

RESEAU NATIONAL DE DÉFENSE DES DROITS HUMAINS (RNDDH) REZO NASYONAL POU DEFANN DWA MOUN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE NETWORK



COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

NEWS RELEASE

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The victims of massive human rights violations file a complaint with the Haitian judicial authorities

- 1. Deeply concerned by the various attacks carried out against the population of Carrefour-Feuilles since the beginning of August 2023, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) has assisted certain victims with a request to file a complaint with the judicial authorities.
- 2. Indeed, since August 4, 2023, and up to the present day, heavily armed bandits, members of the Team Ascenseur armed gang operating in Grand-Ravine and led by gang leader Renel DESTINA alias Ti Lapli, have been killing with impunity and setting fire to several Carrefour Feuilles neighborhoods, including Savane Pistache, Saye, Fouchard, Decayette, Anba Figye, Ravine Zonyon, La Montagne, Rue Monseigneur Guilloux prolongée, Bò Nènè, Nan Tunnel and others., causing enormous human and material losses.
- 3. From August 4 to September 12, 2023, alone, RNDDH counted in Carrefour-Feuilles one hundred and four (104) people murdered and forcibly disappeared, two (2) cases of gang rape perpetrated against a mother and her daughter, fourteen (14) people wounded by bullets, and thirty-five (35) houses systematically looted before being set on fire, destroyed, or squatted.
- 4. On September 15, 2023, seventy-eight (78) of the victims filed a complaint with the Dean of the Port-au-Prince Court of First Instance, Judge Bernard SAINT VIL, alleging murder, attempted murder, criminal conspiracy, theft, destruction, and arson.

- 5. Numbered 419-09/23 at the Office of the Investigating Magistrate, this complaint denounces the murder of seventy-one (71) people, the disappearance of five (5) others, and the wounding by bullets of ten (10) people. Thirty-five (35) victims also denounced having had their homes looted, set on fire, squatted, or demolished by the armed bandits.
- 6. RNDDH takes this opportunity to inform the public that, again with its support, two (2) other separate complaints have already been lodged respectively with the Public Prosecutor's Office at the Croix-des-Bouquets Court of First Instance and the Port-au-Prince Court of First Instance.
- 7. On May 22, 2023, one hundred and thirteen (113) victims and relatives of victims of the massacre perpetrated from April 24 to May 6, 2022, on the Plaine du Culde-Sac by armed bandits from the 400 Mawozo gang and the Chen Mechan base filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Croix-des-Bouquets Court of First Instance, requesting the said Public Prosecutor's Office to initiate proceedings against the above-mentioned armed gangs for criminal conspiracy, murder, attempted murder, assassination and attempted assassination, forced displacement, disappearances, rape, arson, looting and destruction of other people's property. The file, numbered 0100/2023, has been forwarded to the office of investigating Judge André SAINT-ISERT.
- 8. Similarly, on May 23, 2023, one hundred and fifty-eight (158) victims and relatives of victims of the Cité Soleil massacre perpetrated from July 7 to 17, 2022 by armed gangs belonging to G-9 and Fanmi e Alye during which at least fifty-three (53) women and girls, were gang-raped filed a complaint with the then Dean of the Port-au-Prince Court of First Instance, Judge Chavannes ETIENNE, alleging robbery, gang-rape, assault and battery, and attempted murder; murder of their parents, offspring and spouses, criminal conspiracy, looting, arson and destruction of their homes. File number 194-05/23 has been forwarded to the Office of Investigating Judge Johnson SIMON.
- 9. In these various complaints, the victims and relatives of the victims of the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac, Cité Soleil, and Carrefour Feuilles blamed the Haitian government for failing to intervene to prevent the massacres, despite numerous appeals for help to the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN) headed by de facto Prime Minister Ariel HENRY; and because of the number of days during which

the armed bandits, protected by the state authorities, attacked the populations of these three (3) areas.

- 10. RNDDH recalls that the acts against life and property recorded during these three (3) significant massacres committed under the administration of Dr. Ariel HENRY constitute, on the one hand, serious offenses provided for and punished by the Haitian Penal Code. On the other hand, they also constitute massive violations of Human Rights perpetrated in transgression of the Haitian Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which respectively enshrine the State's obligation to guarantee public order and the protection of citizens' lives and property, to provide assistance to persons in danger and to guarantee the right to private property; to respect and realize the rights to life, security, physical and mental integrity, freedom of movement and personal property of all Haitians, without distinction of any kind.
- 11. Today, alongside the victims and relatives of the victims, RNDDH awaits the handing over of the Carrefour-Feuilles case to an investigating magistrate and the conclusions of the judicial investigations opened and conducted by the investigating judges chosen for the two (2) previous complaints relating to the massacres in Plaine du Cul-de-Sac and Cité Soleil.
- 12. For justice to be served and reparations to be granted to the victims and relatives of these massacres, the Haitian State is obligated to end the protection of armed bandits and the impunity they enjoy. And the Haitian judiciary, duly seized of the matter, must, for its part, rule on the serious human rights violations submitted to it, while respecting the judicial guarantees of the plaintiffs.

Port-au-Prince, September 19, 2023.