



**RESEAU NATIONAL DE DÉFENSE DES DROITS HUMAINS (RNDDH)**  
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**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE NETWORK**

Membre de la  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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#### **Chasing the internally displaced persons: RNDDH condemns the behavior of the Acting Director General of the PNH**

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1. The National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) has learned with sorrow and dismay that on July 25, 2023, agents of the Haitian National Police (PNH) violently chased away people who, fleeing the violence of the Kraze Baryè armed gang led by Vitelhomme INNOCENT, had taken refuge in front of the premises of the U.S. Embassy in Haiti.
2. According to information received by RNDDH, on July 22 and 23, 2023, the armed gang leader Vitelhomme INNOCENT and his henchmen decided to attack the populations of Fort-Jacques, in the commune of Pétion-Ville, Truitier, and Dumornay, in the commune of Tabarre, spreading terror, shooting at the people, and hitting men and women, including the elderly.
3. Having to flee, hundreds of Tabarre residents took refuge before the US Embassy in Haiti. Some of them asked the state authorities for help to get back to their homes. Others took the opportunity to request asylum, arguing that they could not live in peace in their own country. And some others expressed their willingness to accompany the PNH officers into their neighborhoods, to help them fight armed bandits and return home.
4. On the instructions of the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN), the Acting Director General of the PNH, Frantz ELBE, whose cynicism will not fail to surprise RNDDH, ordered that the internally displaced people from insecurity who were in front of the U.S Embassy premises be dispersed with violence. In response to this manifestly illegal order, since the targeted population posed no threat, PNH officers used tear gas. As a result, children, women, pregnant women, the elderly, and others living with physical disabilities were tear gassed. Many showed

signs of respiratory distress. It was only later that the Tabarre town hall organized transport for the victims to the Lycée Jean Mary Vincent in Carradeux.

5. RNDDH takes the opportunity of this document to point out to everyone that since January 15, 2023, Vitelhomme INNOCENT - presented by many as the protege of Frantz ELBE and certain other high-ranking officers of the PNH - has been circulating in a motorcade composed of, among others, two (2) vehicles bearing, respectively, State Service and Official license plates and a Toyota Pick-up truck police vehicle, license plate 1-01191, clearly identified as belonging to the PNH.
6. In addition, on July 16, 2023, at approximately 8:00 p.m., twelve (12) vehicles bearing State and Official Service license plates drove to the stronghold of Vitelhomme INNOCENT, where a meeting lasting several hours was held. Since then, Vitelhomme INNOCENT's attacks on the populations of Croix-des-Bouquets, Delmas, Pétion-Ville, and Tabarre have intensified.
7. RNDDH condemns with the utmost rigor the outrageous use of force by PNH agents against a population left alone to fight, who, by going to the premises of the US Embassy in Haiti, were only seeking refuge.
8. RNDDH recalls that the right to seek refuge whenever one's life, safety, or any other fundamental rights and freedoms are threatened or violated, is recognized for all persons. Similarly, it is forbidden to turn away a person seeking refuge, in places where his or her life and freedom are threatened.
9. RNDDH points out to the Acting Director General of the PNH Frantz ELBE that the use of tear gas against a calm and defenseless population seeking refuge to save its life remains and remains a violation of human rights, no matter which group of individuals the Acting Director General of the PNH wants to please.
10. RNDDH takes note of the Tabarre town hall's decision to relocate the refugees and regrets that it came only after the victims had been gassed by the PNH. RNDDH takes this opportunity to invite the mayor's office to refrain from putting pressure on them to quickly leave the premises where they are currently housed, as has already been the case in the past.
11. RNDDH deems unacceptable the inertia of state institutions, including the Ministries of the Interior and Territorial Collectivities, Social Affairs and Labor, and Women's Affairs and Rights, which should have intervened rapidly, the first through civil protection, the others through rapid protection programs, to meet the victims, identify them, discuss with them to find an acceptable alternative for all, move them and accommodate them temporarily in a safe place until the problem of insecurity in their area of origin is resolved once and for all.
12. RNDDH extends its sympathies to the victimized population of Tabarre wandering in their own country, due to the state authorities' involvement with armed gangs.

13. And since in no way can PNH officers become, alongside bandits, persecutors of the victims of insecurity, RNDDH recommends that the PNH:

- Regain control of the communes of Croix-des-Bouquets, Delmas, Pétion Ville, and Tabarre, abandoned to gang leader Vitelhomme INNOCENT and his armed gang Kraze Baryè;
- Dismantle the Kraze Baryè armed gang led by gang leader Vitelhomme INNOCENT;
- Restore calm and security to Tabarre, so that all displaced persons can return to their homes as soon as possible;
- Arrest Vitelhomme INNOCENT and the members of Kraze Baryè so that they can be tried and sentenced for the abuses committed.

Port-au-Prince, July 26, 2023