

National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH)



Allegations of sexual violence forced abortions and sexual bargaining at Camp Nou Academy:
RNDDH calls for serious judicial investigation

May 21, 2020

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On April 30, 2020, an English newspaper, The Guardian, published an article in which it denounced sexual assaults suffered by young girls in training at the Camp Nou Academy in Haiti. The president of the Haitian Football Federation (FHF) Yves JEAN BART alias Dadou JEAN BART is indexed.

2. This led to a huge outcry following which, on May 2, 2020, in a protest note signed by the president of the FHF himself, the Federation informed the public that it had requested the National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH), the diligence of an investigation into allegations of sexual violence against the President. He took the opportunity to affirm that he was at the disposal of the justice system so that all light would be shed on these allegations.

3. The RNDDH, particularly concerned by this case involving minors and young adults, conducted an investigation from 6 to 20 of May 2020. It intends to share with those interested in the matter the conclusions of its investigations.

II. METHODOLOGY

4. As part of this investigation, RNDDH interviewed twenty-six (26) individuals, seven (7) of whom requested anonymity.

Two (2) members of the Haitian Football Federation (FHF):

- Yves JEAN BART alias Dadou JEAN BART, FHF President
- Monique ANDRE, FHF Executive Committee Member

One (1) Head of Camp Nou Academy

- Webens PRINSIME, aka Itala, coach, Spanish teacher and containment manager at Camp Nou Academy

Four (4) girls in training at Camp Nou Academy

Three (3) heads of football associations and schools

- Christopher ELOY, technical director of the Ecole de Football d'Aquin (EFA), national coach of the FHF since 2013 and head of the football academy of the FHF Aquin;
- Jean Michel MILIEN, President of the Aquin Football Academy (AFA), physical education teacher and coach;
- Valéry VOLCY, Secretary General of the South-East Sports Association (ASSE) and President of the Jacmel Football Association (JAF).

Three (3) managers and one (1) former manager of mixed football clubs

- Jean Carlos DERILUS, Director of Valencia FC de Léogâne;
- Guy LAROCHE, former President of the Amazonian women's football team and former FHF presidential candidate;
- Louidy JEAN MARC alias Pachou, coach of Victoria FC;
- Molière JEAN PIERRE, Advisor to the Acaona Football Club.

One (1) former football player

- Yvrose EDMOND, former football player

Four (4) sports journalists

- Ginadelle AUGUSTIN, former football player of the Surprise team of Jacmel and sports journalist;
- Esdras CLERCIDOR, sports journalist at Vision 2000;
- Jean Vius Stéphane JEAN, journalist for Vision 2000;
- Romain MOLINA, journalist.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE HAITIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION AND CAMP NOU ACADEMY

5. The Haitian Football Federation was created in April 1904¹. It comprises three hundred and forty (340)² football clubs located in the country's ten (10) geographical departments. Among them are twenty-two (22) women's football clubs.

6. Since 1933, the FHF has been a member of the International Amateur Football Federation (FIFA). She is also a member of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF).

7. In October 2012, a football school was established in Haiti. It welcomes minors and young adults and offers a football school program. It was set up with the financial support of foreign donors.

8. Seven (7) groups of minors and young adults are in continuing education at Camp Nou Academy. These are four (4) groups of U13, U15, U17, U20 girls and two (2) groups of U17 and U14 boys. Finally, there is a (1) group called Senior which is made up of young people waiting for internships in football clubs.

IV. REFERRAL TO RNDDH

9. As of March 10, 2020, the RNDDH received from the Haitian Football Federation (FHF) a letter signed by the Secretary General, Carlo MARCELIN, and the content of which is as follows:

«Croix des Bouquets, Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Mr. Pierre Espérance
Executive Director
RNDDH

Mr. Director,

As you must have learned in recent decades the development of football players begins at a very young age in order to bring them to a very high technical, physical and tactical level to produce shows every day of higher quality.

Our Federation long behind in this early training has worked hard in recent years to close its gap from where the multiplication of football schools and academies across the country welcoming and training young people for more performances of quality.

To accentuate this work and allow young Haitians to raise their level of play even more since 2011 in the wake of the Sympathy that surrounded football after the earthquake of January 12, we opened an academy that welcomes in formation of elite young Haitians of both sexes from the age of 11-12 years in an infrastructure arranged at the FIFA goal center of the Croix des Bouquets that the German Donors have baptized CAMP NOU.

