

**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE NETWORK
(RNDDH)**



**Violent clashes between armed gangs:
RNDDH demands protection of the Haitian population**

May 10, 2022

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. For several days, Tabarre and Croix-des-Bouquets – two (2) communes that are part of the Plaine du Cul-de-sac have been the victims of a violent war between two (2) armed gangs: the 400 Mawozo and the Chen Mechan base.
2. According to the traditional media and social media reports, armed bandits practice scorched earth politics, burning houses and burning people. They also turn into real butchers, raping women and girls, chopping, mutilating men and women. They then take pictures of these macabre scenes of scattered parts of human bodies, to circulate them in order to maintain terror among the population.
3. Concerned by the loss of life and the numerous material damages recorded to date at the Plaine du Cul-de-sac, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) which has carried out an investigation, proposes to share with the public opinion, the first data received.

II. METHODOLOGY

4. To gather the information used in this report, the RNDDH visited the municipalities of Tabarre and Croix-des-Bouquets in order to observe some of the damage recorded. We took the opportunity to speak with residents, some victims and the relatives of victims. In this sense, ninety-seven (97) people were met.
5. In addition, the RNDDH visited some displaced persons who took refuge in Clercine Square and in Kay Castor, as well as in areas of the Central Department.
6. Subsequently, the RNDDH met with judicial authorities in conflict zones as well as with local authorities in the places where displaced persons took refuge.
7. At the time of publication of this report, the RNDDH investigation is still ongoing because the damage recorded is enormous and not yet fully elucidated. Similarly, the areas affected by these violent clashes are numerous and difficult to access.

III. PRESENTATION OF CONFLICT AREAS

8. The municipality of Croix-des-Bouquets was created in 1749 and is located 12.9 km northeast of Port au Prince. There are one (1) police station, three (3) sub-commissions, one (1) court of the peace and one (1) court of first instance with a public prosecutor's office.
9. It should be noted that the Croix-des-Bouquets is a district of the Department of the West of which it is the capital and regrouping of five (5) communes know: Croix-des-Bouquets, Cornillon, Fonds Verrettes, Ganthier, Thomazeau.

10. The borough has at least six (6) courts of peace: Cornillon, Croix des Bouquets, Fonds-Parisien, Fonds-Verrettes, Ganthier and Thomazeau.

11. There are also six (6) police stations, three (3) sub-stations and six (6) police antennas:

- Commissariat of Croix-des-Bouquets
 - Sub-commissariat of Calvaire
 - Sub-commissariat of Corail Cesselesse
 - Sub- commissariat of Bon repos

- Ganthier Police Station
- Fonds-Verrettes Police Station
- Malpasse Police Station
- Thomazeau Police Station
- Cornillon Police Station.

12. At least six (6) police antennas also serve the population of the area:

- Canaan 3
- Canaan 4
- Corail Cesselesse
- ONA-VILLE
- Bon repos roundabout / Carrefour Saint-Marc
- Morne-cabris.

13. The municipality of Tabarre is part of the borough of Port au Prince. It is divided into two (2) communal sections: Bellevue 1 and Bellevue 2. It is contiguous to the commune of Croix-des-Bouquets with which it shares several neighborhoods including that of Croix des Missions, the theater of the last bloody events.

14. In Tabarre there is one (1) police station, that of Tabarre, one (1) under police station, that of Cazeau, the peace court of the Croix-des-Missions as well as the base of the Brigade interventions Motorisées (BIM) of the National Police of Haiti (PNH).

IV. PRESENTATION OF THE CHEN MECHAN BASE AND THE 400 MAWOZO GANG

1. Presentation of the Chen Mechan Base

15. The Chen Mechan base is headed by Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan still known as Stevenson PIERRE, himself assisted by his father Jean Claude CELESTIN. The territory of the base of the Chen Mechan covers the national road number 1, zone of the Brasserie de La Couronne, Cazeau, Tabarre until Tabarre 27, Carrefour Fleuriot, Sainte Philomène, Carrefour

Marasa, and Santo until Cesselesse. The territory also includes the districts of Lillavois, Lizon, Marin, Lathan, Carrefour Shada, Rond Point Bon Repos/ Carrefour Saint-Marc, until Route 9. The limits of Chen Mechan stop at Carrefour Blanchard.

