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NEWS RELEASE

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***Deadly morning at the entrance of Cité Doudoune:
The RNDDH presents its sympathies to the victims***

1. On August 20, 2022, early in the morning, at least nine (9) people were murdered at Cité Doudoune, in the commune of Croix-des-Bouquets. These are:

- Three (3) members of the same family: Josette Fils DESANCLOS, born November 10, 1966, Sherwood Sondje DESANCLOS, born August 23, 1993, and Sarhadje DESANCLOS, born February 10, 1998
- Three (3) motorcycle drivers including Osny, a well-known driver and ironworker;
- Josué BOISROND, who was driven by Osny, thus known;
- Two (2) women for whom RNDDH has not yet been able to find accurate information.

2. Quickly, the murder of the three (3) women, members of the DESANCLOS family shocked the Haitian society because of the cruel circumstances in which they lost their lives.

3. According to information gathered by the RNDDH – some of which were already circulating on social networks – Josette Fils DESANCLOS, mother of Sherwood Sondje DESANCLOS and Sarhadje DESANCLOS, was driving a Suzuki Grand

Vitara vehicle, of black color, on which were also her two (2) daughters. Josette Fils DESANCLOS was to take one of her daughters Sarhadje DESANCLOS to the University of Port au Prince and the other, Sherwood Sondje DESANCLOS, to do the shopping for her birthday which was coming soon.

4. Arriving at the entrance of Cité Doudoune, not far from the bridge of Tabarre, armed bandits members of the gang of 400 Mawozo, made an injunction to Josette DESANCLOS to stop her car. She did not comply, and her vehicle was simply riddled with bullets. Josette DESANCLOS was hit, and the vehicle contained a little further. The bandits took the opportunity to search the car in question. They took the victims' laptops and suitcases before firing again in the direction of the car that caught fire, with Sherwood Sondje DESANCLOS and Sarhadje DESANCLOS, still alive, desperately trying to escape.

5. In addition, these same gunmen continued to fire in all directions, reaching the six (6) other persons mentioned above.

6. The bodies of six (6) of the victims were transported to the Morgue Mémé. After the magistrate Jonathan MERILAN of the peace court of the Croix-des-Bouquets had made his statement, inside the morgue itself, two (2) of the bodies were recovered by the members of their respective families.

7. The RNDDH condemns this umpteenth deadly attack perpetrated by the armed gang of 400 Mawozo, during which peaceful citizens lost their lives. It is unacceptable that the Haitian population continues to live in this climate of terror imposed and maintained by the political coalition in power, which has never ceased to maintain good relations with armed bandits, protect them and supply them with weapons and ammunition.

8. The RNDDH reminds the political coalition that runs the country that it is not enough to multiply empty promises while the population dies every day and insecurity is in full swing. The rights to life, security, and the physical and psychological integrity of every person constitute fundamental rights and democratic achievements. Their violation by armed bandits protected and/or in the pay of the state authorities can only give rise to insipid tweets of these same authorities.

9. The RNDDH invites the National Police of Haiti (PNH) to put an immediate end to this propaganda fed on social networks suggesting that certain areas like the Croix-des-Bouquets are under control, because of the dismantling of armed bandits, when it is not. By maintaining this fallacious discourse, the police institution is only exposing the citizens of these areas controlled by armed bandits, who sow terror there whenever they want.

10. The RNDDH extends its deepest sympathies to the relatives of the victims of this deadly attack in particular to Maître Jean Simson DESANCLOS devastated by this priceless loss.

11. In a single morning and in inhuman circumstances, Jean Simson DESANCLOS lawyer, a committed citizen, founding member of the Je Klere Foundation, and secretary of the Board of Directors of the said foundation, lost his wife as well as his two (2) daughters. They were all human rights activists who, as soon as they could, devoted their time, abilities, and abilities to the struggle for the establishment of a democratic rule of law. Their hasty departure leaves a great void for their collaborators, especially their colleagues in the FJKL.

12. The RNDDH expects, alongside the Haitian population, the setting in motion public action, against all armed bandits, involved in this tragedy too.

Port-au-Prince, August 23, 2022