



National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH)



Kamikaze Drone Operations: RNDDH Demands Protection for the Civilian Population

October 22, 2025

I. Introduction

1. On September 20, 2025, in Simon Pelé, during the birthday celebration of gang leader Steevenson Albert, also known as “Djouma,” two kamikaze drones were deployed by law-enforcement forces. Numerous casualties were reported, including children who were participating in the festivities. This incident drew the particular attention of the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH), which subsequently launched an investigation into the event.

2. One month after the operation, RNDDH is releasing this report, which was prepared following interviews with victims, relatives of victims, and local residents. The report provides an assessment of the attack, outlines the circumstances in which the victims were affected, and offers recommendations to the state authorities.

II. Context

3. On the afternoon of March 1, 2025, Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé announced on his X account the creation of a task force intended to combat armed gangs. It was also at that time that the first kamikaze drone attack was launched, targeting the base of Jimmy Chérizier, also known as “Barbecue,” leader and spokesperson of the terrorist coalition *Viv Ansanm*, located in Delmas 6.

4. Although this attack briefly alarmed some gang leaders, it did not lead to any significant outcome. The gang leader and terrorist Jimmy Chérizier, alias “Barbecue,” temporarily took refuge in the stronghold of Claudy Célestin, also known as “Chen Mechan,” in the Plaine du Cul-de-Sac, before calmly returning to his base in Delmas 6 a few days later.

5. In the meantime, other operations were carried out, raising serious concerns about the use of kamikaze drones. The lack of coordination between law enforcement forces and the task force is troubling. In addition, the fact that drones are weapons capable of causing extensive collateral damage worries citizens. Since the funds allocated to the intelligence service have been squandered by state authorities, the mechanism created to gather reliable information on the location of armed gang bases and to minimize the killing of innocent people and the destruction of property unrelated to criminal activities has been severely limited.

6. In addition, the fact that since March 1, 2025, no well-known gang leader has been affected by the operations carried out with kamikaze drones, whose use has nonetheless multiplied, has led many to question the methods used to plan and direct these operations. In this regard, it is worth recalling that from March to October 2025, at least twenty kamikaze drone operations were conducted:

- On March 1, 2025, the stronghold of Jimmy Chérizier, also known as “Barbecue,” was struck by kamikaze drones. During this attack, several gang members were killed.
- On March 7, 2025, a new kamikaze drone attack targeted the base of Jimmy Chérizier, alias “Barbecue.” At least sixteen people were killed and more than twenty others were seriously injured.
- On March 19, 2025, kamikaze drone strikes were recorded simultaneously in the territories of armed gangs located in Village-de-Dieu, Grand-Ravine (Maranatha area), Delmas 30, and Delmas 6.
- On March 23, 2025, the neighborhoods of Bas-Delmas and Bel-Air were targeted by kamikaze drones. Several armed gang members were killed.
- On March 29, 2025, the headquarters of gang leader Johnson André, also known as “Izo,” in Village-de-Dieu, was targeted by kamikaze drones. Significant damage and the burning of several vehicles were reported.
- On April 14, 2025, downtown Port-au-Prince, Rue Capois near the Sylvio Cator Stadium, Village-de-Dieu, Avenue N, and the surrounding areas of Grand-Ravine were attacked by kamikaze drones.
- On April 19, 2025, a kamikaze drone operation was carried out against armed gang members in Kenscoff.
- On May 4, 2025, in the afternoon, five kamikaze drones were deployed over Grand-Ravine, in the territory of gang leader Jean Renel Destina, also known as “Ti Lapli.” At least seventeen gang members were killed and twenty others were seriously injured. Major material damage was also reported.
- On May 20, 2025, at least twenty-five gang members were killed and forty others injured in Grand-Ravine, within the stronghold of gang leader Jean Renel Destina, alias “Ti Lapli,” following the launch of four kamikaze drones by law enforcement forces.

