



National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH)



Calls to Return Home Issued to Citizens by Armed Gangs: RNDDH Urges the Population to Remain Vigilant

September 15, 2025

I. Introduction

1. Since 2019, during episodes of violence that have forced thousands of people to flee their neighborhoods, there have also been recorded invitations issued to the population by armed gangs to return home, based on the promise that they would no longer be attacked and that they would be able to go about their daily activities freely.
2. On August 22, 2025, a similar call was issued to the residents of Delmas 30, Nazon, and Solino by the leader of the terrorist coalition Viv Ansanm, Jimmy Chérizier, alias “Barbecue.”
3. Today, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) considers it its duty to remind citizens of all the times when they became victims following alleged peace agreements made between rival groups or following the various invitations issued by armed gangs for them to return to live peacefully in their neighborhoods.

II. Context

4. On October 21, 2022, through Resolution 2653, the United Nations Security Council decided to establish a list of individuals who have contributed or are contributing to the destabilization of the country. Since then, the Security Council has regularly updated this list, which currently includes:

- Jimmy CHÉRIZIER, alias Barbecue
- Johnson ANDRÉ alias Izo
- Renel DESTINA alias Ti lapli
- Wilson JOSEPH, alias Lanmò san jou
- Vitelhomme INNOCENT
- PROFANE VICTOR
- Luckson ELAN

5. On July 8, 2025, the Viv Ansanm coalition, mainly composed of armed gangs from G-9 an Fanmi e Alye and G-Pèp, as well as Base Gran Grif, was also added to this list as an entity.

6. Since August 2025, Panama and the United States have proposed to the United Nations Secretary-General to convert the Multinational Security Support Mission (MMAS) into an anti-gang force called, according to the draft resolution in circulation, the Gang Suppression Force (GSF). This force would have an initial twelve (12)-month mandate and would include the opening of an office in Haiti with up to five thousand five hundred (5,500) uniformed personnel and fifty (50) civilians. This force would be tasked, among other things, with conducting field operations to neutralize armed gangs and to secure important sites and infrastructure in the country.

7. Meanwhile, on August 12, 2025, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States stated that it was prepared to offer a reward of five million (5,000,000) U.S. dollars to anyone who could help capture or prosecute the leader of the terrorist coalition Viv Ansanm, namely Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue.

8. In the meantime, the United Nations Security Council continues to maintain pressure on the armed gangs. Some members of the private business sector have been identified as having contributed to the state of chaos prevailing in Haiti. Several individuals from the Haitian diaspora who sent weapons and ammunition into the country or maintained relationships with armed gangs are being prosecuted, and some have already been tried and convicted by the United States Department of Justice.

9. It is in this context that the video published on social media on August 22, 2025, by the terrorist Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue, went viral. In it, he invited the population of Delmas, Nazon, and Solino, whom he and his henchmen had previously terrorized and expelled, to return home. He also took the opportunity to request the help of the Delmas Municipality in cleaning up the neighborhoods he had vandalized.

10. On August 24, 2025, during a demonstration involving internally displaced persons, many victims and survivors of armed violence who had been driven from their homes returned and discovered that the damage caused by the terrorists was so extensive that they could not live in their houses in their current state. This is why the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH), while acknowledging the inhumane conditions in the displacement sites, which could push a desperate and abandoned population to trust the words of the armed gangs, insists on documenting the episodes of violence that were recorded in the aftermath of similar calls to return, which have resulted in enormous human and material losses.

III. Reminder of the Different Calls to Return Issued by the Gangs

11. From March 2019 to June 2025, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) documented nineteen (19) invitations issued by armed gangs to the population to return home, following peace agreements concluded between rival armed gangs.

12. After several months of armed clashes, in March 2019, the armed gang from Base Pilate, led by Ézéchiél ALEXANDRE, alias Ze, and the armed gang from Village de

Dieu then led by Arnel JOSEPH, announced that they had concluded a peace agreement. However, this agreement lasted only a short time, because on June 17, 2019, they resumed fighting.