Gradually CAMP NOU gains notoriety to the point that Haiti presents in international competitions high-level teams achieving high-quality performances that have brought credit to the country that competes with the rich regional powers.

These performances drew the spotlight on CAMP NOU with mostly very complimentary comments; unfortunately, lately a French journalist choosing the health destruction of our football among one of the institutions to be destroyed is relentlessly on our association and his last target is CAMP NOU making there a den of sexual abuse thus attacking one of the Jewels of sport country.

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Knowing that misinformation is fought by information and above all reassure parents, our funder, the many football families, the national community in general and that for us as for FIFA it is «zero tolerance» on this topic, we decided to ask your institution and its section of protection of children whose rigor, experience, independence are proverbial to open an investigation on our structures to shine the truth and preserve the reputation of a structure that honors our community and a great use for the country.

We thank you already and while assuring you of our full support to carry out your work with impartiality and possibly with the necessary recommendations, we ask you to accept the expression of our deep gratitude.

Carlo Marcelin
Secretary General
Copy:

Mrs. Fatma Samoura, Secretary General of FIFA
Mr. Victor Montagliani, President of CONCACAF

10. More than one (1) month later, on April 30, 2020, the English newspaper The Guardian published an article in which Yves JEAN BART, President of the Haitian Football Federation (FHF), was singled out. There are reports of sexual abuse and exploitation of the bodies of girls who are in training at the Camp Nou Academy.

11. According to this article, for several years, President Yves JEAN BART has raped the girls at the center. The approach strategy is to identify the victim, to go through a woman who works at the center, responsible for informing the victim that shortly she will be returned. The panicked girl is then advised by the lady in question, to have sex with Yves JEAN BART in order to keep her place.

12. At least two (2) of the victims had to abort.

13. This article attracted the attention of the RNDDH all the more that in the letter received from the Federation, none of the accusations against Yves JEAN BART appeared and that, it is the clarifications of this article that allowed the RNDDH to guide its investigation.

V. DECLARATION BY FHF MEMBERS

14. As part of this investigation, the RNDDH met with the principal concerned, FHF President Yves JEAN BART alias Dadou JEAN BART. He was re-elected on February 2, 2020 with his cartel, for a sixth term of four (4) years.

15. Yves JEAN BART stated at the outset that he was not surprised by the charges laid against him in The Guardian newspaper article. Indeed, one (1) month before its publication, he had received a questionnaire from the newspaper, relating to the facts alleged against him. However, he did not consider the answers he gave.

16. He also said that in January 2020, the journalist Molina ROMAIN published a video on YouTube in which he denounced the mismanagement of the Haitian Football Federation (FHF), the squandering of funds allocated to the FHF by FIFA as well as the poor maintenance of the center.

17. The journalist Molina ROMAIN never came to Haiti, the president believes that his statements are fed by people who have no interest in football but who would like to use the FHF and the Camp Nou Academy for political purposes. In addition, the fact that the FHF receives one million five hundred thousand (1,500,000) US dollars each year is, according to Yves JEAN BART, one of the reasons why the FHF is so interested in those who want to lead it.

18. Yves JEAN BART believes that the denunciations made by the English newspaper The Guardian have no basis. There has never been such action at the center.

19. He admits, however, that in 2000 he went to the Dominican Republic where he met a former Anacaona Football Club player with whom he had a daughter.

20. Yves JEAN BART has already thought of withdrawing from the FHF however, considering the vultures that revolve around the Federation, he hesitates to leave because he believes that it will then fall into political hands. In his view, it is the training center that is at risk of these changes.

21. On May 18, 2020, a complaint was filed in Paris, France, by Yves JEAN BART's lawyers against journalist Molina ROMAIN.

22. Monique ANDRE, a member of the FHF's Executive Committee, who joined the phone, said she had little to say about the charges against the President of the Federation, as she had never heard of his inappropriate behaviour to the girls at the center.

23. All the steps taken by the RNDDH in order to meet the Secretary General Carlo MARCELIN who had signed the letter of the FHF, requesting an investigation of the organization, turned out to be in vain.

VI. STATEMENTS FROM THE CAMP NOU CONTAINMENT OFFICER

24. RNDDH spoke with Webens PRINSIME aka Itala and stated that he has worked at the center for three (3) years. However, since the spread of Covid-19, he is responsible for containment, a temporary position created to better manage the disease.