16. In 2015, Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan, still known as Stevenson PIERRE, then a highway bandit, was operating in Shada not far from his residence. He robbed passersby and robbed individuals and businesses. The population of the revolted area filed a complaint against him. Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan was arrested in 2016.
17. Meanwhile, Chariot CASIMIR alias Baker and nicknamed Scandal *Tout Puissant*, then police inspector assigned to the Presidential Security Unit (USP) and part of the security team of former president Michel Joseph MARTELLY, controlled the area of Butte Boyer. He owned a nightclub called Scandal. The bandits who were part of the gang led by Chariot CASIMIR aka Baker extorted members of the population. They were getting greedy and out of control, demanding that the residents of Butte Boyer give them everything they had. In addition to armed robberies, these bandits were also involved in kidnappings followed by sequestration for ransom.
18. In 2017 immediately after the induction of Jovenel MOÏSE as president, Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan still known as Stevenson PIERRE was released. And, to prove to the population of his area that he was returning to power, he showed several of his acolytes the visiting card of the late President Jovenel MOÏSE, arguing that it had been given to him directly by the concerned.
19. However, he and the members of his base are known to be very protective of the population living in the stronghold of the Chen Mechan base because they do not attack him directly. In exchange, however, they are regularly paid by the companies established in the territory in question, and ransom members of the population who claim to be obliged to let themselves be taken in so far as they can go about their business.
20. In 2020, residents and bandits of Butte Boyer called on Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan still known as Stevenson PIERRE to chase the gang led by Chariot CASIMIR aka Baker. This led to a series of raids on Butte Boyer.
21. On August 17, 2020, Chariot CASIMIR alias Baker was arrested for murder, attempted murder, arson, armed robbery, vandalism, disturbing the public order, and criminal association.
22. On September 5, 2020, armed bandits led by Chariot CASIMIR, weakened both by the arrest of their leader and by this endless war, surrendered and fled. Several of them then joined the 400 Mawozo gangs. Since then, Butte Boyer has joined the territory controlled by the Chen Mechan base.

23. In that same year of 2020, the Chen Mechan base joined the G 9 An Fanmi e Alye.
24. On June 21, 2021, Chariot CASIMIR aka Baker was released by Instructor Magistrate Fredd'herck LENY who oversaw the judicial investigation of his case.
25. At the same time, Romane TOUSSAINT alias Blade agent of the USP, formerly assigned to the security of the former first lady Martine MOÏSE, introduced the base of Chen Mechan to his political clique. According to rumors, he was killed in early 2022. However, his body was never found.
26. Today, it is Jean Claude CELESTIN nicknamed Papa Baz by several, the father of Claudy CELESTIN alias Chen Mechan still known as Stevenson PIERRE who is responsible for receiving the amounts paid regularly by the companies that operate in the territory controlled by the base of Chen Mechan. In addition, it is to him that any person wishing to establish a business in the area must refer, to be fixed the amount to be paid against an authorization to operate.
27. Some tariffs applied by the Chen Mechan base include:
 - Small merchants must pay fifty (50) gourdes per revenue;
 - Dealers who have trestles must pay one hundred (100) gourdes at least for the size of the business;
 - At transit stations located in Chen Mechan, pick-up trucks and buses must pay the equivalent of one (1) person or more per trip;
 - To place a commercial container in the territory of Chen Mechan, you must pay at least seventy-five thousand (75,000) gourdes, without considering the fees to be paid later, per revenue;
 - Freight trucks must pay on their side before disembarking. The amount is fixed by Jean Claude CELESTIN and his henchmen considering the origin of the truck and the type of goods transported.
28. Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan, still known as Stevenson PIERRE, has several properties. He is also at the head of a foundation he founded and nicknamed Fondasyon Ti Zanmi. This structure is used by political authorities and members of the private business sector, to justify the funds paid to the Chen Mechan base under the label of social activities.

2. Presentation of the 400 Mawozo Gang

29. The 400 Mawozo gang is led by Wilson JOSEPH aka Lanmò 100 Jou. Its territory extends throughout the district of Croix-des-Bouquets, except for the municipality of Cornillon. The 400 Mawozo also controls a part of the municipality of Tabarre - the other part of which is annexed to the territory of Chen Mechan - and a part of Pétion-Ville, alongside the gang leader Vitelhomme INNOCENT, an ally.

