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**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE NETWORK**

Membre de la  
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## COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The resurgence of acts against lives and property: RNDDH urges police authorities to act.**

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#### ***I. Introduction***

1. The National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) is mainly concerned with the inaction of state authorities in the wake of the country's deteriorating security situation, particularly in the West Department.
2. Indeed, since May 2023, RNDDH has noted an upsurge in acts of violence against lives and property and the perpetuation of several armed attacks and shootings in which people have been killed or wounded by bullets.
3. From May 1 to July 12, 2023, at least forty (40) people were abducted, seventy-five (75) people were murdered, and several others escaped assassination attempts.

#### **II. Kidnappings followed by sequestration for ransom**

4. As mentioned above, from May to July 2023, several cases of kidnapping, many of which were followed by sequestration for ransom with a promise of release, were recorded by RNDDH and reported, for the most part, in the media.
5. On May 24, 2023, in La Croix Périssette, commune of L'Estère, in the Artibonite department, a public transport vehicle, with some twenty people on board, was hijacked by bandits from the Kokorat San Ras armed gang led by John Peter FLERONVIL and Jean Renald DOLCIN.
6. On the night of June 13, 2023, armed bandits, members of the Kraze Baryè gang led by Vitelhomme INNOCENT, broke into the private residence of Marie Lucie BONHOMME, star journalist of Radio Vision 2000 and owner of Télé Pluriel. They ransacked the victim's house before kidnapping

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her. She was taken to the Kraze Baryè gang's stronghold, where she was interrogated by Vitelhomme INNOCENT, who ordered his henchmen to release her at around 5 a.m. The victim was then taken to the police station.

7. On June 17, 2023, Pierre Richard JOSEPH, Northern Regional Director of the National Port Authority (APN), was kidnapped by bandits from the Kraze Baryè armed gang, while in Torcel. On the same day, his driver was killed. Pierre Richard JOSEPH was released almost a month after his kidnapping.

8. On June 18, 2023, at least five (5) people were abducted in the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac. On the same day, at around 8:00 a.m., a person inside the Collège Jacques Stephen Alexis was abducted by heavily armed individuals.

9. On the night of June 18 to 19, 2023, armed bandits operating in Canaan broke into the grounds of Dr Zilda Arns Hospital in Bon Repos. They vandalized the premises, stealing at least six (6) firearms, vehicles parked in the hospital courtyard, a generator, solar panels, and medical supplies and equipment. They also abducted six (6) security guards found on the premises.

10. On June 19, 2023, armed individuals broke into the premises of the Vorbe et Fils company in Tabarre and abducted the manager. He was released a few hours later.

11. On June 20, 2023, in Tabarre, armed bandits kidnapped Pierre Louis OPONT, spouse of journalist Marie Lucie BONHOMME. He is a former president of the Provisional Electoral Council. At the time of writing this document, he has not yet been released.

12. On the evening of July 6, 2023, at least three (3) people, including a doctor, were kidnapped in Delmas 48 by heavily armed individuals.

13. On July 9, 2023, Agent I Walguens TICOMPERE was kidnapped by armed bandits from the Kokorat San Ras gang. After subjecting him to an interrogation that was published on social networks, the bandits released Officer Walguens TICOMPERE.

### **III. Assassinations and attempted assassinations**

14. Seventy-five (75) people were killed either in targeted acts, armed attacks, or shootings.

15. On May 1, 2023, police officer Emmanuel DERILIEN was killed by residents in Saint Louis du Nord following an altercation with members of the local population. Emmanuel DERILIEN had initially fired in their direction, wounding two (2) people, which provoked the anger of the local population, who lynched him. His body was charred.

16. On the night of May 17 to 18, 2023, in Source Matelas, on national road number 1, Carrefour Cina zone, agent III Roberto CHARLESTON assigned to the Departmental Unit for the Maintenance of Order (UDMO) was murdered by armed bandits. Two (2) PNH armored vehicles were set on fire.