- On May 22, 2025, in Torcel and Pernier, kamikaze drones were deployed against the base of gang leader Vitelhomme Innocent, forcing him to seek refuge with the 400 Mawozo gang in Croix-des-Bouquets, in the locality of Dumulseau. A few days later, in June 2025, he calmly returned to his stronghold.
- On May 25, 2025, a kamikaze drone operation in Village-de-Dieu caused the death of at least thirty members of the gang led by Johnson André, alias “Izo,” and left around one hundred others injured.
- On June 1, 2025, a kamikaze drone operation was carried out simultaneously in the strongholds of armed gangs in Village-de-Dieu and Grand-Ravine.
- On June 3, 2025, several kamikaze drones were deployed over downtown Port-au-Prince.
- On the night of June 10, 2025, multiple kamikaze drones fell on Grand-Ravine, within the territory of gang leader Jean Renel Destina, alias “Ti Lapli.”
- On August 23, 2025, at least seven armed gang members were killed in Village-de-Dieu during a kamikaze drone strike.
- On September 2, 2025, in the afternoon, a kamikaze drone operation targeted a makeshift toll post installed to extort money from vehicles and pedestrians in Martissant and Fontamara 27, within the territory of armed gang leader Christ-Roi Chéry, also known as “Krisla.”

7. While notorious gang leaders remain completely unaffected by these kamikaze drone strikes, their foot soldiers, mostly minors and young adults, are being killed in large numbers. Members of the civilian population and even law enforcement officers have also lost their lives during these operations. The following are two examples:

- On the evening of August 19, 2025, in Carrefour Maroca, located in the commune of Kenscoff, two members of the SWAT team were killed and five others injured following the explosion of a kamikaze drone. According to information gathered by RNDDH, no investigation has yet been opened regarding this tragedy. However, it was only after this incident that, for the first time, state authorities publicly acknowledged in a press release the use of kamikaze drones.

- On September 6, 2025, eleven people were killed in a kamikaze drone attack launched in downtown Port-au-Prince. No information has linked these victims to any armed gang.

8. At the same time, state authorities are trying to convince the population that fear has changed sides, even though citizens continue to suffer attacks from armed gangs and human and material losses increase daily.

9. Meanwhile, in an open display of defiance toward state authorities, gang leaders move freely from one base to another, organize parties, and circulate videos on social media platforms without fear of reprisal. For example:

- On April 10, 2025, gang leaders Jeff Larose, also known as “Gwo Lwa,” and Wilson Joseph, also known as “Lanmò San Jou,” left their respective bases in Canaan and Croix-des-Bouquets to travel to Mirebalais, in the Central Department, after their men took control of the city on March 31, 2025.
- On July 16, 2025, Jimmy Chérizier, alias “Barbecue,” left his base in Delmas 6 and went to Saut-d’Eau in the Central Department, where he took part in the town’s festivities alongside armed gang leaders Jeff Larose, alias “Gwo Lwa,” and Wilson Joseph, alias “Lanmò San Jou.”
- On August 31, 2025, Christ-Roi Chéry, alias “Krisla,” left his base in Fontamara, crossed several armed gang strongholds, and reached Canaan, where he joined Jeff Larose, alias “Gwo Lwa,” and Jimmy Chérizier, alias “Barbecue,” to, according to the latter, strengthen their ties within the *Viv Ansanm* coalition.

10. It is within this context that, on September 20, 2025, in Simon Pelé—a disadvantaged neighborhood located in the commune of Delmas, adjacent to Cité Soleil and crisscrossed by narrow alleys and main roads linking other impoverished areas such as Village Solidarité and Cité Militaire, a kamikaze drone operation was carried out, resulting in numerous civilian casualties.

III. The Facts

11. On September 20, 2025, the gang leader of Simon Pelé, Steevenson Albert, also known as “Djouma,” decided to organize a large celebration for his birthday. Children were invited to

take part, and the distribution of gifts and cash was planned for them. The disc jockey Marc Belot, also known as “DJ Lakou,” was hired to provide musical entertainment.

12. Two separate areas were set up for the celebration. The first, called *Nan Pak*, was designated for the gift distribution for children. The second, located not far from the gang’s base, was arranged with a sound system for music and dancing.

13. Around 7:25 p.m., while children were waiting for the promised distribution, the first drone was released over *Nan Pak*, killing and injuring several of them. Shortly after, a second drone was launched. It fell on the site where the sound system had been installed. Many adults were killed, and others were severely mutilated.

IV. Recorded Casualties

14. The toll from the September 20, 2025 operation is as follows: at least sixteen people were killed, including eight children and eight adults. At least four people were injured, including one child. Several houses were also destroyed.

a) Children Killed

15. The following information was gathered from the parents of the children who lost their lives:



Dieulanda Edmond, born on January 31, 2019, accompanied her mother to buy food in the Simon Pelé neighborhood. As they passed near *Nan Pak*, they came across several children playing. Dieulanda’s mother, Fleurimond, left her daughter with a few playmates while she went to make the purchases. Moments later, she heard an explosion in the area where the children were gathered. She later learned that her daughter had been killed during the kamikaze drone operation.