25. At the outset, he told the RNDDH that he did not want to take a stand on the charges against President Yves JEAN BART. However, according to him, these charges may have an impact on young people currently in training at the center.

26. It does not rule out the possibility that the allegations of sexual abuse and assault are due to a political problem that has nothing to do with football because for twenty (20) years, Yves JEAN BART has been re-elected each time as head of the FHF.

1. About the event at Camp Nou Academy

27. Webens PRINSIME alias Itala said he had no idea of the preparations for the event at the Camp Nou Academy on May 4, 2020, in support of FHF President Yves JEAN BART.

28. According to him, it was decided to organize a tournament among the girls, in order to encourage them to keep fit and concentrate during the period of confinement. When the tournament was launched on May 4, 2020, young girls waved the signs they had prepared of their own free will.

29. He also states that the photos that circulated on social media were published by the girls themselves.

VII. STATEMENTS OF GIRLS ATHLETES MET AT CAMP NOU ACADEMY

30. As part of this survey, RNDDH also interviewed four (4) girls in training at Camp Nou Academy.

31. One is sixteen (16) years of age. This is the minor with whom Yves JEAN BART conducted an interview with his hands on his shoulders for more than seven (7) minutes, the duration of the interview. Two (2) others are twenty-one (21) years of age and one (1) twenty-two (22) years of age. They were hosted at the center in 2011, 2013 and 2018, respectively.

32. These girls stated that, since their admission to the center, they have never been sexually assaulted. They therefore rejected the charges against President Yves JEAN BART, whom they considered a father.

33. They believe that their future in football can be mortgaged as a result of this scandal.

34. At least one (1) of them believes that this is a matter of political manipulation because Yves JEAN BART was still re-elected president at the head of the Federation.

35. For her part, the minor appeared in the video-interview that circulates on social networks stated to the RNDDH that her relations with both the Academy and the Federation, are based on respect. The allegations against the president, who has always had a paternal affection for her, put her in trouble because it is her career that is at stake today. She also claims to be psychologically affected by this scandal.

VIII. STATEMENTS FROM A FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER

36. YVROSE EDMOND, a football player who has served several teams, including Aigle d'Or before ending her career in 2010, believes that, given the current situation, there is a blockage that risks seriously damaging women's football and tarnishing its image.

37. According to her, the girls in training at the center having been severely affected by these allegations concerning them directly and the president JEAN BART, are in shock. They'll have to undergo psychological therapy.

38. President Yves JEAN BART has always behaved her in a straight and correct manner. However, she remembers that during a football match at the Sylvio Cator Stadium between the Tigresses Sports Association (AS Tigresses) and Aigle d'or, a player then twenty-two (22) years old was criticized for her poor performance and the public was mad at her, saying that President Yves JEAN BART was responsible for this poor performance.

IX. STATEMENTS BY SPORTS JOURNALISTS

39. At least one (1) of the sports journalists interviewed in the course of this survey believes that Yves JEAN BART, adored by girls in training at the center, is considered a father. These young girls respect him and put his advice into practice. For example, when they are in rebellion, it is often the president who takes them back to the path of understanding and encourages them to resume training.

40. The other three (3) journalists told the RNDDH that they were not surprised by the scandal because of the many rumors – several of which gave rise to salacious jokes – that were already circulating and denouncing the behavior of the leaders of the Camp Nou Academy. They believe that Yves JEAN BART has always managed to have the victims under his control. This is the case, for example, of a young football³ player who was sexually abused by President Yves JEAN BART. She later joined the ranch where she worked for a while before leaving the country permanently.

41. According to them, President Yves JEAN BART is considered, at the Croix-des-Bouquets, a leader to whom nothing can be refused. However, the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR) has never been concerned about the situation of minors who are in training at the center

42. In addition, they denounce the fact that generally, the players in formation at the center are part of the football team AS Tigresses belonging to Yves JEAN BART and currently headed by Margarete C. GRAAM.

43. For these sports journalists, several personalities of the country playing in the sphere of football, are aware of these practices of sexual bargaining against benefits between club leaders and young people. These practices are in fact an open secret. However, they are never denounced because there are many influential people involved in the commission of these acts.