30. At its creation by Germinie JOLY aka Yonyon, the gang was first baptized 70 Mawozo. He specialized in robberies and armed robberies. Some cases of kidnapping followed by sequestration for ransom were also imputed to him at the time.

31. In 2014, Germinie JOLY alias Yonyon was arrested by the Central Directorate of Judicial Police (DCPJ). Following his arrest, there was a respite in the area. On January 24, 2015, he was imprisoned.

32. In 2016, after several beginnings, the gang was reconstituted and renamed 400 Mawozo. To the former abuses were added the robbery and the diversion of goods vehicles from the Dominican Republic and the assassinations. They also specialize in kidnapping followed by sequestration for ransom. It is also for the first time in Haiti that many cases of men kidnapped victims of rape by their kidnappers are reported.

33. On May 23, 2018, Germinie JOLY alias Yonyon was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment by the Criminal Court of the Croix-des-Bouquets sitting without the assistance of a jury, for kidnappings followed by sequestration for ransom, rape, armed robbery, murder, illegal possession of firearms and criminal association, to the detriment of more than twenty (20) complainants.

34. Imprisoned, Germinie JOLY never lost control of his armed gang. He directed it with an iron fist, even though he was imprisoned. Indeed, having benefited from preferential treatment and the complacency of agents of the Directorate of the Penitentiary Administration (DAP), he had at his disposal smart mobile phones as well as large sums of money. This situation allowed him to coordinate his criminal activities, organize memorable parties in prison and bribe some unscrupulous DAP agents.

35. At the same time, Wilson JOSEPH alias Lanmò 100 jou became the head of the 400 Mawozo gangs. He quickly became a bloodthirsty leader. It is gaining more and more territory in the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac and neighborhoods. It is also making allies.

The 400 Mawozo then operate in the markets, requiring private companies and state institutions including even the police stations of the area, to regular payments of large sums of money. They control their territory, which in fact operates at will. Since then, life in the town of Croix-des-Bouquets has been punctuated by armed attacks and intermittent paralysis of socio-economic activities. In addition, a court was set up by the 400 Mawozo gangs to try the citizens. For

example, troublemakers may be forced to pay between seven thousand (7,000) and ten thousand (10,000) gourdes for discussions/noises on the public highway.

36. Because of this situation and especially because of the indifference of the state authorities to the distress of the population, entire families had already decided to abandon their homes.

37. However, it was especially with the accession of Wilson JOSEPH alias Lanmò 100 Jou to the head of the 400 Mawozo that the gang undertook to expand its territory. This move then revived the will of the armed bandits who had been driven out of Butte Boyer by the Chen Mechan, to take back their old base.

38. In January 2022, the raids continued and multiplied. Terror was maintained in the commune of Croix-des-Bouquets. The state authorities at that time began discussions with the 400 Mawozo because they wanted to organize carnival festivities from February 27 to March 1, 2022, in the department of the Centre. They also intend to clear the road to Malpasse. These negotiations culminate, in February 2022, in the payment of several million gourdes. A certain lull was then recorded.

39. In April 2022, the 400 Mawozo returned to activity and were able to conquer much more territory. Intoxicated by their success and knowing that they can count on their suppliers of weapons and ammunition, they decided to attack the Chen Mechan base.

V. RECONSTITUTION OF RECORDED FACTS

40. On April 22, 2022, as a fact that does not seem to have any actual connection to the war, one (1) PNH officer on a motorcycle passed through Shada, in front of the Chen Mechan base. The latter was captured and then beheaded, and his remains were burned because members of the Chen Mechan believed that he was an informant of the 400 Mawozo. Yet, he had introduced himself as an agent of the PNH. Thus, a part of the population who had heard of this incident expected the intervention of the police institution.

41. On the afternoon of April 23, 2022, automatic weapons fire was heard in Tabarre and at the Croix-des-Bouquets. This helped maintain a wind of terror in the area.

42. On April 24, 2022, shortly before 5 a.m., vans, buses, and numerous motorcycles transported heavily armed individuals to Michaud, Butte Boyer, Rue Mapou Prolong, and Marécage. Immediately after, several automatic gun bursts were heard and the hostilities began: These were members of the gang of 400 Mawozo who went to the aforementioned areas, the fief of the Chen Mechan base.