Dieulanda EDMOND, 6 years old

16. On September 20, 2025, between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m., Olguine Florvil, a little girl born on July 25, 2018, was playing in front of her home in *Nan Pak* when she was struck in the head by debris from a kamikaze drone. She was rushed to the Médecins Sans Frontières Hospital located near Carrefour Vincent. The following morning, around 8:00 a.m., she passed away.



Olguine FLORVIL, 7 years old



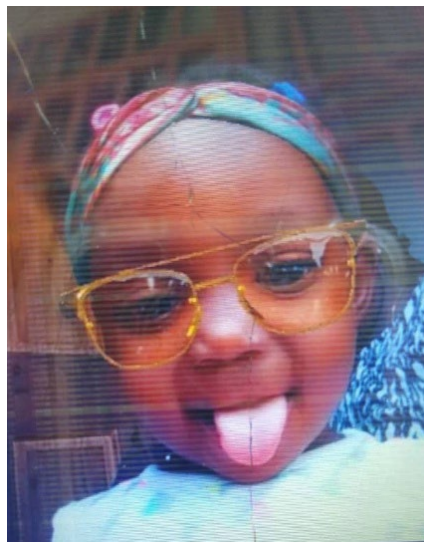
17. The parents of Woodelyne Grand-Jean, born on October 20, 2020, allowed her to attend the festivities taking place near their home in *Nan Pak*. While Woodelyne was playing with other children, a drone was released, and she was killed. The gang leader, Steevenson Albert, also known as “Djouma,” later took charge of removing the body and had it transported to a morgue.

Woodelyne GRAND-JEAN, 5 years old

18. Lovenchise Paul, born on July 21, 2022, was sitting with her mother, Lovely Florvil, age thirty-two, in front of their home when both were struck by debris from the kamikaze drones. They both died as a result.



Lovenchise PAUL, 3 years old



19. Born on August 29, 2022, Daïca Saint-Louis, age three, was sitting with her father, Emmanuel Saint-Louis, in front of their home when, between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., both were injured by debris from the kamikaze drones. Daïca's right shoulder was pierced, and her right foot was mutilated. She was taken to the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Hospital in Terre Noire, where she later succumbed to her injuries.

Daïca Saint-Louis, 3 years old

20. At the time of the incident, Dieunica Jean, born on December 2, 2012, was twelve years old. Her mother had allowed her to play with her friends under the supervision of her uncle, Wesnel Bonnet, when she lost her life.

Dieunica JEAN, 12 years old

b) Adults Killed



21. Among the adults killed, RNDDH identified eight victims:

- **Wesnel Bonnet**, age twenty-four, father of one daughter, was sitting on the porch of his house near the *Nan Pak* square, watching over his twelve-year-old niece, Dieunica Jean, born on December 2, 2012, who was playing with her friends. Debris from the drone that exploded nearby caused severe damage. According to neighbors, both Wesnel Bonnet and Dieunica Jean were killed. However, according to the child's mother, who had entrusted her to Wesnel's care, no bodies were found at the site when she arrived, as she reported to RNDDH.
- **Pierre Michel Jean**, age twenty-eight, ran a small liquor business. On the evening of gang leader Steevenson Albert, also known as "Djouma," birthday celebration, he was tending to his shop when a kamikaze drone was released. He was seriously injured and died on the way to the hospital.
- On the same day, September 20, 2025, during the attack, **Luc Jean**, age seventy, father of two children and father of Pierre Michel Jean, was sitting beside his son at the site of the family business. He was killed instantly when the drone exploded.
- **Emson Jerome**, born on December 23, 1982, a street vendor and father of one child, was returning home to Simon Pelé after a day's work. When he reached *Nan Pak*, he was killed by one of the kamikaze drones.

