

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

Membre de la
fidh



Mutiny, planned escape, tracking down and extrajudicial executions of detainees: the RNDDH demands the punishment of those involved in the bloody events of the Croix-des-Bouquets

April 1, 2021

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Summary of the Report

1. On February 25, 2021, very unfortunate bloody events were recorded at the Croix-des-Bouquets civilian prison. The National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH) has launched an investigation, the conclusions of which enable it to affirm that:

- 32 people were killed. 28 of them died on the day of the tragedy. The head of the prison was killed in front of the fence and 6 detainees in the prison compound. 21 other detainees were systematically tracked by agents of the specialized units of the PNH and were summarily executed in the streets of Croix-des-Bouquets. The next day, Arnel JOSEPH was killed at the Estère, in the department of Artibonite and 3 other detainees succumbed to their injuries at the HUEH.
- 18 people were injured among them, at least 3 staff members assigned to the prison.
- 433 inmates escaped. 87 of them were reappeared. And, 346 detainees are still on the run, which does not seem to worry too much, the police authorities.
- The prison registry and armory offices were vandalized.

2. In addition, early information suggested that residents had also been killed on February 25, 2021. On this point, it should be noted that no loss of human life has been recorded in the community of the Croix-des-Bouquets. All those whose bodies have been noticed in the streets are detainees, chased by the police and coldly shot.

3. The ongoing investigations of the DCPJ and IGPNH are dragging on while the parents of many detainees may not be aware that their offspring and loved ones were killed on February 25, 2021 or injured as a result of these events.

4. Some of the inmates on the run are very dangerous. This is the case for example of Gilbert JOSEPH who, 2 days after his release, went to the residence of the magistrate Jeanty SOUVENIR and shook him with bullets before settling down, with 12 of his acolytes who were in prison with him, In Belle Fontaine, where he calmly started operating again.

5. The RNDDH investigation also revealed that there were persistent rumours about preparing for a spectacular escape. And, a few days before the aforementioned events, some detainees were already proud of their next escape with the agents of the prison. This information is traced back to the DAP. However, no action was taken by the authorities.

6. Finally, the very questionable operation of the prison, the maintenance of a trade for which prison officials are indexed, the laxity of the latter in terms of the security of the prison space, the repeated absence of DAP agents in their workplaces, could have facilitated the escape of all observer detainees anyway.

7. On the basis of these conclusions, the RNDDH recommends to the Directorate General of the PNH, the DAP and the IGPNH to: Make contact with the family members of the 31 detainees who died during the events of February 25, 2021; Publish the names and photos of the 346 detainees on the run; Investigate the involvement of agents in the preparation of the escape of February 25, 2021; Investigate the numerous commercial activities of agents within the prison; Elucidate the circumstances of the murder of the head of the prison, Paul Joseph HECTOR.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On February 25, 2021, the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison was the scene of bloody events that resulted in the death of several people and the escape of hundreds of detainees.

2. These losses in human lives will increase with the death, the day after his escape, of Arnel JOSEPH, notorious gang leader who operated in Village de Dieu before his incarceration and that of a few other detainees who were injured during the events.

3. The National Network for the Defense of Human Rights (RNDDH) was particularly alarmed by the number of deaths recorded that day and therefore decided to investigate these events. Today, the organization proposes to share with those interested the results of its investigations.

III. METHODOLOGY

4. As part of this survey, conducted from February 28 to March 30, 2021, RNDDH met with:

- The new Director of the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP), Divisional Commissioner Ludwige BERTRAND;
- The new head of the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison, Divisional Inspector Dérival LOUIS;
- Jean René SAINTILMA, Chief of Operations of the Croix-des-Bouquets Civil Prison;
- Civilian employees of the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison;
- Officers of the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP) assigned to the civil prison of Croix-des-Bouquets;
- Assistant to the Director of the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP), in charge of operations, Principal Commissioner Dominique Voltaire SPADY;
- Former officials of the civil prison of Croix-des-Bouquets;
- Officials of the police station of Croix-des-Bouquets; Officials of the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ);
- Inspector General Pierre Marie E. S. Nassar, assigned to the General Inspection of the PNH;
- The Government Commissioner at the Court of First Instance of the Croix des Bouquets, Maître Edler GUILLAUME;
- One of the deputy judges of the Court of Peace of the Croix-des-Bouquets, Mr. Jaccius LOUIS;
- Officials from Morgue Le Fleurantin located at Croix-des-Bouquets;
- Morgue Jackson Jeanty, located at Croix-des-Bouquets;
- A manager of the SANCO company;
- A person in charge of the National Congregational School of Our Lady of the Rosary;
- Inmates incarcerated at Croix-des-Bouquets;
- Local residents.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE CROIX-DES-BOUQUETS CIVIL PRISON

5. The Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison was inaugurated on October 28, 2012. It is adjacent to a school called the National Congregational School of Our Lady of the Rosary and is not far from a cemetery.

The Croix des-Bouquets civil prison has a total capacity of 768 inmates. On February 25, 2021, 1,542 inmates were incarcerated there.

6. Construction of this prison began in 2009. It was funded by Canada through the Stabilization and Reconstruction Working Group (START/GTSR) to the tune of five million seven hundred thousand (5,700,000) Canadian dollars.