13. On August 22, 2020, the armed gangs of G-9 an Fanmi e Alye, which had been created in June 2020 under the leadership of Jimmy Chérizier, alias Barbecue, concluded a truce with their rivals from G-Pèp. However, this truce lasted only a few days and was broken before the end of August 2020.

14. After having carried out a bloody attack on Bel-Air on April 1, 2021, on April 15, 2021, Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue, declared at a press conference that he had made peace with that neighborhood. However, the fighting resumed only a few days later.

15. On June 6, 2021, then Prime Minister Claude Joseph declared that the war in Martissant, which began on June 1, 2021, between the armed gangs of Ti Bwa, Grand Ravine, and Village de Dieu, had ended. That same day, he and the former Director General of the Police Nationale d'Haïti (PNH), Léon Charles, walked through the streets of Martissant, reassuring the population and inviting them to return home. The fighting resumed a few days later, well before the end of June 2021.

16. On July 7, 2021, following the assassination of former president Jovenel Moïse, the armed groups fighting in Martissant announced they had made peace with one another. The fighting resumed only a few days later.

17. On August 14, 2021, the armed gangs of Tibwa, Grand Ravine, and Village de Dieu, who had been fighting one another since June 1, 2021, announced they had agreed to a truce in the name of peace to facilitate the passage of humanitarian convoys destined for the Grand Sud, which had just been struck by an earthquake. A few days later, many vehicles were fired upon while traveling along Boulevard Jean Jacques Dessalines toward National Road #2, which brought this supposed truce to an end.

18. On December 5, 2022, the armed gangs of Tibwa, Grand Ravine, and Village de Dieu announced that they had decided to permanently make peace after eighteen (18) months of fighting. They asked the population who had fled the area to return and guaranteed that they would allow trucks to pass without extorting them. Since then, each of these armed gangs has set up toll checkpoints along the roads, in the markets, and in certain neighborhoods, demanding that the population regularly pay ransom in exchange for being allowed to go about their business in the Carrefour commune and surrounding areas.

19. In October 2023, in Pernier, the leader of the Kraze Baryè gang, Vitelhomme Innocent, operating in the areas of Pernier and Torcel, asked the population to return after having previously driven them out. To support this invitation and prove he was making amends, on November 6, 2023, Vitelhomme INNOCENT had himself recorded inside a church giving a speech. The video went viral on social media and led some to claim he had converted to Christianity. Others believed he was engaging in social activities to benefit local residents. Feeling reassured, some residents did return. Less than three (3) months

later, on the morning of January 30, 2024, the 400 Mawozo gang invaded Fatima, an area within the Kraze Baryè stronghold. During this attack, several people were killed, and several thousand others had to flee their homes again.

20. On February 16, 2025, the Kraze Baryè gang, led by Vitelhomme INNOCENT, orchestrated a massacre in Châteaublond and Petit Troupeau, two (2) areas located in Frères. Among the victims were four (4) people who had fled the area in 2023 but had returned after the calls issued by the gang leader.

21. During the night of June 1 to 2, 2025, the Kraze Baryè gang again carried out a massacre, this time against residents of the Kébro and Gwo Jan areas, also in Pernier.

22. On July 3, 2023, the Base Krache Dife and the armed gangs of Delmas 6 and Bel-Air concluded a peace agreement. They then joined forces to attack the neighborhoods of Fort National and Solino.

23. On July 15, 2023, under the leadership of priest Tom HAGAN, the gang leaders Iscard Andrice, Mathias Saintil, and Gabriel Jean Pierre, alias Ti Gabriel, all operating in Cité-Soleil, and Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue, signed a peace agreement that lasted only a few days.

