

# National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH)

**Massacre in Bel-Air: Banalization of the right to life by  
state authorities**

December 17, 2019

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. On November 4, 2019, early in the morning, local residents en route to their daily activities noticed many heavily armed individuals who were removing barricades in several sections of road leading to Bel-Air. And around ten (10) in the morning, the sudden and continuous noise of automatic weapons alerted the entire population of the area.

2. Quickly, it is reported in several radio stations in the capital, deaths of men and fires of houses, vehicles and motorcycles.

3. The scenario, repeated on November 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2019, was considered very worrying by the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH). On November 8, 2019, the organization adopted and sent to the authorities concerned, a principled position condemning these bloody events and recommending that the authority expedite an investigation and take prompt action to restore order to Bel-Air.

4. Today the RNDDH, which had continued to document the above-mentioned events, is committed to sharing with all those interested in the issue, the conclusions of its investigations.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

5. As part of the documentation of the recorded facts, the RNDDH went to Bel-Air several times to collect information on the ground. In this sense, he spoke with:

- Relatives of those killed;
- Residents injured by bullets;
- Owners of burned houses and vehicles;
- Owners of houses riddled with bullets;
- Witnesses of the facts.

6. In addition, the RNDDH met with the following authorities:

- Ralph Youri CHEVRY, Mayor of Port-au-Prince;
- Léon Ronsard SAINT-CYR, Secretary of State for Public Security;
- Jean Flaury RAYMOND, Judge at the Delmas Peace Court;

## **III. PRESENTATION OF BEL-AIR**

7. Bel-Air, one of the districts of Port-au-Prince, also constitutes one of the sixteen (16) hills which surround this commune. Its population severely hit by the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010, lives in a situation of extreme insecurity

8. Bel-Air is divided into twenty-four (24) blocks, most of which are dominated by gang leaders who establish terror and make the law. These include among others

• Mariella Lane	• Ruelle Mariella
• Tiremasse Street	• Rue Tiremasse
• Felix Lane	• Ruelle Felix
• Rust Street	• Rue Rouille
• Dr Aubry Street	• Rue Dr Aubry
• Rue Des Césars	• Rue Des Césars
• Rue des Fronts-Forts	• Rue des Fronts-Forts
• Rue des Pucelles	• Rue des Pucelles
• Monseigneur Guilloux Street	• Rue Monseigneur Guilloux
• Street of Miracles	• Rue des Miracles
• Rue des Remparts	• Rue des Remparts
• Petion Street	• Rue Pétion
• Morne Lavoix	• Morne Lavoix
• Rue Courbe	• Rue Courbe
• Paved Street	• Rue Pavée
• Rue Saint Combe	• Rue Saint Combe
• Casernes Street	• Rue des Casernes
• Bas Rue du Center	• Bas Rue du Centre
• Lower Burial Street	• Bas Rue de l'enterrement
• St Martin Street	• Rue St Martin
• Bastia corridor	• Corridor Bastia
• Street Without wires	• Rue sans fils
• Fort National	• Fort-National
• Unknown Brown Street	• Rue Marron Inconnu

9. The Bel-Air district also has five hundred and nine (509) corridors under the control of the heads of gang of blocks adjacent to them. The Maillart lane, for its part, involved in this litigation, bordering on the municipalities of Port-au-Prince and Delmas is perpendicular to the rue Saint Martin, parallel at rue Sans Fil and juxtaposed with Delmas 6.

10. The cathedral of Port-au-Prince and chapel of Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours, located in Bel-Air are considered important sites. Similarly, Bel-Air, adjacent to the Port-au-Prince shopping center, has the Rue des Remparts market and is located not far from the Tête Bœuf and Hyppolite markets, also known as the Iron Market.

11. The Bel-Air district depends on the section's peace court North of Port-au-Prince in the building where also the offices of the civil status. The district is served by the Commissariat du Fort National and the base of the Departmental Operation and Intervention Brigade (BOID) installed both (2) in the premises of the former Civil Prison of the National Fort where women and minors of the jurisdiction of Port-au-Prince, in conflict with the law, were formerly incarcerated.

Bel-Air is served by a peace court, a civil status office, the Fort-National police station and by the BOID base.

#### IV. PREVIOUS FACTS

12. Since 2017, there has been a latent conflict between police officers from Maillart lane and Jimmy CHERIZIER aka Barbecue, who as an agent of the Haitian National Police (PNH) then assigned to the Departmental Unit for the Maintenance of the Order (UDMO), was criticized for its unhealthy propensity to use its firearm at any time, especially during recreational activities carried out in the area. There are many examples. Here are two (2):

In 2017, police officers from Maillart lane accused Jimmy CHERIZIER - who was still a PNH agent - of being too inclined to use his firearm in his moments of euphoria. He did not appreciate this reproach and has since fallen out with these police officers.

13. In July 2017, Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue organized in his fiefdom in Delmas 6 a festive activity to which many among others were invited, Iscar ANDRIS alias Isca, leader of the armed gang of Bélékou, Cité Soleil and Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior, leader of the gang of Nan Chabon, La Saline. They went to the party with their soldiers. That day, Iscar ANDRIS jostled the police officer Sadrac ALEXANDRE alias Gaga, then he also pushed him. There followed an argument during which Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, in the presence of all those taking part in the activity, recreational, severely reprimanded the police officer Sadrac ALEXANDRE and threatened to kill him for having dared to shake the gang leader of Cité Soleil.