7. The building has five (5) blocks each named after a continent. In the Oceania block, in addition to the cells called to receive prisoners, is the infirmary of the prison.

8. The civil prison of Croix-des-Bouquets offers a capacity of seven hundred and sixty eight (768) inmates for an area of 1,179.13 square meters. However, on February 25, 2021, one thousand five hundred and forty-two (1,542) inmates were incarcerated in the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison, or two (2) times its capacity to accommodate.

IV. BACKGROUND FACTS

a) Arnel JOSEPH's previous escape attempts

9. Prior to the events of February 25, 2021, at least two (2) escape attempts by Arnel JOSEPH were recorded.

10. On March 7, 2020, armed individuals boarded a tractor, arrived near the civilian prison of Croix-des-Bouquets, in order to facilitate his escape. But those responsible at the time had taken the necessary steps to thwart the coup.

11. On July 23, 2020, a second escape attempt was recorded. Arnel JOSEPH had time to climb on the roof of the prison kitchen. However, officers were able to restrain him. Since then, it was decided to keep him at the admission of the prison, with a hindrance to the feet, making his movements difficult.

12. The Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP) was immediately informed of these repeated attempts to escape and specific recommendations were made to it in the direction of strengthening the security of the prison.

b) Operation of the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison

13. The general conditions of operation of the prison may also be considered as a history that contributed to the events of February 25, 2021.

14. On several occasions, the lack of agents to ensure the security of the prison, was the subject of requests to the officials of the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP). Indeed, according to the estimates of the officers interviewed in this investigation, of the forty-five (45) officers required each day for the operation of the prison, there are generally only ten (10) to twelve (12) at the site. Often, there are fewer than eight (8) officers in total who provide supervision of inmates and security of the building. And, in addition to the officers assigned to the said prison who often do not come to their post, many others have been transferred and have never been replaced.

15. The officers also complained to the prison officials that the six (6) miradors do not allow visual communication between them, which would imply the availability of communication radios. This is also another request that went unheeded. The two (2) lookouts overlooking the prison parking lot and part of the officers' dormitory are never occupied and the one overlooking the playground is rarely occupied, as was the case for February 25, 2021.

Repeated absence of the agents at their workplaces, 1 padlock per barrier, food trade in the prison, mobile phones for sale in the prison: the operation of the civil prison of Croix-des-Bouquets denoted a widespread disorder

16. Many of the locks that the prison uses to keep the barriers closed, were defective for several years, because of the many shocks that they usually suffer during the uprisings of the detainees. And, if an average of three (3) padlocks are required per barrier, only one (1) is usually used. Moreover, the barrier giving access to the parking lot is never locked.

17. Moreover, it was also reported to the RNDDH that since October 2020, the civil prison of Croix-des-Bouquets offers only one meal per day, served around sixteen (16) hours. In the meantime, some inmates are in charge of selling spaghetti, vegetables, soup, pâtés, sugar and bread on behalf of the Chief of Operations, Jean René SAINTILMA.

18. Questioned about this trade, Jean René SAINTILMA says that since 2018, cooks assisted by several inmates, including one named Luc, have opened a flourishing soup business in the prison. As more and more food was added up, this trade made it possible to overcome the problem of undernourishment of inmates. He also stated that the ingredients used to prepare these meals sold to inmates are purchased by the relevant cooks.

19. Finally, it should also be noted that other unauthorized items are sold in prison, or introduced with the complicity of certain agents: Mobile phones, marijuana, knives, etc. For example, a search of the prison was conducted in September 2020 during which thirty-two (32) telephones and numerous knives were seized. In October 2020, due to an escape alert issued on the prison, another search was carried out. Thirty-five (35) other phones were seized.

c) Rumors of February 25, 2021 Escape Preparedness

20. On the escape recorded as of February 25, 2021, rumors were circulating more and more, suggesting that a coup was being planned. If this information was not sufficiently precise to enable those responsible to take specific measures, they should at least have led them to increase the safety of the building.

21. Several days before the events of February 25, 2021, the head of the prison, the divisional inspector Paul Joseph HECTOR, was himself affected by the planning of this escape.

22. Agents of the Penitentiary Team of Intervention and Escorts (EPINES), a specialized unit of the National Police of Haiti (PNH) in charge of intervening in prisons during the unrest and convoying the prisoners, were informed at 10:45 in the morning, by an inmate, that an escape would take place on the same day. The information was quickly relayed to DAP officials.

23. Prison officers, including Chief Operating Officer Jean René SAINTILMA, were also briefed on the escape planning. In this sense, he told the RNDDH that it is in fact since November 2020, rumors began circulating in the prison, concerning the preparation of this coup. And, according to him, several correspondence were sent by the then head of the prison to the Sub-Directorate General of the West (SDGO).

24. In addition, in the final days of January 2021, many inmates began to chant a new slogan about their upcoming departure from prison. Once again, the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP) was informed. It is also following this latest information that on February 6, 2021, twelve (12) EPINES agents were dispatched to the scene in order to strengthen those of the prison. On February 8, 2021, they left.

Arnel JOSEPH's 2 escape attempts in 2020 and the persistent rumours about the preparation of the escape of 25 February 2021 were not taken seriously by the prison authorities.

