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NEWS RELEASE

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International Human Rights Day: The RNDDH invites the population to mobilize against the deterioration of the general situation and the dictatorial ambitions of the authorities in place

1. December 10, 2020, International Human Rights Day, brings back the 72nd year of adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a UN instrument guaranteeing civil, economic, political, social and cultural rights.
 2. On this occasion, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) draws the attention of all to the deterioration of the general human rights situation in Haiti, situation characterized for some time, by the systematic violation of the fundamental rights and individual freedoms of the citizens of the country.
 3. The fact is that the rights to life, security, health, education, work, identity and decent housing are constantly threatened and constantly violated. The rights to vote and run are trampled and the freedoms of expression are severely repressed.
 4. For the year 2020 alone, at least one hundred and eighty-five (185) people, including twenty-five (25) women and five (5) minors, lost their lives in the massacres and armed attacks recorded in the deprived neighborhoods of the Department of the West; at least thirty-two (32) Agents of the National Police of Haiti (PNH) were murdered by bullets; at least five hundred and twenty-five (525) people lost their lives in favor of the general insecurity that prevails in Port-au-Prince and at least one hundred and six (106) detainees died in prison. And, in this context of general deterioration of the situation, unprecedented cases of human rights violations have been recorded.
- a) 2020 is the year that spectacular crimes never before recorded in the country have been perpetrated since 1986.**

5. The following five (5) examples illustrate this:

- The assassination of the husband and wife Farah-Martine LHERISSON writer and Lavoisier LAMOTHE dated June 15, 2020. They were both (2) teachers and were at home when they were shot and killed;
- The murder on August 27, 2020, at John Brown Avenue, of Michel SAIEH, responsible for Piyay Nasyon. He was in his vehicle when it was riddled with bullets in broad daylight by heavily armed men on motorcycles;
- The assassination dated August 28, 2020, of Maître Monferrier DORVAL, lawyer and Bâtonnier of the Order of Lawyers of Port-au-Prince. He was on his way home and standing in front of his gate when he was riddled with bullets;
- The assassination dated October 2, 2020, of the student Grégory SAINT HILAIRE. He was within the confines of the Ecole Normale Supérieure when he received a projectile on his back;
- The kidnapping of Evelyne SINCÈRE, a young woman, on October 29, 2020. Raped, abused and then murdered, her body was found on November 1, 2020, on a pile of rubbish in Delmas 24.

b) 2020 is the year in which several children lost their lives, in the total indifference of the state authorities.

6. In addition to the five (5) minors killed in attacks and massacres by armed gangs, many others were also killed. For example:

- On January 23, 2020, at the Croix-des-Bouquets, thirteen (13) year old Alice Ciara SALOMON, in uniform and returning from school, was with her father Gaudy SALOMON in his vehicle when the vehicle was riddled with bullets in broad daylight. They lost their lives;
- On the evening of February 13, 2020, fifteen (15) children died as a result of a fire at the Bible Comprehension Orphanage. Some were charred and others, surprised in their sleep, inhaled the smoke until dying asphyxiated;
- On June 18, 2020, Mamoune RÉGIS, fourteen (14) years old, was shot and killed in the street by a security guard working for the agency Lions Sécurité and assigned to the Restaurant Cap Déli, located by the sea, in the city of Cap-Haïtien. For not having

promptly executed herself after the security officer in question ordered her to move, she was simply murdered;

- On July 12, 2020, Merry Djuna FLEURIMOND an eight (8) month old girl was shot in the back of her left ear and died. She was at her home in the Belekou neighborhood of Cité Soleil when she was killed;
- On July 18, 2020, eleven (11) year old Ricardo Dave LAFLEUR was kidnapped from Petite Rivière de l'Artibonite. His body was found on July 20, 2020, in the irrigation canal known as Sipa;
- On August 3, 2020, Godson JOSEPH, five (5) months old, was killed in Ganthier while in a public transit vehicle when the vehicle was riddled with bullets;
- On November 17, 2020, Jimmy TELSON, seventeen (17) years old, was shot and killed at Delmas 75. He was in a vehicle and had just been recovered from school when he was shot.

c) 2020 is the year when the process of gangsterization of the country has accelerated and where many remote areas have recorded acts of banditry.

7. Saint Louis du Nord, in the department of Nord Ouest; Aquin, in the department of Sud; Jérémie in the department of Grand'Anse; Petit trou de Nippes, in the department of Nippes; Terrier-Rouge, in the department of Nord-East, there are so many communities that until recently enjoyed a relative peace. During the year 2020, they recorded armed attacks, spectacular assassinations and acts of great banditry.

d) 2020 is the year that state authorities have openly invited and welcomed armed gangs to federate.

8. The armed gangs gathered around the G-9 in Fanmi and Allies presented to the public on June 10, 2020, continue to sow mourning among the Haitian population, with the blessing of state authorities who continue to provide them with money, weapons and ammunition.

e) 2020 is the year when several advanced women of age were gang-raped during attacks and massacres by armed gangs in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

9. The following two (2) cases were of particular interest to the RNDDH because of the unprecedented violence used in these rapes:

- On June 3, 2020, R.M. in Nan Brooklyn, a neighborhood in Cité Soleil, fifty-two (52) years old, was raped by four (4) individuals at gunpoint;
- On July 10, 2020, at approximately seventeen (17) hours, S.R., born on May 27, 1959, was on her way to Soleil 20 when she was beaten and then raped to the point of fainting. She had to be taken to the hospital.

f) 2020 is the year that doctors, musicians, football players were kidnapped for ransom.

10. While the increase in kidnapping cases followed by kidnapping for ransom is of great concern, the fact that all social strata have been victims during this year is simply alarming.

- Jerry BITARD, a doctor, who was kidnapped on March 27, 2020 and then kidnapped, was released under pressure from the population;
- Hans David THÉLÉMAQUE, doctor, kidnapped on November 28, 2020, was released on pressure from his colleagues;
- Johnny DESCOLLINES, former Haitian football star, was abducted on October 21, 2020;
- Dickens PRINCIVIL, musician, was abducted on December 6, 2020.

11. The police institution, overwhelmed by the situation and including among its troops, agents kidnapped, kidnapped and then released after paying ransoms, cannot provide precise information about the number of victims of the kidnapping, since the beginning of 2020.

g) 2020 is also the year when the authorities in power have decided to reveal with a lot of arrogance, their dictatorial ambitions, by the adoption of texts of law reducing the fundamental rights and individual freedoms of the Haitian people.

12. President Jovenel MOÏSE and his team, driven by a clear desire to establish a dictatorship in the country, have not ceased, throughout the year 2020, to develop and adopt decrees, some more worrying than others. These are legal texts violating for the most part, the provisions of the Constitution and the various regional and international instruments for the protection of human rights, ratified by Haiti.

13. If in general, these numerous decrees indicate a manifest willingness of the authorities to protect themselves from legal provisions in order to subdue the population, the two (2) last texts relating to the creation of the National Intelligence Agency (ANI) and to the strengthening of public security in Haiti, adopted on November 25, 2020, significantly reduce fundamental rights and individual freedoms, transform into terrorist acts, crimes as well as common law

crimes, grant an extra-judicial power to an agency whose members are accountable only to the President of the Republic himself.

14. In the face of this chaotic situation, and above all with the aim of thwarting this dictatorial power every day, the RNDDH invites the Haitian population as a whole to mobilize to defend the democratic gains for which it has fought for many years.

Port-au-Prince, December 9, 2020