14. In December 2017, without being invited, Jimmy CHERIZIER took part in a cultural activity organized at ruelle Maillart by the Coalition of Clubs for the Progression of Young People (CCPJ) and the CLERGE Group. He went there, accompanied by his armed gang. In his euphoria, he unloaded his gun. Police members of the coalition, including Agent I Feguens FETUS reprimanded him. He felt offended, he swore to kill them.

15. Since these incidents, relations between Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and the Maillart Alley police officers have escalated. However, he has always frequented the area, having friends and relatives who live there.

16. In addition, on September 16, 2019, a protest movement was launched by the political opposition. It is characterized by the total paralysis of socio-economic activities and the organization all over the country of anti-government demonstrations. The objective of this movement is to bring the President of the Republic Jovenel MOÏSE to resign because of his blatant inability to manage the country, and to place himself at the disposal of justice to be judged for his implication in the acts of corruption who are accused of it.

Most of the 24 Bel-Air blocks took part in the protest movement launched on September 16, 2019, erecting barricades and blocking car traffic in the area.

17. The majority of the twenty-four (24) blocks of Bel-Air took part in this protest movement by erecting fiery barricades, thus paralyzing automobile traffic in Bel-Air and all other activities, as everywhere in the country.

18. Unlike the other locking operations, this lasted several weeks. And, the numerous reproaches directed towards the state authorities related in particular to their inability to control the country left to itself and to allow the resumption of activities. In this sense, the government has embarked on a counter-operation to lift the barricades. Several major highways were cleared, however, internal roads like those in the Bel-Air district could not be easily reached. Indeed, a cleaning cell set up by the State Secretariat for

Public Security attempted, on two (2) occasions in the evening of October 28 to 29, 2019, to remove litter and barricades, with the support agents from the specialized units of the Departmental Operation and Intervention Brigade (BOID) and the Intervention Corps for the Maintenance of Order (CIMO). It failed because repulsed by local residents with stones and broken shards of bottles.

19. At this point, the government authorities have chosen to enter direct contact with the young leaders of Bel-Air. This is how, the October 30, 2019, the Minister of the Interior and Communities Pierre Josué Agénor CADET has, in an attempt friendly agreement, invited young people from Bel-Air to a meeting in Petion-ville. During this, he asked them not to store barricades in the streets. This request has been rejected. On November 1, 2019, a second meeting was performed this time at the National Palace, always with the aim of convince the young people of Bel-Air to dissociate themselves from the fight anti-government. Five million (5,000,000) gourdes were promised for distribution to the various Bel-Air bases. Again once, the young leaders present refused their interlocutors. At first, they argued that they could not accept on behalf of all the bases at Bel-Air that they cannot be proud to represent. Subsequently, they informed the members of the Executive of a collective refusal, various bases contacted having all rejected the proposal.

The name of Pierre Josué Agénor CADET is cited in the events recorded at Bel-Air for having tried to find an amicable agreement with the young people of Bel-Air. Léon Ronsard SAINT-CYR it is for his part indexed for having contacted Jimmy CHERIZIER and for having promised him money and new motorcycles, if he could lift the barricades erected in the area.

20. According to the victims and the leaders of Bel-Air who were met during this investigation, following the failure of the aforementioned attempts, Secretary of State for Public Safety Léon Ronsard SAINT-CYR contacted gang leader Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and hired him to remove barricades erected in certain areas of the metropolitan area and prevent any anti-government gathering. In order to carry out his task, a promise was made to Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue to pay him a large sum of money and to give him several brand new motorcycles.

21. To carry out this work, Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue requested and obtained an agreement from his allied gangs led respectively by Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior de Nan Chabon La Saline, Wilson PIERRE as Ti Sonson and Alex JOSEPH as Malkonprann. Later was placed at the head of the armed gang located in Nan Barozi, a block located between Bel-Air and Delmas 18, by Jimmy CHERIZIER himself hence this feeling of allegiance that animates him towards his protector.

The armed gangs led by Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior, Wilson PIERRE alias Ti Sonson, and by Alex JOSEPH alias Malkonprann enjoy the protection of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue.

## V. CONDUCT OF ARMED ATTACKS RECORDED ON NOVEMBER 4, 5, 6, 7 AND 8, 2019

22. On 4 November 2019, early in the morning, individuals boarded several trucks escorted by a patrol of the Departmental Operation and Intervention Brigade (BOID) embarked on a street cleaning operation, in removing trash and barricades from Bel-Air. In certain blocks of Bel-Air, it was easy to remove these barricades, in others, these individuals were greeted by residents of the area who repelled them with stones and shards of bottles. Others have also used firearms.

23. On the same day, around 11 a.m, heavily armed individuals broke into the streets of Fronts-Forts and Montalais. They poured gasoline on the barricades there but did not have time to set fire to them,

having been repelled by residents, with automatic weapons. The virulence of this response forced them to abandon six (6) of the motorcycles on the Rue des Fronts-Forts at the top of Bel-Air.

24. The next day, November 5, 2019, Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue went to the Maillart lane to solicit from police who live there, permission to enter their territory to attack different Bel-Air blocks juxtaposed both at Maillart lane until Delmas 6. These police officers did not accept, in particular because the fact that the calm that has existed at Bel-Air for several years is based on an alliance between the gang leaders of the different blocs who are understood not to attack each other and not to let no group pass in order to attack the others. This agreement also extended to Maillart lane. Added to this, the precedent which exists between Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and the police of the ruelle Maillart as well as due to the intervention of the day before when a person had been killed in ruelle Maillart and where at least twenty (20) houses had been burned, the residents of this block were already very upset with Jimmy CHERIZIER and his soldiers.