24. On August 13, 2023, heavily armed bandits from Grand Ravine and Village de Dieu invaded Carrefour-Feuilles and massacred more than one hundred (100) people. Several houses, cars, and motorcycles were burned. Women and girls were gang-raped, leading the population to flee the area in large numbers. In mid-2024, the bandits issued several calls for residents to return home. Several families did indeed return to resettle in Carrefour-Feuilles. In March 2025, these same bandits attacked the area again, killing, gang-raping women and girls, and burning everything in their path.

25. On September 22, 2023, during the presentation of the terrorist coalition Viv Ansanm, several gang leaders announced through voice notes circulating on social media that the G-9 an Fanmi e Alye, and G-Pèp had made peace. They promised to unite their forces to defend the Haitian population and to force the state authorities to uphold its economic and social rights. However, during 2023, Viv Ansanm expanded into the departments of Artibonite and Centre while continuing to attack the population of the Ouest department.

26. During the night of September 26 to 27, 2023, a few days after the presentation of the Viv Ansanm coalition, the gang leader of Pierre VI, Tayson Samedi, was killed in Boston, Cité-Soleil, by Mathias SAINTIL. The day after this assassination, violent clashes broke out in Croix-des-Missions, Sarthe, Duvivier, Carrefour Drouillard, and Cité-Soleil, during which several members of the population were killed, and thousands of others were forced to take refuge in sites for displaced persons.

27. On November 13, 2023, Iscard ANDRICE, leader of the armed gang operating in Belekou, Cité-Soleil, died. He was replaced by David Garnier, alias Black Alex Mana,

who was himself killed by his own soldiers a few days after his appointment. He was replaced by James Edmond, alias Bendjy. Since then, violent clashes have broken out between the armed gangs of Brooklyn and Belekou, led respectively by Gabriel JEAN PIERRE, alias Ti Gabriel, and Bendjy. At the same time, the Base Chen Mechan, led by Claudy Celestin, alias Chen Mechan, and the armed gangs of Sibert and Pierre IV, who had been allies of Iscard ANDRICE, also went to war. Once again, members of the civilian population were wounded and killed in these clashes. It was only on July 24, 2024, with the help of Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue, that the armed gangs operating in Cité-Soleil and led, respectively, by Gabriel JEAN PIERRE, Mathias SAINTIL, and James EDMOND, alias Bendjy reached a new truce, after which the barricades that had been erected were removed, the besieged neighborhoods were freed, and the trenches that had been dug were filled in.

28. On March 6, 2024, the armed gang leader Kempès Sanon, operating in Bel-Air, announced that he had made peace with the Solino neighborhood after more than two (2) years of armed clashes. He then invited the residents of these two (2) neighborhoods to return home. However, on November 14, 2024, Kempès SANON and his henchmen once again invaded the Solino neighborhood, killing people they encountered, looting and burning houses, and gang-raping women and girls.

29. Marc Arthur, as he is known, was placed at the head of the gang operating in Rivière Froide, Carrefour, by the armed gang leader Christ-Roi Chéry, alias Krisla. On the afternoon of August 8, 2024, a conflict broke out between Marc Arthur and Christ-Roi CHERY, alias Krisla. Clashes followed in Brochette, Waney, and Bertin while the baccalaureate exams were underway. Several people, whose bodies piled up on the pavement, were killed that day.

30. On June 6, 2025, the armed gangs of Base Chen Mechan and 400 Mawozo clashed in Marassa and around Carrefour Cesselesse, Santo 25, and Santo 23, even though they are all members of Viv Ansanm.

IV. Behavior of the Authorities and the Population

31. In response to the invitation launched by Jimmy Chérizier, alias Barbecue, to the residents of Delmas, Nazon, and Solino to return home, the government and the Transitional Presidential Council (CPT) did not react. The Primature, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities did not consider it necessary to warn the population against possible new episodes of violence that could occur if they followed this invitation and against which the authorities might not be able to protect them. Only the national police institution distanced itself from this deafening silence, timidly urging citizens to act with intelligence and caution.

