meeting for the attack of 13 November 2018, was held on November 6, 2018 in Delmas 6 in the stronghold of Jimmy Cherizier alias Barbecue. Jimmy CHERIZIER himself Fednel MONCHERY and Joseph Pierre Richard DUPLAN participated in the meeting following which, weapons were distributed to the people who were to perpetrate the attack.
- 59. The Deputy Milien ROGER who had been informed of the meeting and the distribution of the aforementioned weapons, had communicated these information to the Director General of the PNH.

VIII. VERSION OF MET AUTHORITIES

60. In his interview with state and government authorities, RNDDH was able to gather several versions that should tell.

f. Version of Police

- 61. The police authorities interviewed in this investigation could not provide a death count to the RNDDH. According to them, it was impossible to penetrate the area because of the insecurity that prevailed there.
- 62. The HNP, however, said to the RNDDH that agents assigned to the subpolice stations of La Saline and St. Joseph gate noticed many bones and charred remains of people. In addition, the Police Station Saint Joseph Portal was informed of the death of Tide ELIPHETE, nineteen (19) old that occurred The Saline Project. His family members recovered his body.
- 63. The police officer Gregory ANTOINE alias Greg Ti, assigned to the security of departmental delegate Western Pierre Joseph Richard DUPLAN was already the subject of an investigation by the General of the PNH due to his involvement in a murder perpetrated at *St. Jude* a locality of *Carrefour-Feuilles*. Summoned several times, he never presented himself to the General Office of the HNP. He is considered a fugitive and does not receive his police officer salary anymore.
- 64. Two (2) convocations were also addressed by the General Inspection of the PNH to the policeman Jimmy CHERISIER alias Barbecue, agent of the departmental unit for policing (UDMO West). He never showed up.

g. Version Judicial Authorities

65. The judicial authorities interviewed in this investigation said they hold no precise information on the events of November 2018 in La Saline.

- 66. At the request of the prosecutor's office in *Port au Prince*, the Court of the Justice of Peace Eastern section of Port-au-Prince, Jean Frantz DUCASSE, visited the scene on November 15, 2018 to file a report.
- 67. The Judge saw in *three* (3) of the *four* (4) different main road of the La Saline neighborhood, charred human bones and corpses near the old shop Lemaire. Moreover, near the shop called *Kay Madan Michel*, the judge also found several bodies lying in garbage.
- 68. The justice of the Northern Section, Jean Brunet NOE, also drafted a report dated November 16 2018 the death of Claudy THOMAS alias Adriano.

h. Responses by Individuals mentioned by various reports

- 69. The Departmental Delegate of West, Joseph Pierre Richard DUPLAN, declared to the RNDDH that he was surprised to hear his name mentioned in the bloody events of La Saline on November 13, 2018.
- 70. He believes he was the victim of his political opponents who are bent on tarnishing his image and reputation. He claims to have no connection with armed gangs of La Saline. Moreover, he affirms that he has no ability to source firearms, ammunition or uniforms of the HNP to provide to individuals, in order to terrorize the population.
- 71. As for the HNP officer Gregory ANTOINE alias Ti Greg who was interviewed as part of this investigation, he denied all allegations of his involvement with the November 13, 2018 events.
- 72. Despite RNDDH insistence, it was not possible to meet with the Director General of the Ministry of Interior and local authorities Fednel MONCHERY or with the police officer Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue.

IX. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 73. The *National Network for the Defense of Human Rights* (RNDDH) strongly condemns the bloody events of La Saline in November 2018.
- 74. The information gathered by RNDDH reveal that these events result in the co-existence and cooperation between governmental authorities and armed gangs.
- 75. RNDDH deplores the fact that since these bloody events, only Prime Minister Jean Henry CEANT announced an official investigation in a public address, dated November 23, 2018. This is the only official comment since the attack, for which even today, no specific information on the human and material losses is available.
- 76. RNDDH has recorded *fifty-nine* (59) people were murdered violently, *two* (2) are missing, *five* (5) were injured by bullets and *seven* (7) women were raped, on November 13, 2018 only. In addition, at least *one hundred and fifty* (150)

houses were ransacked, vandalized, burned or riddled with bullets. All victims' interviewees in this survey accuse the state of orchestrating these events. The resounding silence of the authorities about these events show that indeed some of them were involved in the preparation of the attack of November 13 2018 and others have been aware but did not intervene in time to prevent it. Based on these considerations, RNDDH believes that the events of November 13, 2018 constitute a state massacre.

- 77. RNDDH notes that since 1986, after the departure into exile of the dictator and former President for Life Jean Claude DUVALIER, the bloody events in La Saline constitute the second most criminal massacre recorded, with the Jean-Rabel massacre, which caused the death of one hundred thirty nine (139) peasants.
- 78. RNDDH believes that local authorities and members of the executive and the legislature must stop supplying weapons and ammunition to armed gangs as the uncontrolled circulation of firearms in the country worsens security.
- 79. These people murdered in La Saline, among which *six* (6) children, would not have lost their life if the armed gangs had not been supplied with weapons and ammunition.
- 80. The Massacre of La Saline cannot go unpunished. This is why RNDDH recommends that authorities:
 - Investigate all events in La Saline in order to identify the victims, the weapons they were murdered with and their origin;
 - Investigate the use of vehicles and uniforms of the HNP and HNP officers involvement in the massacre;
 - Punish all those involved in the state massacre, without economic, political and social considerations.