Hostilities were openly declared on November 4, 2019 when a segment of the population of Bel-Air opposed Jimmy CHERIZIER aka Barbecue, preventing him from lifting the barricades. These hostilities continue today, calm has never returned to Bel-Air.

25. It was with the help of a BOID patrol, that Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and his armed gang were able to recover the six (6) abandoned motorcycles the day before on the Rue des Fronts-Forts, when they were pushed back.

26. And, for refusing to grant him the required authorization, Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue decided, in retaliation, to count the Maillart alley among his targets. A few hours later, his armed gang orchestrated an attack on Maillart Alley. During the ensuing exchanges of fire, at least two (2) persons were killed. This is Samuel BELIZAIRE and a young man whose name is not known in the area. At least three (3) others were injured, including Magalie FRANÇOIS.

27. On the following day, November 6, 2019, Jimmy CHERIZIER and his gang members perpetrated a new armed attack in which they fired at all those who were on their way, in the areas of Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours chapel, Macajoux street, Fronts-Forts street, Sans-Fils block, Carrefour Péan and Maillart alley. At least twenty-six (26) homes were set on fire. Many cars and motorcycles were also burned.

28. November 6, 2019, in response to these armed attacks repeated, several members of different Bel-Air armed gangs planned a raid on Laborde and on rue Saint Martin, controlled by Wilson PIERRE alias Ti Sonson close to Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue. According to information collected by RNDDH, police also took part in this responsive attack during which, thirteen (13) people took refuge in a house located at rue Saint Martin. Fire was set on this house and the people in it perished, charred. During this attack, Alex JOSEPH alias Malkonprann, close to Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, come to reinforce Wilson PIERRE alias Ti Sonson, was severely shot. He was transported in his stronghold in Barozi, where he died soon after. In addition, Kendie DUCLOSEL, aged forty-one (41), was shot. Taken to hospital urgently, she died from her injuries.

On November 6, 2019, Laborde and rue Saint-Martin, 2 fiefdoms whose leader is a protégé of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, were attacked. 15 people were killed there: 13 of them, refugees in a house which was burned down, perished charred. Alex JOSEPH alias Malkonprann and Kendie DUCLOSEL were shot dead.

29. Several other houses were also burned, including that of Jorel CHARLES. He and his wife were unable to escape because of a serious foot injury. Their lives were saved by the explosion of a propane tank that repelled their attackers.

30. While the attacks resulting in the deaths of men and gunshot wounds were mainly recorded from 4 to 8 of November 2019, it should be noted that throughout this month, the different blocks of Bel-Air as well as the Maillart alley remained the privileged target of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and his allies who have sporadically, fired towards these blocks, killing and wounding by bullets of other people.

## VI. ASSESSMENT OF EVENTS AT BEL-AIR

31. From November 4 to 8, 2019, at least twenty-four (24) people lost their lives at Bel-Air, five (5) others were injured by gunshots. Twenty-eight (28) houses as well as seven (7) cars and four (4) motorcycles were burned. At least two (2) other houses were riddled with bullets.

- *People killed at Bel-Air from November 4 to 8, 2019*

32. The bodies of those killed were either charred or carried away, as the gang of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue adopted an intervention strategy according to which they leave no trace of their wrongdoing.

33. The identity and/or circumstances of the killing of the twenty-four (24) victims recorded during this massacre may be summarized as follows:

- On 4 November 2019, Samuel BELIZAIRE, born 11 of August 1996, was shot dead in the Rue des Archives in Bel-Air. As he attempted to return to his home, armed bandits, members of the gang led by Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and other bandits from the Krache dife base led by Wilson PIERRE alias Ti Sonson shot him and took away his body. His parents' attempts to find the body were unsuccessful;

From November 4 to 8, 2019, 24 people were killed, 5 were injured by gunshots. 28 houses were less burned down and 2 others were riddled with bullets. 11 rolling vehicles were burned and 9 transformers damaged.

- On November 5, 2019, Louisine BIEN-AIME went to Rue des Césars to bring his cousin Adhémair PIERRE some fresh food and clothes. She had barely moved, and there was heavy fire on the Rue des Césars. The armed gang operating at La Croix under the orders of Wilson PIERRE alias Ti Sonson seconded by Ti chéf, invaded the area killing among others Louisine BIEN-AIME. Around fifteen (15) hours, Adhémair PIERRE transported his cousin's body to the cemetery of Port-au-Prince where she was buried;
- On November 5, 2019, Ricardo LOUIS alias Tikado, thirty-three (33) years old, returned to his home when he was killed at the corner of the streets of Fronts-Forts and Caesars. According to information gathered from residents who saw the victim, she was beheaded by men of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue who set fire to her remains. He was the father of an eleven (11) year old girl;