43. The sequence of zone attacks can be summarized as follows:

- In Butte Boyer and Marais – an area between Butte Boyer and Mapou – the 400 Mawozo broke into the houses, forcibly shot people found at the scene, and murdered them in the street. They killed other people inside the houses before setting them on fire. At least forty-eight (48) people were murdered. Several of these victims were in Lakou Kout Kouto. In addition, seventeen (17) young women who were surprised by the 400 Mawozo gangs at a motel in Nan Galèt, Butte Boyer Prolong area, were murdered before being thrown into water wells and latrines.

Thirty (30) houses and twenty-five (25) vehicles were also burned at Butte Boyer and Marais.

- In Corridor Djo and Santo 2, at least forty-seven (47) people were murdered. Seventeen (17) bodies were found by the population including that of a baby. The other thirty (30) were buried in mass graves dug by the Chen Mechan base. They had spent several days on the ground and their corpses were decomposing.

At least fifty-one (51) houses and thirty-two (32) vehicles were set on fire between Corridor Djo and Santo 2.

- At Carrefour Marassa, at least twenty-three (23) people were killed.
- In Cité Ti Baka located between Butte Boyer and Lakou Mapou, is the Fondasyon Ti Zanmi by Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan still known as Stevenson PIERRE. The 400 Mawozo arrived on the scene, killed everyone they met, and then burned them on the spot. At least fifteen (15) victims were murdered. Many were beheaded. Others were thrown into wells and latrines.
- In Cité Doudoune, located after the Tabarre bridge, at least six (6) people were murdered and beheaded. The heads were carried away by the armed bandits.
- Two (2) people were killed in Lillavois.
- Bodies of many murdered victims were also thrown into the Grey River.

44. On April 24, 2022, the attack was particularly virulent in Butte Boyer and the Djo Corridor. The number of victims in these areas is therefore very high. It was in Marais, however, that more victims were thrown into wells and latrines.

45. The same day in the afternoon, tanks of the PNH assigned to the Departmental Unit for the Maintenance of Order (UDMO) went to the site of the attack. They were transporting armed gang members belonging to the G-9 Fanmi e Alye, accompanied by their leader Jimmy CHERIZIER alias Barbecue, Mathias SAINTIL, Iscard ANDRICE, Dieulel DELET alias Ti Watson, all armed gang leaders, Came to the Chen Mechan base as a backup.

46. Then and against all logic, the attacks intensified in the fief of Chen Mechan: on the one hand, the 400 Mawozo continued to attack the population. They searched houses, located between Santo 15 and 19, presented themselves as PNH agents to be opened the doors, and killed the men and boys they met. Women and girls were raped before being murdered for the most part.

47. For their part, the Chen Mechans, as well as the other gang leaders belonging to the G-9, Fanmi e Alye, have attacked members of the population who have always denounced their abuses. Then started a full-blown hunt. Thus, from April 24 to May 5, 2022, the armed bandits of the Chen Mechan base searched houses located in their own fief, with lists of names in their possession. They hunted down people, especially young people who, according to them, were in contact with Oliche EMILE alias Pè Lebren or who could have facilitated the attacks of the men formerly driven by them from Butte Boyer.

48. On April 29, 2022, several specialized units of the National Police of Haiti (PNH) - Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ), Border Police (POLIFRONT), Corps of Motorized Intervention Brigades (CBIM), accompanied by a dozen soldiers of the Armed Forces of Haiti (FAD'H) crisscrossed certain areas of conflict before posting in Marais, at the entrance of Butte Boyer. Shortly after their departure, the clashes resumed with more violence.

49. On May 2, 2022, the 400 Mawozo gangs took control of several areas that were once part of the Chen Mechan base territory. These areas include Barbancourt, Shada, Carrefour Marin, Lathan, Lizon, and MBC Radio. That day, specialized units of the PNH, once again accompanied by soldiers of the Armed Forces of Haiti, intervened. This led the 400 Mawozo to deviate without however giving up the newly acquired spaces.

50. On May 5, 2022, in the Marécage area, between Butte Boyer and Mapou, seven (7) members of the Chen Mechan base told their leader Claudy CELESTIN that they were fed up and wanted to give up the war. They were coldly shot.

VI. CASUALTY AND MATERIAL LOSS REPORT

51. From April 24 to May 6, 2022, numerous cases of abuse were recorded:

- People were killed by bullets, machetes, axes, or knives;
- People have been burned to the ground in their burned homes;
- People burned in the streets with rubber tires;
- Women and girls are victims of gang rape and repeated rape;
- People were shot and injured;
- People were injured and mutilated with machetes, axes, or knives;
- Houses were set on fire.