V. POSSESSION OF ARNEL JOSEPH

25. Arnel JOSEPH, a notorious gang leader, led the armed Village de Dieu gang. He was arrested at the Hôpital Lumière de Bonnes Fins, located in the fourth section of the commune of Cavaillon, on July 22, 2019 on charges of armed robbery, illegal possession of weapons of war (assault rifle, T-65, M-50, Galil, etc.) abduction followed by kidnapping for ransom and conspiracy.

Arnel JOSEPH was subject to a very permissive prison regime: he received large sums of money by CAM transfer and had constantly several mobile smart phones at his disposal.

26. Strong man and close to former President Michel Joseph MARTELLY, Arnel JOSEPH has already been arrested on November 10, 2011 for assassination, attempted assassination, armed robbery, illegal possession of firearms and criminal associations. Written in the civil prison of Port-au-Prince, on November 21, 2011, he escaped in the evening of May 16 to 17, 2017, with three (3) other detainees know, Hepybyby CIVIL FILS, Nelson ETIENNE and Clenet TELSANT. The latter was killed at the time of the escape, organized in good order, without riot.

27. Since his arrival at the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison, Arnel JOSEPH has been a privileged prisoner both because of his status as a powerful gang leader and because of the way he is treated. He has access to the cell phone. But unlike other inmates who have devices that allow them to make and receive calls, he has several smartphones. He makes videos that he sends to his relatives outside the prison, gives them instructions and invariably promises to take back control of his armed gang, whose members he considers as his children.

28. Arnel JOSEPH also receives large sums of money through the CAM Transfert agency. For example:

- On November 26, 2019, he received five cents (500) US dollars;
- On January 13, 2020, he received three hundred and fifty (350) US dollars;
- On December 7, 2020, he received US\$10,000.

From 2019 to 2021, while incarcerated, Arnel JOSEPH received at least US\$10,850.

VI. CONDUCT OF FEBRUARY 25, 2021 EVENTS

29. On February 25, 2021, on awakening, the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison accused a staff of one

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thousand five hundred and forty-two (1.542) detainees including four hundred seventy-seven (477) sentenced and one thousand sixty-five (1.065) awaiting trial.

30. Around nine (9) o'clock in the morning, a green and white vehicle belonging to SANCO Entreprises S.A., registration TM 32342, arrived at the scene to clean the toilets. He had two (2) employees on board.

31. At the same time, shortly before the events, several inmates heard gang leader Arnel JOSEPH talking on the phone and telling his interlocutors to "enter".

The events began early in the morning and ended only after 6 p.m. The prison registry as well as the armory were vandalized. Civilian employees and DAP officers were molested by detainees.

32. Around ten (10) o'clock in the morning, heavy fire broke out in front of the main gate SAS Pedestrian of the civil prison of Croix-des-Bouquets. And, heavily armed individuals have taken over the prison space. They removed Arnel JOSEPH as well as several other detainees deemed dangerous. After their departure, the detainees of the Europe bloc rose up.

33. The Chief of Operations Jean René SAINTILMA who was circulating with, in his possession five (5) sets of keys, arrived near the barrier of the block Europe. One of the inmates of the prison, Yves Mary BONCOEUR alias Rat, ordered him to give him the keys, while threatening him with a 9-millimetre-caliber firearm. After he had complied, Jean René SAINTILMA was beaten and shoved inside a cell.

34. Yves Mary BONCOEUR alias Rat then opened cell 117 before leaving the trousseaux to the other inmates, who opened their own cells.

35. Jean René SAINTILMA refuted this version. On the contrary, he said that only those responsible for the detention have access to the keys to the prison, which must be given to them by the chief of post of the day. He believes that those who claim that he had the keys in his hands simply want to blame him for the tragedy of which he himself is a victim.

36. The inmates then proceeded to the SANCO Entreprises S.A. vehicle on the court. Yves Mary BONCOEUR alias Rat, accompanied by several of his acolytes took control of it and manipulated it to break the barrier separating the parlor from the court from the detention area. In the process, the vehicle fell into a hole in the yard.

37. And, according to the head of SANCO Entreprises S.A. interviewed as part of this investigation, the two (2) employees sent to the scene were severely beaten by the detainees and then held hostage.

38. At the same time, other detainees passed through various prison offices, including those of the head of the registry and the armory, and ransacked them. They also took a 65-caliber weapon, several boxes each containing six (6) 12-caliber weapons, three (3) mini M3. They captured four (4) buckets of twenty-four (24) tear gas grenades each. They took the opportunity to steal money sent to the detainees by their relatives, via CAM transfer, but which had not yet been delivered to them.

39. The police station of the Croix-des-Bouquets, the school Ecole nationale Notre Dame du Rosaire and several other nearby buildings, were bombarded with tear gas.

40. In addition, the inmates fired in all directions. And, the viewpoint overlooking the infirmary and the visiting room, occupied that day, suffered a lot of automatic weapons fire. At least nine (9) bullet holes were observed on the wall by the RNDDH.

41. Officers, as well as civilian staff, were stoned by fleeing detainees. And, some civilian personnel, to avoid being killed, hid in the sewers. They remained there for more than four (4) hours, until law enforcement was able to bring order to the prison.