32. And, unsurprisingly, on August 24, 2025, the displaced population, tired of living in inhumane conditions in the shelter sites, rushed to return home. Unfortunately, it was a total disappointment because the armed gangs had taken everything that could be taken and left behind only the charred or devastated shells of houses.

V. Comments and Recommendations

33. From 2019 to 2025, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) documented nineteen (19) calls issued by gangs inviting the population to return home. These calls, for the most part, followed so-called peace agreements made between rival gangs. Yet, in the aftermath of these agreements, which last only a few months or even just a few days, as has just been shown, the population has always ended up as victims, either at the hands of the gangs controlling the zones they live in or during attacks carried out by rival gangs with whom the agreement had just been made. It is therefore clear that peace agreements between armed gangs are always short-lived. And the promises they make to the population to let them live in peace without harming them have never been kept

34. The RNDDH believes that what armed gangs have been presenting since 2019 as peace agreements are in fact only sporadic truces, often limited to a single neighborhood or a single toll checkpoint, hastily negotiated due to immediate and petty economic interests, to the detriment of the population. It is during these so-called peace agreements, for example, that they decide to allow trucks carrying goods to pass in exchange for ransom, that they facilitate the movement of gang members from one area to another along with people kidnapped for ransom, or that they multiply toll checkpoints, thus living off the backs of the Haitian population, who, in one way or another, are always the victims.

35. Likewise, the various calls to return launched by armed gangs, which generally follow these so-called peace agreements, have never been anything but tactics aimed at allowing them to consolidate their power or, worse, to have people they can use as human shields in the event of possible law enforcement operations to dismantle the gangs. These pauses, often brief respites before a new wave of horror, collapse as soon as one of the protagonists feels wronged or as soon as a change, whether political or economic, occurs, creating a rift in the alliance.

36. The RNDDH believes that the most glaring proof of the absurd nature of the invitation launched by the gang leader at the head of the terrorist coalition, Viv Ansanm, is the attack carried out in Laboderie, Boucassin, and Cabaret against the population, during which more than fifty (50) people, including children, women, and elderly persons, lost their lives, according to Jean Rodrigue Paul, Deputy Delegate of the Arcahaie/Cabaret district; Joseph Jeanson Guillaume, Acting Agent of the Executive; Mathieu Joseph Louis, member of the Conseil d'Administration des Sections Communales (CASEC); and local residents interviewed by the RNDDH.

37. By remaining silent and leaving the Haitian population to fend for itself against armed gangs, the state authorities believe that they will not be held accountable if the population becomes victimized following the invitation of the terrorist Jimmy CHERIZIER, alias Barbecue. Nothing could be further from the truth, because it is the responsibility of the authorities, whether established or transitional, to ensure the security of the Haitian population, not of armed gangs carrying out dubious and criminal schemes. In this regard, the RNDDH emphasizes to everyone that, for peace and security to be effective in

neighborhoods plagued by armed violence and/or controlled by gangs, the following are required:

- The dismantling of armed gangs
- The prosecution of armed gang members, whoever they may be, for the numerous crimes committed against the population
- Compensation for survivors who have been victims of atrocities committed by armed gangs since 2018
- An inclusive process set up and led by the authorities, with the involvement of civil society from the affected areas
- Effective protection of the victims and survivors of the various episodes of violence recorded in the country.

38. Finally, the RNDDH notes that while armed attacks are intensifying in certain areas of the Ouest and Artibonite departments in particular, the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ) has become bogged down in efforts aimed at whitewashing and releasing individuals involved in or linked to serious organized crime. This is why the RNDDH calls on the Haitian population to remain vigilant and discerning, because armed gangs and their allies have always been, and continue to be, protected by state authorities.

39. Consequently, the RNDDH recommends to the transitional governmental and presidential authorities to:

- Restore minimum security conditions to allow displaced populations to return home
- Track down, arrest, prosecute, and convict the terrorist gang members in accordance with the law