- On November 6, 2019, Paul Donald SAINTIL, born October 28, 1988, was shot and killed;
- On November 6, 2019, Onderson RACULUS, born on January 6, 1996 in Bainet, was at home with his father Arnaud RACULUS when he was shot in the head, right side. He was rushed to the Hospital Bernard Mevs where he died on 7 November 2019 around 11 am;
- On November 6, 2019, Etienne MONBRUN, born on April 9, 1986, was captured at Delmas 19 and led to Delmas 4, at Nan Barozi. For not being able to provide the requested information, he was savagely beaten by members of the Nan Barozi gang before being killed and then beheaded. His remains were charred. Etienne MONBRUN was the father of an eight (8) year old girl;
- On November 6, 2019, Alex JOSEPH alias Malkonprann, close to Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue was shot in a raid on his base. He died as a result of his injuries;
- On November 6, 2019, Wanders CLAUDE, cousin of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, was shot dead in Corridor Bastia. His body was burned;
- On November 6, 2019, forty-one (41) year old Kendie DUCLOSEL was shot. Taken urgently to the hospital, she died as a result of her injuries;
- On November 6, 2019, thirteen (13) people who took refuge in a house on Saint Martin Street were burned to the ground;
- On November 7, 2019, at approximately seven (7) o'clock in the morning, Mackon NABAL, twenty-five (25) years old, on a motorcycle, was on his way to a masonry site where he was working when he was shot three (3) times. He was then on the Rue des Césars. He was killed by men of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and Wilson PIERRE alias Ti Sonson, who attacked residents of Macajoux Street, area of the Chapel Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours;
- On November 7, 2019, Daniel SYLVESTRE went near his house to buy food. At about fifteen (15) hours, informed that houses adjacent to his were being set on fire, he rushed to his home. He was shot two (2) times in the stomach. His house was burned down and along with a motorcycle there. His body was transported to Léogâne by relatives of his family
- *People injured by gunshot wounds at Bel-Air from November 4 to 8, 2019*

34. The following information is collected by the RNDDH regarding the five (5) persons injured by bullets:

- On November 4, 2019, at approximately thirteen (13) hours, Prince-Davidson TOUSSAINT, born on June 24, 1999, was shot in the right shoulder while at home at the Bel-Air;
- On November 4, 2019, Alain ELIANCY, born of February 21, 1993, visited his sister Natalie JULOT who lives near the Lycée Alexandre Pétion. He was sitting next to a motorcycle station when he saw a group of people arrive. He thought they were demonstrators. As people approached, he noticed that they were carrying large arms. Arriving not far from said station, they fired into the tank of one of the motorcycles which immediately caught fire, The fire spread to three (3) other

motorcycles. At the same time, everyone who was there was beaten and dragged down. While he was on the ground Alain ELIANCY saw Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue all dressed in white who was leading the attack. Later he struck him with his boots and his weapon. An instant later, Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue ordered everyone to clear the place;

- On November 5, 2019, Magalie FRANÇOIS was hit with two (2) bullets, one in each knee. It is now in critical condition because, having no means to pay for surgery, one of the bullets has not yet been extracted;
- On November 6, 2019, around ten (10) o'clock in the morning Lourdy DENIS aka Blanc Digèt, thirty-seven (37) years old and father of four (4) children, was in his shop when bandits invaded Tiremasse Street. While attempting to cross the street to return home, he was hit with several bullets, including one (1) on his right leg and two (2) on his right hand;
- On November 6, 2019, sixteen (16) year old Widna LOMBARD was shot at the front while in corridor 205 on Saint Martin Street. She was rushed to the hospital where she received first aid before being driven by her mother to her home in province.

- ***Houses burned down***

35. The information collected by the RNDDH on the twenty-eight (28) burned houses can be summarized as follows:

- On November 6, 2019, a wall pane of the house of Jean-Renald CENATUS was destroyed by fire, set by armed individuals, members of armed gangs led by Jimmy Chérizier alias Barbecue and Wilson PIERRE alias Ti Sonson. Jean-Renald CENATUS lived there with his wife and two (2) children;
- On November 6, 2019, unidentified individuals set fire to a house rented by Osalia JEAN and Yanick TORCHON located on Maillart Street. They now live on land in Solino;
- On November 6, 2019, a house located on Maillart Street, rented since 2004 by Garry BYRON, was set on fire by unidentified individuals. At the time, Garry BYRON was absent. He was warned by a cousin who advised him not to return due to the worrying security situation at Bel-Air. The next morning, he found that his house was completely burned down. He and his family are now welcomed by relatives;
- On November 6, 2019, Rosita SUFFERING was not at home when her house was burned down. She lived with her husband Yves SAINT PRIT and her three (3) children. Since then, she has lived with her family at Carrefour Payen. She lost her business. And, the bakery where her husband worked having been damaged, he no longer has income-generating activities;
- On November 6, 2019, Marie Maude DAGRIN, a trader by profession, was on the street when she learned that individuals had burned down her house. She lost everything. She lived there with her daughter Mitchella MEREUX aged sixteen (16). Today, she and her daughter live with a friend;