42. While the students of the school National Congregational School Notre Dame du Rosaire had just returned from recreation, prisoners having climbed the wall adjoining the school and the prison, jumped on the schoolyard and hid in the washrooms and classrooms.

43. Parents who were waiting for their children on site and who, having inhaled the smell of tear gas, wanted to offer students and teachers pieces of lemon, in order to mitigate the effects of the gas, entered the school yard. Several inmates took the opportunity to also invest in the schoolyard and try to hide.

44. Finally, many other detainees were able to easily reach the exit of the prison, the barrier giving access to the car park being never locked.

a) Reactions of some agents

The escaped detainees climbed the prison's adjoining wall and ended up in the adjacent school. Civilian employees as well as PAD officers had to hide in sewers to escape the furv of the

45. Jimmy PIERRE Agent IV, in charge of the Africa bloc that day, took care to close all the cells, despite the shots, thus preventing the inmates of the bloc for which he was in charge, to take part in the action and to escape.

46. Wilshton REGNUS, Officer IV, Post Manager, seized a weapon and ascended to the Administration Floor. He was firing at the barrier giving access to the parking lot, thus deterring several inmates from fleeing.

b) PNH interventions

47. The then chief commissioner Joël CASSÉUS, in charge of the police station of the Croix des Bouquets, met about the events of February 25, 2020, told the RNDDH that on that day, around 11:00, he heard shots coming from the prison. He had no reaction at first, since the officers assigned to the prison used to shoot in the air, to calm the angry prisoners. However, the detonations having intensified, he was accompanied by several agents including some assigned to the Departmental Unit for the Maintenance of Order (UDMO) and to the Intervention Corps for the Maintenance of Order (CIMO), to go to the prison.

48. Quickly, a security perimeter was established in front of the building's re-entry with agents of the UDMO, and of the CIMO, reinforced by those of EPINES and SWAT.

49. However, with several firearms and lots of ammunition, the detainees fired at the police officers who also responded, fueling the tension for more than three (3) hours of time.

50. Subsequently, SWAT and EPINES units took over the prison space while the others expanded the security perimeter outside the prison. They then searched for the inmates on the run. They were hunted and shot when they were found. Except a few of them, wounded by bullets, were transferred to the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH).

51. The government commissioner near the Court of First Instance of the Croix des Bouquets Edler GUILLAUME, met in the context of this investigation, was not able to provide detailed information on the escape. However, he reported that on February 25, 2021, the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison had 1,500, forty-two (1,542) inmates upon awakening. After escape one thousand seventy-eight (1,078) responded to the call. However, that number was going to increase as some inmates were going to be reappointed. Today, one thousand and sixty-five (1,165) of those detained in the prison on February 25, 2020, prior to the events, are present.

52. The Government Commissioner also stated that twenty-six (26) bodies were counted, including that of gang leader Arnel JOSEPH.

53. For his part, Justice of the Peace Jaccius LOUIS was requested by the Government Commissioner of Croix-des-Bouquets, in order to draw up minutes of the events recorded that day. He told the RNDDH that he had first noticed three (3) inert bodies in front of the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary. Six (6) bodies were found in the streets, not far from the prison. And, at about 6:30 p.m., he found in front of the prison building, fourteen (14) bodies including those of thirteen (13) detainees and that of the person in charge of the prison, Joseph Paul HECTOR. According to the magistrate, the latter's body was in his work vehicle parked in front of the prison at the time of the report.

54. The bodies were subsequently transferred to the Jackson Jeanty Morgue.

55. Two (2) days later, the Mairie de la Croix-des-Bouquets requested the magistrate to ascertain one (1) other corpse. He ordered the immediate planting of it because of its state of decomposition, animals having torn a good part.

56. The morgue officials, who were interviewed on the matter, claimed to have twenty-two (22) bodies in their possession. They also claimed to have planted, with the permission of the Town Hall, two (2) other corpses recovered on February 27, 2021. As for that of the person in charge of the prison, it was entrusted to another Morgue of the commune of Croix-des-Bouquets.

VII. PRESENCE OF OFFICERS IN THE PRISON

57. Four (4) different versions of the number of officers present on site on February 25, 2021 were communicated to the RNDDH.

58. First, according to the very first information collected from the Commissariat de la Croix des-Bouquets, twenty five (25) agents should have been present that day. However, seventeen (17) were absent and only eight (8) had taken up the post either Wilshton REGNUS Agent IV, was acting as Chief of Post of the day, Arms LOUIS Inspector and Gilson R. LOGAN, Agent II, both (2) assigned to the prison registry and five (5) officers assigned to detention:

- Wilson FRANÇOIS, Head of Detention;

- Frandy HONORÉ, Agent I, was stationed at the gate. He was in charge of Pedestrian SAS and Vehicle SAS;
- Winsort JEAN BAPTISTE, assigned to Mirador III;
- Jimmy PIERRE, Agent IV was, on that day, in charge of the detainees of the Africa bloc;
- Jacquet OGUENOLD, assigned to access to detention.

59. According to Chief Operating Officer Jean René SAINTILMA, the prison has a theoretical staff of eighty-six (86) officers. Some never showed up. Many were transferred. Others abandoned their positions and left the country. Forty-three (43) officers are on the actual establishment list. At least three (3) are on sick leave.

