

Port-au-Prince, July 8, 2020

Mr. Joseph JOUTHE  
President Superior Council  
Of the National Police (CSPN)  
In its offices.-

### Open letter

**Mr. President of the CSPN,**

The National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH), concerned by the systematic violation of the freedoms of expression and assembly of the Haitian people by the agents of specialized units of the National Police of Haiti (PNH) who, however, show great complacency towards armed bandits, hastens to draw your attention to this state of affairs, for an immediate remedy of the situation.

**Mr. President of the CSPN,**

For some time now, you have initiated a dialogue with members of civil society organizations in order to discuss the general human rights situation in the country. This approach, welcomed by those who generally take part in the various meetings, does not detract from the seriousness of the situation nor does it diminish the will of the people to demand respect for their fundamental rights and freedoms.

And, because you have thought about consulting civil society organizations, RNDDH believes that you must be among the few members of this government who have at least heard about human rights. That is why he is sending you this communication.

**Mr. President of the CSPN,**

The RNDDH reminds you that the chaotic situation in which the Haitian people live testifies to the failure of President Jovenel MOÏSE and all the heads of government that preceded you: the rights to life, to health, to work, to education, to identity, to food, to the physical security and an adequate standard of living of the Haitian people are constantly violated if not outright ignored.

Haiti is floundering in great misery. The products of primary necessity are inaccessible, and the famine awaits the majority of the population while the acts of corruption within the public administration know, extra-billing, opacity in the spending of the State, misappropriation and squandering of public funds, are continually denounced.

Today, people are murdered all over the country, in deprived neighborhoods, on the street, in their homes, etc. Public administration executives, private sector employees, merchants, public transit drivers, PNH agents, Schoolchildren, citizens, men, women, children: The state authorities having at their disposal security agents and agents of the PNH seconded apart, no one is spared.

For the months of May and June 2020 alone, fifty-four (54) people at least were murdered by bullets or with a knife, proving that the National Police of Haiti (PNH) - created, according to article 269.1 of the Haitian Constitution, for the guarantee of public order and the protection of the lives and property of the citizens, - fails miserably to its mission.

And, the gangsterization of the country reinforced by the federation of armed gangs with the blessing of the authorities in power, to the beard of the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN) that you preside, have certainly worsened the situation.

There is no doubt that if it exists, your government's public safety policy is totally unfit to establish and maintain national order, contrary to the wishes of Articles 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and 9 first paragraph of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which enshrine the rights to the safety and security of persons.

**Mr. President of the CSPN,**

When offended, citizens decide to demand the respect of their rights and freedoms by those who are called to guarantee and realize them, the National Police of Haiti (PNH) receives the formal order to attack them, to provoke them, to hunt them and to seek their lives with the obvious objective of creating a climate of terror in the country.

Indeed, at the instigation of the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN), the Director General of the police institution, Normil RAMEAU ordered that both (2) peaceful sit-in organized on June 29, and July 6, 2020 by the collective Nou Pap Dòmi in front of the premises of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security are dispersed by agents of the Brigade of Operation and Departmental Intervention (BOID), the Intervention Corps for the Maintenance of Order (CIMO), the Departmental Unit for the Maintenance of Order (UDMO) and even the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ). The sit-ins were dispersed with violence.

Each time, firearm fire was recorded, and tear gas tubes were thrown profusely towards the demonstrators-However, they had only banners and signs on which were inscribed slogans calling for the respect and realization of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

However, when bandits decide to do on the public road, a demonstration of their forces, weapons

in hand, the PNH is absent. Indeed, on July 7, 2020, many men as well as heavily armed teenagers, in parade in several streets of the capital, blocked car traffic in Fontamara, Boulevard Harry Truman, La Saline, Cité Soleil, at the bottom of Delmas and on the Airport road, fired blithely, sowing a general panic and shooting at least one (1) person, on the Airport road.

The G-9 once again wanted to send a clear message to the public: Armed gangs are in charge and working for the authorities in power. And, the virulent and very zealous agents of specialized units of the PNH, several of which are also members of armed gangs, were ordered not to intervene.

**Mr. President of the CSPN,**

The RNDDH deeply regrets that even today the country is run by very poor learners who find it very difficult to learn the lessons of the country's history. The rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Haitian Constitution and by the various regional and international instruments, ratified by Haiti, do not constitute a favor. These are gains for which heavy sacrifices have been made. Similarly, the fact that state authorities arm young people to keep power, never stopped the Haitian people.

This is why the RNDDH would be grateful if you would remind us:

- To the Director General of the PNH, Normil RAMEAU that the failed police institution he heads should not attack the population who denounce his inertia in the face of the many cases of murders recorded in the country and the use of his equipment in the commission of armed attacks against those living in deprived neighborhoods. Nor can the PNH reproach the demonstrators its too many agents who are enrolled in armed gangs and/or protect these gangs at the expense of the population. On the contrary, it must work to seek out the bandits and all other violators of the Law and to refer them to the judicial authorities for legal action.
- To the Chief Inspector General of the PNH, Hervé JULIEN, that the country in general has nothing to do with its magnanimity towards the agents of the PNH in the perpetration of acts of violation of human rights. He expects him to take severe sanctions against all police officers who have agreed to obey manifestly illegal orders to attack peaceful demonstrators and not to intervene when armed gangsters decide to demonstrate their strength, regardless of the ranks and ranks of those who have placed these illegal orders.
- To the Minister of Justice and Public Security Maître Lucmanne DÉLILLE, that he cannot for his part develop a hostility towards to the Haitian population when he had peremptorily declared in several media outlets that he would quickly put an end to the chronic insecurity in the country and the impunity enjoyed by leaders and members of armed gangs.

The RNDDH takes this opportunity to emphasize to your attention that the Constitution in force and the Law governing the matter do not indicate any zone prohibited to street demonstrations in Haiti. Consequently, the street where the premises of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security are located does not belong to Maître Lucmanne DÉLILLE or any other member of the CSPN. It

is a public road where meetings and demonstrations can be held. And, only an improvement in the security situation of the country and the end of impunity will prevent the realization of movements denouncing the incompetence of your government.

And, since you yourself, as president of the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN), you cannot close your eyes to the many excesses described above, the RNDDH recommends that you correct what is now called the security fiasco in Haiti characterized by the protection of armed gangs by your government and immediately put an end to the acts of repression directed towards the Haitian population, by demonstrating peacefully, only serves to remind the state authorities of their responsibilities and promises to it.

In the hope that a favorable response will be given to this letter, the RNDDH sends you, Mr. President of the CSPN, its distinguished greetings.

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**Pierre ESPÉRANCE**  
Executive Director