- On November 6, 2019, Rose Cedralia FELIZAR and Eveline OSTINE were in their respective homes when they heard heavy fire from the Barozi block. A few moments later, individuals set fire to their homes while they were still there. They barely had time to escape. Rose Cedralia FELIZAR, a tradesman by profession, is the mother of four (4) children, including two (2) daughters. Eveline OSTINE, also a merchant, lived with her concubine Willy DENO and their son Kenley OSTINE, aged nine (9) years;
- On November 6, 2019, the house of Magalie LOUIS, located in the alley Maillart in the Bel-Air was set on fire by armed individuals close to Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and by other members from the base Krache dife. Having heard automatic weapons fire in the area, she took refuge in her home where she lives with her twenty-six (26) year old daughter Natalie LOUIS and her eight (8) month old daughter Taïcha DANGER. A few moments later, the shots stopped and suddenly she heard objects exploding. She looked out the window and saw a fire spread from house to house until it reached hers. She barely escaped with her children;
- On November 6, 2019, the house where the roommates Magalie MYRTIL and Eveline RAYMOND with their respective families lived on Maillart Street was set on fire by armed and trapped individuals who invaded the area. They have five (5) and two (2) children respectively;
- On November 6, 2019, around fourteen (14) hours and a half, while Elmaze PETION had just obtained drinking water and went to her home, she heard heavy fire. Noticing that fire had been set on houses, she rushed to her home where she picked up her four (4) children. It was thanks to the help of a neighbor that she and her children survived. The house she lived in was occupied by four (4) different tenants;
- On November 6, 2019, fire was set at the house of Samuel MOÏSE located at ruelle Maillart by unidentified individuals while his wife and two (2) year-old boy were there. They escaped thanks to the intervention of a neighbor who tore down a wall in order to allow them to leave their home;
- On November 6, 2019, while Junior Jocelyn JOSEPH was going about his business, he was informed that his house was burned down by heavily armed individuals, coming from Barozi;
- On November 6, 2019, the house of Jacquelin Joseph TELAMI located in the Maillart lane, was razed by unidentified armed bandits. His partner who was in the house was able to escape just before the house, built in the aftermath of the earthquake of January 12, 2010, was blown up;
- On November 6, 2019, Betty SAINT-LOUIS, mother of a thirteen (13) year old adolescent girl learned from her partner that their house was burned down by heavily armed individuals from Delmas 6;
- On November 6, 2019, around fourteen hours (2) p.m., Jessica JOSEPH was cooking when she heard heavy fire from automatic weapons. A few minutes later, neighbors began to shout at the fire. She took some important documents and some clothes before running away. Her house was completely burned down. She lived with her little brother Adolphe JOSEPH aged fifteen (15) years in a prefabricated house located at lane Maillart;

- On November 6, 2019, the house rented for two (2) years by Marjorie MERTIL, was burned down by armed and hooded individuals who took over the area. She estimated that the fire in her house had spread to at least ten (10) other houses which were close to hers. Marjorie MERTIL is the mother of five (5) children;
- On November 6, 2019, two (2) months after Evelyne RAYMOND paid the rent to her landlord, the house she was living in was set on fire by armed individuals. She is the mother of two (2) children;
- On November 6, 2019, armed individuals set fire to the house of Jacqueline LORRAINE, a tradesman by profession. She had been living there for twelve (12) years with her son now aged seventeen (17) years;
- On November 6, 2019, Yvrose JEUDI, a shopkeeper, was on the street when she was informed of the fire in her house. Her four (4) children were inside when the fire was set. They barely escaped. She lost everything she owned;
- On November 6, 2019, Charline SULFA was at a friend's house when her house was burned. It was only on returning home that she noticed the damage. Today, she and her husband sleep on the roof of a house located in the alley Péan;
- On November 6, 2019, armed individuals set fire to Woody DUMERSAINT's home where he lived with his family and his sister Edwine DUMERSAINT. It was burned in the second degree, all along its left side. Woody DUMERSAINT lost everything during the fire. Currently, he and his family have taken refuge at the Carrefour Péan market;
- On November 6, 2019, Falange ALEXIS, born on October 9, 1990, went to the house of a neighbor who lives in an adjacent alley and then took refuge with the Sisters of Solino where she spent the night. The next day, she found that her house had been completely burned down. She was temporarily welcomed by a friend who lives in Nazon;
- On November 6, 2019, Tamara PIERRE, a tradesman by profession, was in the middle of the street when her house was burned down. It was thanks to the intervention of the neighbours that her two (2) children, who were in the house when the fire was set, were taken safely. Today, she and her family live with a friend in Delmas 4;
- On November 6, 2019, Guerline PLAISIMOND and her family were at home when the shooting began. Having noticed that the house next to hers was on fire, she abandoned hers. Hers was totally burned down. She took refuge with her family at the Jerusalem School where she spent the night before going the next day to a cousin who is temporarily welcoming her;
- On November 6, 2019, the house where Gueslin JEUNE lives, her sister Venice JEUNE, her husband and their two (2) children, was set on fire. They are now hosted by a friend in Delmas 24;
- On November 6, 2019, Yveline JULES was doing laundry when she heard gunfire. Seeing smoke, she ran away. Her house was burned down;

- On November 6, 2019, the shop and the home of Franckel MONBRUN, born on 30 of July 1981, were ransacked and burned;
- On November 6, 2019, the house of Fedner BRUCE, born February 22, 1984, was set on fire by heavily armed individuals.
- On November 6, 2019, Bernado NELSON was going about his business, when he heard gunfire. He abandoned the area of Bel-Air in the hope of returning to it later, with the return of calm. On November 13, 2019, he found that his house was burned to the ground.

- ***House riddled with bullets***

36. At least two (2) houses were riddled with bullets at Maillart Lane. Here is the informations relating to these, collected by the RDDH:

- On November 5, 2019, around twenty-three (11 p.m.), the house of Marie Etude MYTIL, aged sixty-nine (69), located at the corner of Maillart and Rockefeller streets was riddled with bullets by individuals armed members of armed gangs led by Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, Alex JOSEPH alias Malkonprann and Vladimir JAMES alias Vlaw. This is the house where a policeman Guetchine AUGUSTE lives, his mother Marie Etude MYTIL and his sister Frederika AUGUSTE. At the time of the attack, Natalie ALEXIS, a family friend, was present;
- On November 6, 2019, at around fourteen (2 p.m.), Philistin NOELSAINT was at his home in the ruelle Maillart when heavily armed individuals went there and riddled his house with bullets. He and other people in the neighborhood who had taken refuge at his home, had time to narrowly escape.