The theoretical strength of the prison is 86 officers. The actual strength is 43. On February 25, 2021, about 20 officers should have been present. And no matter how many actually took up the position, only 7 or worse, 6 officers were assigned to

60. On February 25, 2021, twenty-one (21) officers and civilian employees should have taken up their positions. Fourteen (14) were present at the scene, including thirteen (13) DAP officers and one (1) civilian employee. Of the DAP officers, seven (7) were assigned to detention, four (4) were deployed to the lookouts, one (1) was assigned to the gate, and one was assigned to act as a post manager.

61. However, Jean René SAINTILMA was able to share with the RNDDH the list of ten (10) of the fourteen (14) agents who were present according to him:

- Ismail DARIUS
- Wilson FRANÇOIS
- Gilson R. LOGAN
- Mixo LAGUERRE
- Fanfan Fils LOUIS
- Harms LOUIS
- Jean René SAINTILMA
- Michelangelo PONYON
- Mackendy CHÉRY
- Wilshton REGNUS

62. According to the report drawn up by Jaccius LOUIS, judge at the Court of Peace of the Croix-des-Bouquets, twenty-one (21) officers and civilian personnel had taken up duty on February 25, 2021. These are the following:

- Ignor II ANTOINE
- J. Bernard BIEN AIMÉ
- J. Luckner CHARLES
- Mackendy CHÉRY

- Ismail DARIUS
- Laguerre ESTIMÉ
- J. W. FÉLIX
- Judith GEORGES
- A. Mixo LAGUERRE
- Fanfan Fils LOUIS
- Frandy HONORÉ
- Winsort JEAN BAPTISTE
- Enock JEAN GILLES
- Ams LOUIS
- Barbara MICHEL
- Francique MONÉUS
- Jimmy PIERRE
- Jacquet OGUENOLD
- Germany PIERRE
- Gilson R. LOGAN
- Luxy M. J.

63. According to the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP), sixteen (16) officers and civilian staff out of twenty-three (23) were present at the scene. These are the following:

- Egnor II ANTOINE
- Bernard BIEN-AIMÉ
- Luckner CHARLES
- Mackendy CHERY
- Ismail DARIUS
- Wilson FRANÇOIS
- Frandy HONORÉ
- Winsort JEAN-BAPTISTE
- A. Mixo LAGUERRE
- Fanfan Fils LOUIS
- Barbara MICHEL
- Francique MONÉUS
- Jacquet OGUENOLD
- Germany PIERRE
- Jimmy PIERRE
- Wilshton REGNUS

However, the merging of these four (4) lists results in the repetition of five (5) names of agents who, in all likelihood, had actually arrived at their posts on February 25, 20201:

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- Frandy HONORÉ
- Winsort JEAN BAPTISTE
- Jimmy PIERRE
- Jacquet OGUENOLD
- Wilshton REGNUS

VIII. SUMMARY OF EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2021

64. The record of events of February 25, 2021, is very heavy. It can be presented as follows:

a) Persons killed

65. Thirty-two (32) people lost their lives:

- At least twenty-eight (28) people were killed the same day among them, the head of the civil prison of Croix-des-Bouquets, Paul Joseph HECTOR and twenty-seven (27) detainees.
- This assessment increased with the death of Arnel JOSEPH the following day, on February 26, 2021, and the death of three (3) other detainees who had been admitted to the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH).

66. Of the thirty-two (32) people who lost their lives, RNDDH was able to retrieve information on fourteen (14) of them. These are the following:

- Paul Joseph HECTOR, Head of Prison
- Milio DOMINIQUE, born on January 30, 1989. He was imprisoned on August 21, 2014 for theft. He was awaiting trial. His body was found behind Place Beauvais
- Jolens DARIUS
- Angelot FRANÇOIS
- Kerby EDOUARD, shot in the stomach in front of the prison registry
- Junior JOAZIL
- Fénélon GERMAIN
- LucnoI PIERRE
- Macius NACIUS

In the wake of the events of 25 February 2021, 32 people lost their lives, including prison warden Paul Joseph HECTOR and 31 detainees. 21 of them were hunted in the streets of Croix-des-Bouquets by the specialized units called for

- Rodney PIERRE aka Pastè
- Arnel JOSEPH.

67. As noted above, three (3) inmates who lost their lives at the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH). They are:

- Gabriel JEAN
- Gérard VALCIN
- Pierre VALCIN
- John HYPPOLITE
- Gerson BENECHÉ
- Sébastien SAINVIL
- Jimmy JEAN BAPTISTE
- Lovany MANELUS
- Emmanès DORCEUS
- Jameson DAVID
- Géraldson AUGUSTIN
- Cilemme RICHE
- Samson PIERRE

b) On the death of Paul Joseph HECTOR

68. According to some reports, the head of the prison Paul Joseph HECTOR arrived at the scene of the events and tried, by his physical force alone, to prevent several inmates from fleeing. Yves Mary BONCOEUR aka Rat, killed him with a large caliber weapon. A photo of the corpse of Paul Joseph HECTOR spread out in front of the prison gate, was circulating on social networks.