17. During the night of May 18 to 19, 2023, police officer Johnny EGALITE was killed in Cazeau.

18. On the evening of May 22, 2023, in Canapé-vert, two (2) people were killed, and several others wounded by bullets following an altercation between Canapé-vert brigadiers and one (1) policeman who refused to identify himself. Police officers from the Haitian National Police (PNH), who came in reinforcement, fired the gun at close range, resulting in the above-mentioned casualties.

19. On May 30, 2023, at least two (2) people were killed during clashes in the commune of Carrefour, between PNH officers and armed bandits. One of the victims, Agent II Frantzdy OCCIL, was killed in Bizoton. His body was taken away by his killers. On the same day, policeman Antoine LERDIEU was killed in Beudet in the Croix-des-Bouquets commune.

20. On June 1, 2023, in Bon Repos, five (5) people were killed by armed individuals in a vehicle without license plates.

21. On June 10, 2023, former police officer Smith JEAN, from the 17th promotion, was killed by armed bandits. He was on Rue des Casernes, not far from the premises of the Archives Nationales.

22. On June 14, 2023, in Lilavois 14, the coordinator of the National Commission for Disarmament, Dismantlement, and Reintegration (CNDDR), Edwin FLOREXIL, was shot and his vehicle riddled with bullets.

23. On June 15, 2023, in Ouanaminthe, in the Nord-Est department, two (2) workers from the Compagnie de Développement Industriel (CODEVI) were shot dead during scuffles with CODEVI security guards.

24. On the evening of June 18, 2023, in Port-Salut, South department, police officer Kempès BELIZAIRE was shot in the back of the head.

25. Following his kidnapping on June 23, 2023, in Morne Cabri, lawyer Aspil MAGLOIRE, registered with the Mirebalais bar, was killed.

26. On July 7, 2023, in Delmas 3, not far from the sub-police station, police officer Roberson CHERY, assigned to the Intervention Force for the Maintenance of Order (CIMO), was shot and escaped an assassination attempt.

#### **IV. Armed attacks and shootings**

27. On the afternoon of May 14, 2023, in Croix-des-Bouquets, at least nine (9) people, all identified as Taxi-Moto drivers, were killed at a motorcycle station in Bon Repos, Zone Stasyon Sab. According to residents, the shooting was perpetrated by armed individuals in a vehicle with tinted windows.

28. On the night of May 23 to 24, 2023, in Bellevue La Montagne, in the commune of Pétion ville, at least ten (10) people were killed by armed bandits belonging to the Kraze Baryè gang led by Vitelhomme INNOCENT.