44. In this context, as minors are more vulnerable, there is no doubt that they are also victims of these practices. Football coaches as well as journalists, during private exchanges often discussed cases of sexual abuse perpetrated in the center and the fact that minors were sometimes allowed to go out at night with Yves JEAN BART who took them to the local of Radio Galaxie, often without a driver or even a security guard to chaperone them.

45. In addition, they claimed that the International Amateur Football Federation (FIFA) had been informed of the case long before the article appeared in the English newspaper The Guardian. It is rumored that one (1) of the delegates who had been affected by the file hastened to call Yves JEAN BART to assure him his unwavering support, in case things deteriorated. For these journalists, this is an incorrect attitude because it suggests that this delegate intends to make Yves JEAN BART his obligation for life.

46. Furthermore, they argue that the President of the Federation, Yves JEAN BART, can easily manipulate public opinion. For example, they pointed out that at the Hotel le Plaza, only journalists acquired to his cause were invited to the press conference given on May 6, 2020 during which he denied the allegations of rape on minors and exploitation of girls' bodies.

47. They are convinced that the players are not able to testify as long as they are under the control of an FHF led by their executioner and his acolytes.

48. Regarding the video in which a young girl claims to have been forced to abandon the center because of ongoing sexual harassment, journalists told RNDDH that she is a former U20 player⁴ and the national team who has always drawn attention to the unacceptable behavior of the center's officials.

49. These sports journalists believe that President Yves JEAN BART should step away from the Federation in order to allow justice to conduct its investigation objectively, because they are

minors under the responsibility of the FHF. And, since this is a personality who has been able to rape young girls with impunity for several years, according to the information reported in the article, justice should extend its investigation to the entire FHF team.

50. For his part, journalist Romain MOLINA told the RNDDH shortly to reveal information about the victims, which, according to him, are numerous. Despite the organization's pressing demands, he did not want to share accurate information about them with the organization. However, he promised to ask the international organizations that assist the victims, to contact the RNDDH if they wish.

X. STATEMENTS FROM FOOTBALL CLUB LEADERS

51. As part of this investigation, RNDDH met with one (1) former manager and three (3) football club managers.

52. One (1) of these club leaders said that the allegations brought against President Yves JEAN BART are political maneuvers of his opponents that try to tarnish the image of Haitian football and the reputation of the president of the FHF especially. However, he believes that it is up to Justice to conduct its investigation and shed light on this matter.

53. However, he believes that Yves JEAN BART can have any kind of relationship with the young players who have reached their majority. It is in this sense that he stated to the RNDDH that Yves JEAN BART has one (1) child of a former player.

54. One (1) of these football club leaders believes that the players who are currently in training at Croix-des-Bouquets are at risk of all kinds of abuse, not just sexual abuse. In this sense, he speaks of nepotism, favoritism and human rights violations likely to result from the conditions in which young people live at the Camp Nou Academy. In addition, it is possible, according to him, that the president of the FHF is involved in cases of sexual assault because, he heard rumors about at least one former player⁵ of the Surprise Club who during the 2000s, was known as the President's girlfriend. Subsequently, she was welcomed to the AS Tigresses club. He also portrays President Yves JEAN BART as someone who has repeatedly praised his sexual prowess to his friends.

55. In addition, the four (4) club managers interviewed in this case consider that President Yves JEAN BART demonstrated a blatant lack of professionalism and a lack of respect for protocol when, in the course of an interview, He put his arm around the minor's neck for more than seven (7) minutes.

56. They also acknowledged that the charges against Yves JEAN BART are very serious. And, the victims being minors or young adults, they do not have the maturity to stand up to the

pressures they could face from Yves JEAN BART and his acolytes. Most of the victims' parents do not have the means to care for their children, let alone help them prepare for a career in football. These are conditions that make young players vulnerable and risk making them accept the unacceptable.

57. In addition, at least one (1) of the women's club leaders told the RNDDH that benefit-against-sexual practices have been ongoing for a long time in women's clubs.

XI. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

58. As part of this investigation, the National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH) met with the president of the FIH as well as twenty-five (25) other people playing in the football sector, seven (7) of whom requested anonymity. They are executives of the FHF, football player, football club leaders and sports journalists.

59. The RNDDH emphasizes to the attention of all that, even if several people introduced Yves JEAN BART as a man who has always behaved with respect towards girls both in formation at the center and at the level of the football team AS Tigresses, they are also numerous, those who claimed not to have been surprised by the denunciations, the president of the FHF being a powerful man who was repeatedly splashed by sexual scandals involving young players from his football team AS Tigresses.