69. However, according to magistrate Jaccius LOUIS, the corpse of Paul Joseph HECTOR was found in his service vehicle, which would suggest that he had been murdered there.

70. On this point, it should be pointed out that rumours of police error are persistent because, where he was, Paul Joseph HECTOR would have been exposed only to the shots of the police who came to reinforce the DAP officers, in order to bring calm in the prison.

c) Injured Persons

71. Eighteen (18) people were injured. The RNDDH was able to gather information on sixteen (16) of them. These were:

- Jean René SAINTILMA, Chief Operating Officer. He was hit in the head with a stone;
- Michel-Ange PONYON, archivist. Some inmates caught him in the parking lot of the prison and asked him for the keys and his weapon. Unable to meet their demands, they stole his purse and struck him with stones on the head before stabbing him;
- Logan RAIMOND, assigned to the registry.

72. Thirteen (13) other wounded, all detainees, were admitted to the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH). It is :

- Gabriel JEAN
- Gérard VALCIN
- Pierre VALCIN
- John HYPPOLITE
- Gerson BENECHÉ
- Sébastien SAINVIL
- Jimmy JEAN BAPTISTE
- Lovany MANELUS
- Emmanès DORCEUS
- Jameson DAVID
- Géraldson AUGUSTIN
- Cilemme RICHE
- Samson PIERRE

d) Escaped inmates

73. Upon awakening, the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison had a total of one thousand five hundred and forty-two (1,542) prisoners, of whom four hundred and seventy-seven (477) were condemned and one thousand and sixty-five (1,065) were awaiting trial. At the first call after the events, one thousand seventy-eight (1,078) were present. Four hundred and sixty-four (464) inmates were missing. Twenty-seven (27) were killed on the same day, so four hundred thirty-seven (437) escaped. Thereafter, four (4) additional inmates will increase the number of deaths to thirty-one (31), reducing the number of escaped inmates to four hundred and thirty-three (433).

Following the events of 25 February 2021:

- 31 inmates died
- 433 escaped
- 87 inmates re-admitted
- 346 prisoners are still on the

IX. SUBSEQUENT FACTS

74. The two (2) employees of SANCO Entreprises S.A., whose truck had been seized by the detainees, were guarded by the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ) who, after hearing them, transferred them to the prosecutor's office at the Court of First Instance of the Croix des Bouquets. They were released on March 4, 2021.

a) Escapees re-apprehended

75. According to Government Commissioner Edler GUILLAUME, eighty-seven (87) detainees have been re-admitted. RNDDH was able to gather information on sixty-seven (67) of them:

Full name	Pick-up location	Offense	Legal status
Joseph Michel	At the Sisters	Motorcycle Theft	Sentenced to 10 years. He has already served 9 years and 7 months
Jean Baptiste Blot	In front of the prison barrier	Assassination	Sentenced to 15 years. He has already served more than 7 years
Pierre Saint-Francko	In front of the prison	Criminal association	Convicted but does not know for how long
Louis Louibert alias Ti Frè	Near prison	Rape	Sentenced to 5 years in prison
Germeille John Mackley, Alias Djo	Port-auPrince	Assassination	Sentenced to 10 years. He has already served 9 years in prison
Merlius Edner alias Lélé	At the market	Criminal association	Sentenced to 7 years but served 6 years and a few months
Alfred Kerby	At the market	Motorcycle Theft	Sentenced to 10 years but served 5 years and 2 months
Dorlis Linis	Jeremie	Rape for a land issue	Sentenced to 10 years. He has already served 8 years and two (2) months in prison.
Joseph Scheinder	Croix-des- Bouquets	Attempted assassination	Sentenced to 10 years in prison
Jean Baptiste Wilner	Port-de-paix	Murder	Sentenced to 10 years. He has already served 6.
Pierre Richard Vivil	Meyer	Criminal association	Awaiting judgment since May 2009
Pierre Jeannot alias Jeanjean	After the market	Theft of goods	Pending judgment since November 2017
Gérard Wilguens	Lowest on the market	Assassination	Pending judgment since 2018