29. On May 24, 2023, armed bandits from Grand Ravine attacked certain localities in Carrefour-feuilles, including Caridad, Fouchard and Route des Dalles. One (1) schoolboy was killed.
30. On June 1, 2023, in Rosemberg, a locality in the Croix-des-Bouquets commune, five (5) men were killed in a shootout perpetrated by armed individuals riding in a vehicle without license plates. Residents described four (4) of those killed as troublemakers, one of whom is accused of involvement in land disputes in the area.
31. On June 12, 2023, in Tabarre, armed individuals ransacked the SunAuto premises, which also housed the Jamaican Consulate in Haiti. They set fire to the building after stealing ten (10) SunAuto vehicles.
32. On the evening of June 23, 2023, in Thor 10, commune of Carrefour, armed individuals on motorcycles opened fire on a club, killing three (3) people: Samorat JOINVILLE, Luc Berlot BOURSISQUOT, and Luc Soinel JULES. Several people were also wounded by bullets.
33. On June 27, 2023, heavily armed individuals shot at least eight (8) people in Lilavois 4 in the Croix-des-Bouquets commune. They were presented by the population as informers for armed bandits.
34. On July 1, 2023, at around 4:30 p.m., one (1) shopkeeper known as Davidson was executed at the Lilavois 11 crossroads. He was peacefully going about his business when he was coldly murdered, in the presence of other people including shopkeepers like himself as well as Taxi-Moto drivers.
35. On July 3, 2023, in Lilavois 48, unidentified armed individuals opened fire, killing at least four (4) people. On the same day, a family preparing to bury a murdered relative was attacked by armed individuals on motorcycles. At least five (5) people were killed, including three (3) members of the deceased's family and two (2) morticians.
36. On July 5, 2023, at Bon Repos in the Croix-des-Bouquets commune, four (4) people were killed in a shooting recorded at a Taxi-Moto station. All the victims were motorcycle drivers. They were shot by armed individuals in a vehicle without license plates. On the same day, in the afternoon, three (3) other motorcyclists were coldly executed at the Taxi-Moto station located not far from Marché Se Radot, in the Bon Repos area.
37. On July 6, 2023, at around 6 a.m., in Lilavois 11, a young man was executed by PNH officers, according to residents. In the afternoon, shortly before four (4) p.m., one (1) motorcyclist known in the area as Olrich was also executed. Olrich and his motorcycle were set on fire.
38. During the night of July 6 to 7, 2023, armed individuals broke into the Médecins Sans Frontières Hospital in Tabarre and abducted one (1) patient with gunshot wounds who was still in the operating room, for execution.
39. On July 12, 2023, Pedro MONDELUS alias Pepe was shot dead at Thor 12, in the commune of Carrefour, by armed individuals. He was at the wheel of his car.

## V. Comments and recommendations

40. RNDDH vehemently condemns the inaction of the police institution and recalls that the de facto Prime Minister Ariel HENRY, who occupies two (2) seats on the Superior Council of the National Police, which has been erased and rendered dysfunctional by state authorities.

41. RNDDH also condemns the ever-increasing power of gang leader Vitelhomme INNOCENT and his armed gang Kraze Baryè, under whose control the PNH high command has deliberately left the communes of Croix-des-Bouquets, Delmas, Pétion-ville and Tabarre.

42. RNDDH notes that the upsurge in acts of violence against lives and property described above is taking place more than a month after the launch of the Bwa Kale movement, which had brought about a tangible improvement in the country's security situation. The armed bandits, who had lost some of their arrogance following the operation in Laboule, where gang leader Carlo PETIT HOMME alias Ti Makak was killed and his gang dismantled, have now resumed their attacks on the Haitian population. However, the state authorities remain silent, once again handing the Haitian population over to the bandits, who are responsible for solving the problems of insecurity they face.

43. It is in this sense that, over the last few days, in the commune of Croix-des-Bouquets, a hunt has been organized and people indexed by the offense of facial expression have been executed by officers of the Haitian National Police (PNH) with the help of residents. The latter accused those executed of acting as antennae for the armed Canaan gang, which was determined to take control of Lilavois.

44. Unfortunately, it is because of the irresponsible behavior of the state authorities that many residents of Lilavois and Bon Repos are today supporting what they call a clean-up process because they do not want their area to fall into the hands of the Canaan bandits. This is an unacceptable situation, which has already led to cases of unprecedented violence in the Croix des Bouquets commune, and which could deteriorate at any moment.

45. On this point in particular, RNDDH recalls that the offense of " facies " is a discriminatory act that consists in judging a person based on his or her physical appearance. And it is to avoid these flagrant cases of violation of the rights to dignity and Justice, that the legislator has put in place a judicial procedure based on the respect of judicial guarantees for the benefit of all those against whom allegations of involvement in criminal acts are circulating.

46. Given the foregoing, RNDDH recommends that state authorities do everything in their power to put an end to the protection of the armed bandit Vitelhomme INNOCENT and to dismantle all armed gangs in the country, to restore order and security in the country.

47. Furthermore, RNDDH calls on PNH officers to put an end to the summary executions recorded in Croix des Bouquets. That those suspected of having perpetrated criminal acts be arrested by the law and brought before the judicial authorities to answer for the acts of which they are accused.

Port-au-Prince, July 13, 2023