- ***Burned vehicles***

37. Information collected on the vehicles being burned is as follows:

- On November 4, 2019, Rubens EXANTUS lost his Toyota Corolla car, green and registered: TP - 12411. It was set on fire at Macajoux Street, area of the chapel of Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours, by members of the armed gang led by Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, assisted by members of Baz Krache Dife, of Var, and of An Bourik. The vehicle's papers were there when he was set on fire;
- On November 4, 2019, Frantz AMAZAN, born on May 24, 1980, was in front of her residence when heavily armed individuals broke into Macajoux Street and set fire to her red Nissan Sentra car, registered: BB-00627;
- On November 4, 2019, Gilio BRISE, taxi driver and mechanic, born on December 15, 1966, was in the street when he heard gunfire at the Bel-Air. More than an hour later, the fire stopped, allowing him to rush home. As soon as he arrived, unidentified individuals ignited his beige Honda car registration TP-20262. Another car of the same brand which had been entrusted to him by his owner for repairs, was also set on fire;

- On November 4, 2019, Jean Vilaire FRANÇOIS, born November 29, 1963, was in Pétion-ville when his Honda Accord brown car, parked in front of the chapel of Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours, was set on fire;
- On November 4, 2019, Yvener LOUISSAINT lost her Boxer motorcycle. It was set on fire on Front-Forts street by members of the armed gang of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and Krache dife base;
- On November 4, 2019, Jean Daminas DUVAL was attacked by armed individuals, members of the Krache Dife base. Later they set his Volkswagen Jetta car on fire, color black, registration TP-26889. This one was parked in front of the chapel Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours. Shortly thereafter, his vehicle parts store, located in Delmas 6, was also set on fire;
- On November 4, 2019, the brown Toyota Corolla brand Brunel CASSEUS car, registration TP-19311, was set on fire. He is a driver and father of four (4) children;
- On November 4, 2019, a motorcycle registered 67363 belonging to Mackenson BICHOTTE was set on fire by armed individuals from the Krache Dife base.
- On November 5, 2019, Canes VINCENT parked his motorcycle on the roadway, near his house at rue Macajoux. It was set on fire by armed individuals, members of the gang led by Jimmy CHERIZIER aka Barbecue;
- On November 6, 2019<sup>1</sup>, the motorcycle of Fedner BRUCE, born on February 22, 1984, was set on fire by heavily armed individuals.

- *Damaged transformers*

38. During these various attacks, nine (9) transformers were damaged. Five (5) of them are based in Bel-Air and the other four (4) are located in Delmas 6, rue Saint Martin and Laborde, fiefs of gang leader Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and his henchmen. The information collected by the RNDDH concerning their location and their apparent electrical power, namely their kilovolt-ampere (KVA), is presented as follows:

- Three (3) transformers installed in Maillart Lane of one hundred (100), fifty (50) and fifteen (15) KVA respectively were damaged. One of the transformers was supplying an antenna for the DIGICEL company;
- One (1) transformer installed at Barthélemy Street with one (100) KVA power, was damaged.
- One (1) transformer installed at Candio Lane of one hundred (100) KVA power was damaged.
- One (1) transformer installed at Delmas 6 of hundred (100) KVA power was damaged.

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<sup>1</sup> On November 6, 2019, Fedner Bruce's house and motorcycle were burned down

- Three (3) transformers including two (2) located on Saint Martin Street, adjacent to an ice plant and the other at the Laborde impasse were damaged. They are all of one hundred (100) KVA power.

## VII. PERSONS INDEXED IN EVENTS RECORDED IN BEL-AIR

- **Pierre Josué Agénor CADET**

39. According to information gathered on the ground, the Minister of the Interior and Territorial Collectivities, Pierre Josué Agénor CADET was the first person of the government to have come into contact with young people of the Bel-Air zone in order to ask them to put an end to their protest and to leave it to the authorities to lift the barricades. He couldn't convince them.

RNDDH's efforts to meet with the Minister of the Interior and local authorities, Pierre Josué Agénor CADET have proven unsuccessful. For his part, the Secretary of State for public security Ronsard SAINT-CYR told the RNDDH that he was not involved in any of the acts alleged against him.

40. In this report, the RNDDH tried several times to speak to him. This was not possible. On November 6, 2019, the house and the Fedner BRUCE motorcycle were set on fire

- **Léon Ronsard SAINT-CYR**

41. The Secretary of State for Public Security, Léon Ronsard SAINT-CYR is accused of having hired the gang leader Jimmy CHERIZIER aka Barbecue to clean up the metropolitan region of Port-au-Prince and take control of Bel-Air to prevent further anti-government rallies. He promised him, for the accomplishment of this task, a large sum of money of which, Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue has already received a part in cash as well as several motorcycles.

42. Met in this case, Léon Ronsard SAINT-CYR categorically rejected these allegations which, according to him, have no basis. He claims to have heard, like everyone else, of the bloody events of Bel-Air on the radio.

43. He also confirmed that a cleaning cell had been set up by the State Secretariat for Public Security, with the aim of clearing various areas and removing the barricades. This unit, made up of the National Solid Waste Management Service (SMGRS) and the National Equipment Center (CNE), has been repatriated by the National Palace. Finally, he believes that as a statesman, he cannot bond with bandits whose place is behind bars.

## VIII. UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION IN BEL-AIR BY THE MAYOR OF PORT-AU-PRINCE

44. The principal mayor of Port-au-Prince, Ralph Youri CHEVRY, met in the context of this investigation, considers that the killings recently recorded at Bel-Air are a political affair.

The principal mayor of Port-au-Prince believes that the situation that is developing at Bel-Air is the result of political problems.

45. According to him, the town hall had to wait several days before entering the area. It was not until December 2, 2019, that cleaning activities could resume at Bel-Air and that trucks could be sent there to supply water to the area.