Hilaire Jeffson	Cesselesse	-	Awaiting judgment since December 20, 2020
Delva Jordany	Centre-ville	Vehicle theft	Awaiting judgment since August 6, 2019
Fontilus Arons alias Ti Arons	At the Sisters	Rape	Awaiting judgment since August 9, 2020
Petit Brice Miroxin	Belanton	Serious injuries	Awaiting judgment since 2018
Tipha Job	In front of the prison	-	Awaiting judgment since June 6, 2020
Gelin Saudrage alias Choubi	Meyer station	Vehicle theft	Awaiting judgment since September 5, 2014
Matel Fritz	-	-	Awaiting judgment since April 20, 2013
Felise Fritzner	Centre-Ville	Theft of a bag of flour	Awaiting judgment since December 12
Jean Jacques Stevenson	Station Mirebalais	Phone theft	Pending judgment since March 15, 2020
Smith Richemond	Centre-Ville	-	Awaiting judgment since January 23, 2020
Saintil Prenord	Centre-Ville	Rape	Awaiting judgment since December 10, 2005
Mado Luckner alias Sim Soné	Savane Blonde	Rape	Awaiting judgment since January 14, 2017
Francois Widler	Centre-Ville	Assault	Pending judgment since February 14, 2019
Jean Evens	Centre-Ville	Rape	En attente de jugement depuis 10 aout 2017
Guillaume Steevens alias Vendy	Villages des Antilles	Attempted vehicle theft	Pending judgment since April 15, 2016
Beneche Gersonn	-	Home violation	Pending judgment since November 28, 2011
Jean Jameson	-	Criminal association	Awaiting judgment since July 2020
Charles Amos	-	Complicity in Murder	Awaiting trial since July 4, 2020
Milien Joham	Cornillon	Criminal association	Awaiting judgment since October 31, 2017
Balthazar Wawens	Clercine	Phone theft	Pending judgment for 3 years
Boniface Schneider alias Dèdè	Lascahobas	Criminal association	Awaiting judgment since August 14, 2019
Salomon Grasy Alias Manès	Tabarre	Night theft	Pending judgment since July 2018
Janvier Reynold	Pétion-ville	Serious injuries	Awaiting judgment since 2013
Augustin Géralson	-	Rape	Awaiting judgment since November 21, 2014
Laurent Yves Thomas	Lascahobas	Assassination attempt	Pending judgment since March 3, 2018
Lormé Jean Alix	Marin	Assassination	Awaiting judgment since March 16, 2020

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Pierre Samson	St Michel de Lathalaye	Rape, armed robbery	Awaiting trial since February 2014
Pierre Garry	Les Anglais	Water pump theft	Awaiting judgment since 2015
Barthelemy Liguel	Mirebalais	Kidnapping	Pending judgment for nine (9) years
Paul Luckner	Onaville	Illegal possession of firearms.	Pending judgment for 6 years
Joseph Jean Kerns	Moron (Grande'Anse)	-	Awaiting judgment since July 12, 2018
Dorcus Emanes	Thomazeau	Criminal association	Awaiting judgment since 2019
Pierre Wilson	Bainet	Goat theft	Awaiting judgment since April 2020
Lavoile Emmanuel	Grande Saline	Attempted assassination	Awaiting judgment since 2017
François Reynold	Croix-des-bouquets	Illegal possession of narcotics	-
Baptiste Wanito	-	Solar panel theft	Awaiting judgment since November 2020
Saint Fleury Frantdy	Cornillon	Criminal association	-
Sylvain Jacques	-	Phone theft	Awaiting judgment since 2019
Macéus Venex	Liancourt	Rape	Awaiting judgment since December 2017
Jean John	Cayes (Sud)	Association de malfaiteurs, vol à mains armées	Pending judgment for 8 years
Moreau Fritznel	Clercine	Motorcycle Theft	Awaiting trial for 11 years
Didier Milot Alias Ti karant	Jacmel	Criminal association	-
Joseph James	Ganthier	Assassination attempt	Pending judgment since March 2, 2020
Louverture Wilfrid	Jacmel	Criminal association	Awaiting judgment since 2010
Ortella Patrick ou Gerald Clervius,	Cerca-la-Source	Criminal association	-
Janilot Edilson, As Sobre	Cité-Soleil	Vehicle theft	Awaiting judgment since 2018
Riché Cilemme	Canaan, zone Mon repos	Murder	Awaiting trial since April 22, 2019
Sébastien Sainvil	Croix-des-Missions	-	Awaiting judgment
Jimmy Jean Baptiste	Bon Repos Community Referral Hospital	Illegal detention of firearms	Sentenced to 3 years in prison, May 7, 2019
Gerard Valsaint	-	-	-
Lovany Manélus	-	-	-

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Johnny Hyppolite	-	-	-
David Jameson	-	-	-
Gabriel Jean	-	-	-

76. Of the four hundred thirty-three (433) escaped inmates, only eighty-seven (87) having been re-admitted, three hundred and forty-six (346) inmates are still on the run.

b) Prison Search

77. On February 26, 2021, a search of the entire prison building was carried out by the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ). The following weapons, ammunition and other objects were found in various locations:

- Five (5) Torus brand firearms
- Three (3) 12 gauge rifles
- One (1) 9 millimetre caliber weapon. (Not owned by PNH)
- Two hundred (200) cartridges
- Five (5) 9 millimetre loaders
- Two (2) tear gas launcher rifles
- One (1) salvaged fragmentation grenade
- One (1) machete
- Ten (10) knives
- Four (4) tear gas cylinders
- Seven (7) cellular phones
- Eight (8) padlocks
- Five (5) sets of keys
- One (1) extinguisher
- Two (2) touffa sticks
- One (1) Savings Book (BNC)
- One (1) vehicle key
- Four (4) iron bars.

78. On March 1, 2021, Inspector Dérival LOUIS was installed at the head of the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison.