60. RNDDH recalls that the potential victims of this great scandal are minors who, in the best interests of the child – enshrined in article 20.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Haiti - deserve the full protection of the state authorities and the support of society. This article reads as follows: Any child who is temporarily or permanently deprived of his family environment ... is entitled to special protection and assistance from the State.”

61. In addition, it should be recalled that it is the duty of the state authorities to do everything possible to prevent minors from being victims of sexual abuse. Article 19, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the aforementioned Convention stipulates that: States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of violence, physical or mental harm or abuse, neglect or neglect, abuse or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the custody of his or her parents or any of their legal representatives or other persons to whom he or she is entrusted.” “Such protective measures shall include, as appropriate, effective procedures for the establishment of social programs to provide the necessary support to the child and those to whom it is entrusted, as well as for other forms of prevention, and for the purposes of identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment and follow-up for child maltreatment cases described above, and also to include, as appropriate, procedures for judicial intervention.”

62. For their part, young adults must also be protected because, placed under the responsibility of the FHF from their minority, the president of the FHF had authority over them and could easily have used them for sexual or other equally unapproachable purposes. This is why the RNDDH considers it unacceptable for club leaders to be able to maintain relations with young adults other than those of a superior and his subordinate.

63. After meeting them, the RNDDH believes that the girls currently in training at the Camp Nou Academy are kept in such a state of mind that they believe that if Yves JEAN BART is no longer at the head of the FHF, they will not be able to follow their career in football. The president of the FHF also believes that his absence from the institution could bring it down.

64. In this sense, the RNDDH regrets that the FHF did not immediately stand out from the scandal splashing its president, by promising to collaborate with the judicial institution in order to allow it to do its job to shed light on this issue.

65. Today, the young girls at the Camp Nou Academy and some other personalities who reject the accusations against Yves JEAN BART, happily confuse the Federation and its president. However, it is this behavior that risks causing the collapse of the Federation because, until now, charges of sexual abuse are brought against Yves JEAN BART only. And, even if some other personalities of the Federation are also singled out, the RNDDH believes that the investigation into the involvement of the president of the FHF in the commission of the acts imputed to him must be conducted with serenity.

66. The RNDDH also regrets that the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR) has never been interested in the fate of minors in training at the Camp Nou Academy. However, today, there is no doubt that these minors must benefit from the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBESR), the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action as well as the Brigade of Protection of Minors (BPM) intensive work sessions to build their confidence on the one hand, and on the other, that the FHF is not just its president who doesn't have to have a father-daughter relationship with them.

67. Sports journalists and football club leaders have admitted that sexual bargaining practices against benefits are common in the sector. The RNDDH regrets in this sense that this information has completely escaped the IBESR, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action and the BPM

68. In addition to all these considerations and taking into account both the statements made to the RNDDH and the number of people who requested anonymity out of personal convenience and/or fear of reprisals, the RNDDH is satisfied that the President of the FHF, Yves JEAN BART and his cartel can overshadow an impartial judicial investigation.

69. On the basis of the above, the RNDDH recommends:

- To Yves JEAN BART to move away from the presidency of the FHF so that the judicial investigation is carried out with complete serenity;

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- It is up to the IBESR to establish, with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action, an ongoing evaluation strategy of the Camp Nou Academy with a view to:

- supervise the general living and learning conditions of minors and young adults who are kept in training;
 - to make available to the minors and young adults of the center, psychologists and other social sciences and humanities workers called upon to accompany them.

- The Juvenile Protection Brigade (BPM) to conduct its investigation with a view to:

- identify the victims as well as the accomplices or any other persons involved in these cases of sexual violence;

- transfer the results of the investigation to the judicial authorities so that all light is shed on this matter.

- The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action to intervene in order to:
 - regulate the relationship between club leaders and players;
 - establish an anonymous complaint procedure.

MLA Format Works Cited

¹ <https://www.fhfhaiti.com/about.htm>
<https://fr.fifa.com/associations/association/hai/>

² <https://haititempo.com/election-fhf-les-20-delegues-connus/>

³ The name of the victim in question is not disclosed by the RNDDH

⁴ The name of the victim in question is not disclosed by the RNDDH

⁵ The name of the victim in question is not disclosed by the RNDDH