46. In addition, he claimed that during the garbage pick-up, bodies buried under piles of rubbish were discovered. Most of them were charred and often transported to locations far from areas of armed conflict.

## IX. PRESENTATION OF JIMMY CHERIZIER ALIAS BARBECUE

47. Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue is a former officer of the National Police of Haiti (PNH). When he was dismissed from the police institution on August 30, 2018, he was an IV officer assigned to the Departmental Order Maintenance Unit (UDMO).

Jimmy CHERIZIER, protected from the executive branch and some members of the private sector, is a former policeman, turbulent, according to his background. It's called barbecue because of his mania behavior that he took to carbonize his victims. It is indexed to the commission of at least 6 massacres and/or armed attacks.

48. Before his dismissal, he was subject to at least three (3) administrative measures, including two suspensions of forty (40) days each and a layoff of three (3) months respectively for unjustified shootings and threats of death, unjustified shooting and for his involvement in the events recorded at Grand Ravine on November 13, 2017.

49. On several occasions, Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue, had to display firearms other than his service weapon, on social networks. Similarly, he often circulates messages in which he utters threats.

50. A strong man, enjoying the protection of the Executive and certain personalities of the economic sector, from 2017 to 2019, Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue participated in the perpetration of six (6) massacres and armed attacks. These are the following:

- Of the armed attack of Grand-Ravine<sup>2</sup> occurred on November 13, 2017, having caused the death of at least eleven (11) people including two (2) officers of the National Police of Haiti (PNH). In addition, five (5) people were injured. It is one (1) teacher of the Evangelical College Maranatha, main place of this attack and four (4) PNH agents;
- The State Massacre perpetrated in La Saline<sup>3</sup> on the night of 13 to 14 November 2018, the non-exhaustive record of which includes seventy-one (71) persons murdered, two (2) missing persons and eleven (11) victims of gang rape. Five (5) others were injured and one hundred and fifty (150) homes were vandalized;
- The armed attack perpetrated in Nan Tokyo, Delmas 2<sup>4</sup> zone, on March 8, 2019 by bandits armed, during which eleven (11) people were killed and several houses were burned;

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<sup>2</sup> RNDDH report, Operation of November 13, 2017: from police intervention to summary execution, November 29, 2017, Report / A2017 / No09, 13 pages

<sup>3</sup> RNDDH report entitled: *Events at La Saline: From the hegemonic struggle between armed gangs to the state massacre*, December 1, 2018, RNDDH - Rapport / A2018 / No10, 18 pages  
*State massacre in La Saline: Upward revision of the death toll of those killed and raped on November 13, 2018*, December 20, 2019, RNDDH - Com.P / A18 / No8

<sup>4</sup> RNDDH report entitled *Chaotic Human Rights Situation in Haiti and State Banditry: RNDDH denounces state inertia and the protection of armed gangs*, May 3, 2019, RNDDH - Rapport / A2019 / No3, 12 pages



- The armed attack recorded on April 14, 2019, in Cité Vincent in the locality of Makaron, located between Delmas and Boulevard Harry Truman La Saline area. At least five (5) people were killed. Several houses were set on fire by the armed gangs of Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior and Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue;
- The massacre perpetrated at La Saline<sup>5</sup> from 5 to 13 to July 2019 in which twenty (20) people were murdered, two (2) people are missing and six (6) others were wounded by gunshot by the armed gang by Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and Serge ALECTIS alias Ti Junior;
- Bel-Air Massacre – subject of this report – recorded from November 4 to 8, 2019, in which twenty-four (24) people were killed, five (5) others were injured, twenty-eight (28) homes were burned, two (2) homes others were screened and thirteen (13) cars and motorcycles were burned.

51. According to residents, it was because of his mania to charcoalize his victims or to simply subject them to the ordeal of fire, that the population of the area gave him this nickname of Barbecue.

## X. SUBSEQUENT FACTS

52. Since November 4, 2019, calm has never returned to Bel-Air, the scene of sporadic attacks in which at least two (2) people were murdered by bullets, two (2) others were injured by bullets. A car and a business were burned to the ground. Indeed:

53. On November 11, 2019, the Tracker brand car belonging to Kensen REMEDOR was parked in front of the Notre Dame du Perpétuel Secours chapel when it was set on fire by armed men from the Krache Dife base and the armed gang of Jimmy CHERIZIER;

54. On November 19, 2019 Chimebaby ALCE, born on July 17, 1986, was shot in the right flank, in front of his house on Tiremasse Street. The facts happened while he was buying bread. According to her niece, Tamara TIDE, witness to the facts, she was talking to a few neighbours in the neighborhood on the side of the street when she heard the shots. Yet everything was quiet. She and the neighbours she was talking to took shelter. It was while trying to identify the source of the shots that she noticed her nephew lying all the way down the road. Chimebaby ALCE was rushed to Bernard Mevs Hospital on a motorcycle. At the hospital door, as they were getting off the motorcycle, Chimebaby ALCE was declared dead.

55. On December 1, 2019, Yvens MEDEYDE and Pierre Richard DESIR were injured by gunshots. Yvens MEDEYDE received two (2) bullets in the left arm while Pierre Richard DESIR received a bullet which pierced his right arm and his right flank. They were in front of the Pierre Richard DESIR house on rue Tiremasse and conversed when they were reached. The victims claim that the incident occurred when Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue and his gang came to remove the barricades at rue Mariella. They first set fire to a white Daihatsu car that was parked on the road before it started shooting. For his part, Pierre Richard DESIR, twenty-eight (28) years old, had, after his conversation with his friend, to go to a pharmacy to get medicines for his suffering concubine. They were rushed to Bernard Mevs Hospital.