79. At the same time, since this escape, insecurity is in full swing in the commune of Croix-des-Bouquets. This situation is due to the fact that bandits operating in the area escaped and were able to return to their respective bases or created others.

c) PNH General Inspection Investigation

80. According to the General Inspection of the National Police of Haiti (IGPNH), an investigation is underway. Sixty-three (63) hearings were held, following which twenty-eight (28) precautionary measures were taken against several staff members, pending the conclusions of the investigation.

d) Attack on Deputy Government Commissioner Jeanty SOUVENIR

81. Gilbert JOSEPH is part, with twelve (12) of his acolytes all members of his armed gang, of prisoners on the run, escaped in favor of the events of February 25, 2021. He was arrested and imprisoned in connection with the assassination of Deputy Government Commissioner Fritz Gérald CÉRISIER, in Sans Fil, on June 19, 2020. On February 27, 2021, two (2) days after his escape, Gilbert JOSEPH fired into the vehicle of Deputy Government Commissioner Jeanty SOUVENIR as he was leaving his home. He was shot in the thigh.

82. Gilbert JOSEPH and his armed gang took refuge in Belle Fontaine, a town in the Croix-des-Bouquets, where they have been operating ever since.

X. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

83. The RNDDH's investigation into the bloody events that occurred on February 25, 2021 at the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison reveals a great deal of planning. Indeed, the means deployed, the timing, the presence on the scene of a vehicle of SANCO Entreprises S. A., everything has been planned, in every detail and everything leads to believe that the operation consisted in liberating the gang of Village de Dieu, Arnel JOSEPH.

84. Indeed, at least two (2) escape attempts were recorded, following which, it was decided to put an obstacle to the feet of Arnel JOSEPH, to make his movements difficult. However, despite the obstacles, he said that he would get out of prison, by any means: a statement that was not taken seriously by those responsible. On the contrary, subject to a very permissive prison

regime, Arnel JOSEPH had at his disposal several Android mobile phones, which allowed him to make videos and communicate easily with the outside world. In addition, he was allowed to receive large sums of money during his incarceration, which is also contrary to the Internal Rules of Penal Institutions.

85. However, even though the investigation leads have always brought him back to gang leader Arnel JOSEPH, The RNDDH nevertheless points out to the attention of all that several notorious bandits and other individuals arrested in the context of files that have made headlines have also been able to escape thanks to the events of February 25, 2021, without the beam being put on them.

86. Many rumours about the February 25, 2021 escape planning had been circulating for several months. Some inmates even alerted prison officials. However, despite the fact that the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP) and the Directorate General of the PNH were affected by the issue, no serious measures were taken.

87. Added to this, the questionable operation of the civil prison of the Croix des Bouquets as well as the little importance that is given both to the security of the building and to the repeated absence of agents in their workplaces, are very worrying. And, precisely, on the number of officers present at the civil prison of the Croix des-Bouquets on February 25, 2021, it is up to the General Inspection of the PNH to elucidate the issue since several discordant information relating to it, have been communicated to the RNDDH.

88. However, even if this information suggests that other staff members were present at the scene, seven (7) or worse, six (6) officers assigned to detention, out of about twenty officers expected to take up duty on February 25, 2021, remains and remains extremely serious.

89. As a result of the bloody events of February 25, 2021, thirty-two (32) people were killed. He is the head of the prison and thirty-one (31) inmates. Of these, six (6) were killed within the prison itself, twenty-one (21) were hunted down in the streets of the Croix-des-Bouquets and were systematically shot the same day by agents of the specialized units of the PNH, called for reinforcement. Arnel JOSEPH was killed on February 26, 2021 and three (3) other detainees died at HUEH.

90. Taking into account the fact that on awakening, the prison had a staff of one thousand five hundred and forty-two (1.542) inmates and that subsequently, only one thousand and seventy-

eight (1.078) inmates responded to the first call, the RNDDH deduced that four hundred and sixty-four (464) detainees were absent. Twenty-seven (27) of them lost their lives on the same day. Consequently, eighty-seven (437) inmates had escaped. Four (4) of them will increase the number of deceased inmates to thirty-one (31). And, since only eighty-seven (87) have been reappeared, to date, three hundred and forty-six (346) detainees are on the run.

91. With the exception of four (4) of those killed on February 25, 2021, the head of the prison and three (3) inmates were buried. The other bodies are still in the morgue. And, since no specific information on their identity has been published by the DAP officials and by the prosecutor's office at the Croix-des-Bouquets Trial Court, the victims' parents cannot claim their bodies.

92. The RNDDH has faced a great deal of difficulty in finding information about the events of February 25, 2021. The organization condemns this manifest desire to hide the truth about what really happened at the Croix-des-Bouquets civil prison, especially since more than a month after the events, no report of the judicial police or the general inspection of the PNH is yet available.

93. In addition, no provision is made by the police authorities to relearn the three hundred and forty-six (346) detainees still on the run. However, subsequent events prove that, for many of them, these are dangerous individuals whose place is behind bars.

94. Finally, the RNDDH remains convinced that the planned escape of February 25, 2021 could not have been so and that weapons could not have been introduced into the prison compound without the active participation of DAP agents.

95. Based on these conclusions, the RNDDH recommends to the Directorate General of the PNH, the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP) and the General Inspection of the PNH to:

- Contact the family members of the thirty-one (31) detainees who died as a result of the events of February 25, 2021;
- Publish the names and photos of the three hundred and forty-six (346) detainees on the run;

- Investigate the involvement of DAP officers in preparing for the February 25, 2021 escape;
- Investigate the many commercial activities of agents within the prison;
- Elucidate the circumstances of the murder of the prison official, Paul Joseph HECTOR.