



# National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH)



Virtual meeting with the United Nations Security Council  
Presentation by Rosy Auguste DUCENA  
Lawyer Head of Programs  
National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH)  
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**Ladies and Gentlemen of the United Nations Security Council,**

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In Haiti, we are not living.

The rights to security, life and physical and mental integrity of Haitians are constantly violated. Every day, we bury our brothers and sisters murdered by armed bandits benefiting from the complacency of the police and judicial authorities. Since January 2021, an average of two (2) people has died each day of violent death and at least thirty-seven (37) police officers have been murdered.

Every day, we also witness the kidnapping followed by the imprisonment for ransom of our loved ones. Women and girls, when they are abducted, are gang raped. Systematically. Money that we do not own is claimed in exchange for our loved ones that we recover without knowing how to interest them again in life. With an average of 5 abductions per day, each Haitian, each Haitian stoically waits his turn.

**The country is gangsterized.**

Since 2018, thirteen (13) massacres and armed attacks, perpetrated in disadvantaged neighborhoods by armed bandits, have been documented by my organization, the RNDDH. They resulted in the murder of four hundred and eighty-seven (487) people, the disappearance of one hundred and twenty-nine (129) others and the collective rape of thirty-three (33) women and girls. Six hundred and seventy-nine (679) children became orphans.

For some time now, the deprived neighborhoods, the theatres of these massacres and armed attacks, have been deserted because the armed gangs that sow terror there, are also waging endless wars there. As a result, thousands of displaced people litter the streets, public squares,

spaces unprepared for the reception of victims. This does not seem to affect any Haitian state authority.

Justice, already lagging behind, has been on its knees since 2018. It operates on average only 4 months per year due to insecurity, cascading strikes by judicial staff and the Covid-19 pandemic. Criminal hearings are rarely conducted and depend on the will of the heads of trial courts. Today, according to the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration, 85% of the prison population are in a situation of illegal and arbitrary preventive detention and, the rights to judicial guarantees of the Haitian people are constantly violated.

No effort is made by Justice to judge and condemn those involved in the various acts that threaten lives and human dignity.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Since the departure of dictator Jean Claude Duvalier in 1986, this is the first time that the country has regressed so much in terms of respect for the rules of the democratic rule of law.

With the passive complicity of the international community, including the United Nations Integrated Bureau in Haiti (BINUH), the ruling regime has decided to strengthen armed gangs and weaken state institutions such as the police and justice. The pinnacle was reached when in September 2020, BINUH argued before you from the Security Council that the Federation of Armed Gangs was a good thing for the country, noting that it had led to a reduction in homicides.

Today, armed gangs in this coalition are very powerful and arrogant. They are never short of weapons and ammunition. They are negotiating for exorbitant sums, a truce of a few weeks while demanding every day more means from the State authorities.

Unfortunately, as we speak, BINUH remains the worst UN mission the country has ever known. On the national territory, any sector of society that dares to denounce the excesses of the state, that is to say, impunity, corruption, the instrumentalization of state institutions, faces the BINUH which immediately cuts all contact with this sector.

Moreover, for having hastened in the aftermath of the tragic assassination of de facto President Jovenel Moïse, to set up with the Core Group a one-man government without any political agreement, The BINUH has become one of the leaders of this new crisis that is rife in the country and that further distances citizens.

And, since it closes its eyes to the deterioration of the general human rights situation in Haiti, in the various reports it submits to you, the BINUH describes a utopian country, where everything goes for the best.

In these conditions of terror, denial of fundamental rights and instability, the international community, whose BINUH demands the organization of elections on the national territory. We recognize that elections are a democratic exercise. However, this exercise must be carried out under the maximum conditions of respect for human rights and the principles of inclusion and participation. That is why we believe we must learn from our recent past:

For example, the election campaign in the summer of 2015 was full of violence. The candidates, their supporters and supporters clashed. At least 9 armed conflicts, 5 assassinations, 2 assassination attempts, 9 wounded by bullets, 2 wounded by knives, 17 wounded by stones and 10 cases of beatings were recorded.

During the election that followed on August 9, 2015, in 21% of the 500 voting centers observed by a coalition including the RNDDH, cases of massive electoral violence and fraud were recorded: Electoral process interrupted due to gunfire, stuffing of ballot boxes, attacks by armed individuals at polling stations, intimidation of voters, etc.

Although the situation was not entirely similar in 2016, in the November 20 election, in 22% of the five hundred and ninety-one (591) voting centers then observed by the aforementioned coalition, various problems were reported. In 6%, incidents of violence were noted and in 7%, incidents of fraud were recorded: stuffing of ballot boxes, intimidation of electors, false warrants for the certification of political agents, etc.

At the time, the country had only a few armed gangs that controlled a few electoral districts considered as red zones. However, you will agree with us that the post-electoral crises that followed had enormous impacts on the social, political and economic stability of the Haitian people.

The United Nations Mission and the National Police of Haiti, recognizing the gangsterized of the country, have themselves said to have recorded in 2019, one hundred and sixty-two (162) armed gangs. The majority of these gangs operate in the departments of the West and the Artibonite which regroup alone 60% of the Haitian electorate. Consequently, no electoral campaign, no inclusive and democratic vote can be freely carried out in these areas controlled by armed gangs.

As we have just shown you, today in Haiti, we do not live. We survive.

And, it is because we consider the past and have a clear perception of the current chaotic situation that we, For our part, we call for the establishment of an inclusive transition that will be responsible for addressing recurring societal problems, preparing an adequate security environment for the holding of general elections, to restore the confidence of the Haitian people in a transparent electoral process, to conclude an intra-Haitian socio-political agreement for lasting results, and to find above all, Haitian solutions to the multidimensional crisis we are experiencing.

On the basis of what we have just shared, we recommend that the United Nations Security Council position itself with a view to:

- To support free, fair, democratic and inclusive elections, carried out in a peaceful climate and on the basis of political agreement;
- Support all efforts to prosecute members of this regime for their involvement in the commission of massive violations of the rights to life, security, physical and mental integrity of the Haitian people;
- Strongly denounce the coalition of armed gangs;
- To urge the BINUH to end its support for a one-man government, as well as an electoral process that threatens to aggravate the current political instability with already devastating consequences;
- To invite the BINUH to take up the task for which it has been mandated, while listening to the Haitian people.

Finally, we urge the UN Security Council to change the leadership of BINUH. We remain at your disposal for any questions or comments.

Thank you.