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<sup>5</sup> RNDDH press release entitled *The RNDDH denounces the trivialization of the rights to life, to security of the person, and to the physical and mental integrity of the citizens of La Saline*, July 8, 2019, RNDDH - Com.P / A19 / No3, 4 pages

56. Altagrace Octelus MICHEL, wife of Jacques MICHEL has owned for twenty-five (25) years, a company called Dieu de l'Amitié located on rue Bonne Foi and specialized in the sale of books and all types of paper, school and office supplies as well as office equipment.

57. On December 5, 2019, Jacques MICHEL was in Carradeux when he received a telephone call from an individual who came to him under the name of Sonson, chief of Baz Bò Lakwa and demanded the sum of fifty thousand (50,000) US dollars and stated that within two (2) hours time, his wife's business will be set on fire.

58. Despite the fact that he explained to the individual in question that he only recorded deficits during the foreclosure operation started on September 16, 2019, then later again he ordered him to do so to pay the amount in question, insisting that it would burn down the God of Friendship business if it did not receive the money on time.

59. Jacques MICHEL went to the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ). While making his statement to an officer, he received a call from the same number, advising him to call the fire department. He actually went to the Port-au-Prince police station. Subsequently, the firefighters of Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Pétion-ville and Carrefour combined could not completely extinguish the fire, which quickly spread and was maintained by the quality of the products sold. by the company.

60. Jacques MICHEL has made statements on the radio and since December 7, 2019, he has received threats from Short Message Service (SMS) and the WhatsApp application. On December 9, 2019, he returned to the DCPJ who promised to open an investigation.

61. On 13 December 2019, another clash between rival gangs at Portail Saint Joseph resulted in the death of several people, including Vladimir JAMES alias Vlaw, a close friend of Barbecue.

## **XI. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

62. The RNDDH deplors the bloody events at Bel-Air, which in fact are characteristic of the level of banalization of life by the state authorities who only think to protect their political interests. As with the previous massacres, in Bel-Air, the strategy used was similar: 1) attempt to reach an amicable agreement with certain young people in the neighborhood in order to invite them to put an end to anti-government movements; 2) armed attacks against the population of the area using rivalries between armed gangs, the first attempt having failed.

63. The RNDDH considers that what happened at Bel-Air in early November is unacceptable: Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, charged by the executive authorities to clear the streets, attacked several blocks of Bel-Air with the assistance of BOID agents. In response, armed groups operating in Bel-Air attacked the fiefdoms of Jimmy CHERIZIER and/or his relatives, with the help of some PNH agents, thus adding to the toll of those killed Gunshot wounds and burning houses.

64. Twenty-four (24) persons lost their lives from November 4 to 8, 2019. Two (2) others were killed on November 19 and December 13, 2019. Five (5) people were shot and injured from November 4 to 8, 2019. Two (2) others on December 1, 2019. Twenty-eight (28) homes and eleven (11) vehicles, seven (7) cars and four (4) motorcycles, were burned. Two (2) other houses were riddled with bullets.

65. It is regrettable that, once again, the names of state authorities are mentioned in the massacre of a section of the population, mobilized to demand the guarantee and enjoyment of its rights. In this sense, the RNDDH reminds everyone that Bel-Air is home to a population that has learned to survive and to fend for itself without relying on the state. It is this population that was forced to abandon its home and its financial activities to escape the fury of armed gangs, one of which, led by Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, is used by the Executive to settle its political affairs.

66. The RNDDH does not understand that the executive authorities still find it difficult today to accept that the demands stemming from anti-government movements are aimed at accountability with regard to the squandering of PetroCaribe funds and the effective improvement of conditions general life of the population wading in extreme misery. These are not claims by a specific group which, if bought with dizzying promises and money from state coffers, will end anti-government protests. The problems of health, education, housing, security and access to justice are tangible and must be addressed by responsible statesmen, working for the emergence of a society based on respect for human rights.

67. The RNDDH considers it inadmissible that, despite the denunciations relating to the involvement of Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue in various massacres, to date, he has never been arrested nor has he been the subject of legal proceedings. However, the investigation reports of the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ), the General Inspectorate of the National Police of Haiti (IGPNH) and human rights organizations provide clear and concordant indications on the role he generally plays in these different massacres.

68. The RNDDH recalls that the rights to life, physical integrity and property are enshrined in Articles 3 and 17 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by the adoption and ratification of which, Haiti is committed to implement everything in order to guarantee their application on the national territory.

69. Today, while some cities in the country seem calm and some socio-economic activities have resumed, the RNDDH remains concerned about the general security situation in the country, and by the various armed attacks against members of the population living in deprived neighborhoods, perpetrated by armed individuals enjoying the protection of state authorities.

70. Building on all of the above, the RNDDH invites the executive to review its intervention strategies and recommends that the police and judicial authorities:

- Investigate the massacre at Bel-Air and identify the agents of the specialized BOID unit as well as all other people who took part in it;
- Investigate the responsive attack recorded on November 6, 2019 in Laborde and rue Saint Martin and identify all the police officers involved in it;
- Identify and take action against all PNH agents who protect Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue;
- Identify all the personalities of the Haitian political class and the private business sector who are in collusion with Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, with a view to pursuing them in accordance to the law ;
- Prosecute any state authorities which, in collusion with the armed gangs, surrender responsible for the armed attacks perpetrated against the population;
- Intervene to bring calm to Bel-Air and allow the resumption of socio-economic activities.