52. At least one hundred and forty-eight (148) people were murdered including seven (7) bandits belonging to the Chen Mechan base, executed by their leader, Claudy CELESTIN aka Chen Mechan still known as Stevenson PIERRE:

- In Butte Boyer and Marais at least forty-eight (48) people were murdered among them, seventeen (17) young women who were in a motel in Nan Galèt, an extended Butte Boyer area;
- In Corridor Djo and Santo 2, at least forty-seven (47) people were murdered. Seventeen (17) bodies were charred. Thirty (30) others were buried in mass graves dug by the Chen Mechan base;
- Twenty-three (23) people were killed at Carrefour Marassa;
- In Cité Ti Baka, located between Butte Boyer and Lakou Mapou, fifteen (15) people were murdered;
- At Cité Doudoune, at least six (6) people were murdered and beheaded. The heads were carried away by armed bandits;
- In Lillavois, at least two (2) people were killed;
- In Marécage, seven (7) bandits belonging to the Chen Mechan base are coldly executed.

53. At least eighty-one (81) houses were set on fire in the attacked areas, thirty (30) in Butte Boyer and Marais, and fifty-one (51) others in Carrefour Djo and Santo.

54. Fifty-seven (57) vehicles were set on fire at least twenty-five (25) in Butte Boyer and Marais and thirty-two (32) between Corridor Djo and Santo 2.

VII. DECLARATIONS BY JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

55. According to the judicial authorities with whom the RNDDH has been meeting, since the attacks, activities at the level of the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Court of First Instance of the Croix des Bouquets have been completely paralyzed.

56. However, according to the government commissioner of this jurisdiction, Mr. Roosevelt ZAMOR, public action has been set in motion against some of the individuals involved in the events described above. In addition, the Public Prosecutor's Office remains at the disposal of the Tribunal, the DCPJ, and all other institutions, if necessary.

57. The titular judge of the Peace Tribunal of the Croix-des-Missions, Jean Kesner LAPOINTE, said that because of the virulence of the attacks, the Tribunal could not make any finding of people killed or of material damage recorded during this gang war. He thinks he could have done that if he had had a safety device, which he does not.

58. The titular judge of the Peace Court of the Croix-des-Bouquets, Maître Anyl CIVIL, was able, for his part, to report three (3) corpses, not far from the Seradòt market, at Bon Repos.

VIII. CONSEQUENCES OF WAR AND CURRENT SITUATION

59. At the very beginning of the attacks, many families barricaded themselves at home, believing that they would soon cease. They spent several days for the most part, without the possibility of going out, in need of water, and food, without electricity, and without the possibility of recharging their mobile phones to contact their loved ones.

60. There are also many families who went to see relatives in the West Department, in Place de Clercine, and in Kay Castor, a school located next to Place de Clercine.

61. As the war has continued, other families, especially those with young children, have been forced to move in large numbers to take refuge in Arcahaie, in the Department of the West as well as in several cities of the departments of Artibonite, central and northern.

62. Since May 6, 2022, apparent calm has been recorded in some areas of the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac where the attacks have ceased. Families who had abandoned their homes returned.

63. Considering, however, the situation of tension still raging in the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac, the RNDDH believes that this apparent calm has no solid basis since neither of the two (2) rival armed gangs has been disarmed or dismantled. And as a result, fear, fueled in large part by messages circulating on social networks, is reflected on the faces of residents, especially those who have chosen to return home, just as others are taking advantage of this lull to move.

IX. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

64. From April 24 to May 6, 2022, two (2) armed gangs, benefiting from the support of state authorities and people around the ruling power, clash. Never have armed attacks been so virulent: people have been murdered by bullets, others beheaded, some others, thrown in latrines and water wells. Women and girls have been raped. Corpses were meticulously chopped and taken in photos that circulated on social networks, with the aim of maintaining an unspeakable terror among the population in general and the community of the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac in particular.

65. Several people who were shot died from their injuries, many of whom were unable to travel to the hospital.

66. If at the beginning of the attacks, the population had to fear only the actions of the 400 Mawozo gang, after the arrival on the scene of G-9 members Fanmi e Alye who came to reinforce the members of the Chen Mechan base, they also suffered the harshness of the latter. They took advantage of the chaos that existed to eliminate members of the population who were against

their actions in the community and denounced their abuses. They also executed any young people who could have helped, according to them, the 400 Mawozo to organize the raid of April 24, 2022, by providing Orliche EMILE alias Pè Lebren, with precise information about the operation of the Chen Mechan base. Thus, while the aggressor group remains and remains the gang of 400 Mawozo, the Chen Mechan base has largely contributed to exponentially increasing the number of victims, by attacking those who live in its own fief.

67. According to information provided by residents, some victims, and relatives of victims, in eight (8) well-defined areas, namely Butte Boyer, Marécage, Corridor Djo, Santo, Carrefour Marassa, Cité Ti Baka, Cité Doudoune, Lillavois, at least one hundred and forty-eight (148) people have been murdered:

- Forty-eight (48) in Butte Boyer and Marécage;
- Forty-seven (47) in Corridor Djo and Santo;
- Twenty-three (23) at Carrefour Marassa;
- Fifteen (15) in Cité Ti Baka
- Six (6) in Cité Doudoune;
- Two (2) to Lillavois.

68. Butte Boyer, Marécage, and the Djo Corridor recorded the highest number of casualties. However, seven (7) of them are bandits who were executed by the chief of the Chen Mechan base, to which they belonged.

69. The RNDDH believes that this new armed attack is recorded because life has no importance in Haiti for the authorities in general and for those who are called to protect the population:

- From April 24 to May 6, 2022, and unbelievably cruel massacre took place. Yet, at the highest level of the State, no reaction has been recorded, even though partial but no fewer heavy assessments of human and material losses have already been presented;
- The prosecutor's office at the Court of First Instance of the Croix-des-Bouquets claimed to have put the public action in motion against some of the bandits involved in the massacre at the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac. However, the abuses in the area, perpetrated by both the 400 Mawozo gangs and the Chen Mechan base, do not date back to April 24, 2022. And, it should be recalled, the rare times when bandits' members of the 400 Mawozo were arrested, they were quickly released by the prosecutor's office near the Court of First Instance of the Croix-des-Bouquets, at the instance of political authorities in the area;
- The justices of the peace of the courts located in the areas affected by this umpteenth war, did not mobilize to make statements and prepare minutes, with a view to transferring them to the prosecutor's office, for the setting in motion of public action;

- Police authorities, again, are indexed by a segment of the victim population who feel that the police institution has taken up the cause of the Chen Mechan base.

70. Yet, beyond the number of victims, it is men, women, and children – people – who have been murdered. It is also many children who have become orphans, under the sometimes indifferent but often complicit gaze of the state authorities.

71. In this sense, the RNDDH will never stop repeating that for several years, successive state authorities have chosen the gangsterization of the state as a new form of governance. They supply arms and ammunition to armed gangs, and they practice and promote smuggling to facilitate the entry of illegal weapons into the national territory, 76% of which pass through the port of Port-au-Prince. And, in order not to have to justify, since 2012, under the presidency of Joseph Michel MARTELLY, the various anti-smuggling brigades that operated in the ports, airports, and border crossings of the country have all been dismantled.

72. The RNDDH once again points out that today, the largest supplier of weapons and ammunition—both armed gangs that are members of the G-9 Fanmi e Alye and gangs that have chosen not to be part of this coalition—remains and remains the Haitian state. Then there are former elected officials, members of the private business sector, and other political figures who want to take power and who believe that armed gangs are the only way they can do that.

73. Finally, the RNDDH believes that it is regrettable that with each armed attack, the police institution is accused of allying itself with one of the protagonist gangs, usually those close to the power and group since June 2020, around the G-9 Fanmi e Alye. This attitude has always led rival groups to be more virulent in their attacks.

74. Based on all the above, the RNDDH recommends that State authorities:

- End protection of armed gangs;
- Stop the illegal trafficking of weapons and ammunition to feed armed gangs;
- End the politicization of the PNH.
- Encourage the PNH to put an end to this practice of supporting gangs armed with the power in place;
- Investigate police officers who are in collusion with armed bandits, particularly those who make police equipment and equipment available to the G-9 An Fanmi and Alye;
- Regain control of the territory that is now under the control of armed gangs;
- End the reign of impunity;

- Protect the Haitian population.