- **Mickerlange Saindique**, age thirty, mother of one child, ran a fried food stall near the site of the festivities. A drone was released in the area, and she was struck and killed instantly. Her body was later retrieved by the gang leader and taken to a morgue.
- **Lemantha Saint-Jean**, age thirty-three, father of two daughters, was in Ti Savon when, between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m., he was severely injured in the head. His older brother, P.M., took him to Sainte-Catherine Hospital, where he died from his injuries at 11:00 p.m.
- **Emmanuel Saint-Louis**, age forty, father of five children, was with his daughter Daïca Saint-Louis when they were both killed. His right side was pierced by debris from the drone that exploded nearby. Like his daughter, he was taken to the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Hospital in Terre Noire, where he died shortly afterward.
- **Lovely Florvil**, age thirty-two, mother of the young girl Lovenchise Paul, was sitting in front of her home with her daughter when both were struck by debris from the kamikaze drones and killed.

c) Persons Injured

22. Among those injured, RNDDH recorded four victims:

- **A.S.**, age five, was injured in the foot and left hand. He was at home in Simon Pelé when he was struck by the drone. His mother, **L.F.**, age twenty-three, was seriously wounded. Both her feet were severely damaged. She underwent surgery during which a metal rod was inserted into her right foot. She remains hospitalized.
- **J.M.P.**, age thirty-four, was injured in the left foot during the attack. She is the mother of **Olguine Florvil**, who was killed that day.
- **D.J.**, age twenty-one, mother of one child, was in Ti Savon buying food when, between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m., she was injured on the left side of her abdomen. Her father, **J.J.**, took her to the Petits Frères et Sœurs Hospital so she could receive the necessary medical care.

V. Subsequent Events

23. Following the September 20, 2025 attack, many of the victims' bodies were collected by the gang leader Steevenson Albert, also known as "Djouma," and taken to the Alma morgue. A few days later, on October 4, 2025, funerals were held for several of the victims. During the ceremony, participants were deeply anxious, fearing another drone strike.

24. On October 5, 2025, the Haitian National Police (PNH) conducted a kamikaze drone operation in Delmas 19, where armed gangs from Simon Pelé had been operating since February 2025. Three drones were deployed that day, resulting in the deaths of several gang members.

25. Although on October 6, 2025, the day after the police operation, Steevenson Albert, alias "Djouma," and his men abandoned the Delmas 19 area they had occupied since February 2025, tension remained high in Simon Pelé. Residents became so fearful that they began mistaking the flight of birds for drones, triggering panic, as occurred on October 4, 2025, during the funerals of some of the victims of the September 20 attack.

26. This climate of tension was also evident in other parts of the capital. For example, on October 13, 2025, a drone was launched near the premises of the Institution du Sacré-Cœur in Port-au-Prince, causing widespread panic as far as the Turgeau neighborhood.

VI. Comments and Recommendations

27. RNDDH recognizes that the location of armed gang strongholds, often inaccessible to law enforcement, explains the use of kamikaze drones since March 1, 2025. Their deployment is proportional to the many automatic weapons possessed by the gangs. When used appropriately, drones can serve as an effective tool in the fight to eradicate gang violence in the country.

28. Until August 19, 2025, the date on which two members of the SWAT team were killed and several others injured in Kenscoff, very little collateral damage had been recorded. However, from that date onward, drone operators appear to have begun targeting civilians. RNDDH points to the operations of September 6 and September 20, 2025, as proof of this shift, during which eleven and sixteen people were killed respectively, including eight children, six of whom were between three and twelve years old.

29. Despite these repeated operations, notorious gang leaders continue to circulate freely, openly mocking state authorities in videos and attacking civilians by organizing massacres and armed assaults in the Artibonite, Central, and Western Departments. Although more than two hundred armed gang members have been killed and over one hundred and fifty injured since the start of drone operations, not a single well-known gang leader has been

affected to date. This raises serious concerns for RNDDH regarding the precision of these strikes and the competence of the team conducting them.

30. RNDDH maintains that the operation of kamikaze drones must not be entrusted to a team controlled by political authorities. Instead, a coordination unit involving all law enforcement agencies across the national territory should be established. This unit should operate in compliance with military and police ethics as well as the principles of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. RNDDH believes that such a structure would have prevented the many civilian casualties already recorded.

31. The kamikaze drone attack carried out in Simon Pelé on September 20, 2025, resulted in the deaths of sixteen people, including eight children. Six of these children, identified by the organization, were girls between the ages of three and twelve. RNDDH remains convinced that no strategy or anti-gang operation can justify the killing of young children who instead deserved the protection and care of the Haitian State. In this regard, RNDDH recalls that Haiti is a party to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Under Article 6.1 of the Convention, the Haitian State recognizes that “every child has an inherent right to life.” Furthermore, under Article 38.1, it is committed to “respect and ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law applicable to children” in conflict situations or during interventions such as those carried out on September 20, 2025.

32. RNDDH also reminds the authorities that the principles of distinction and precaution, enshrined in international humanitarian law, impose on police and military forces the obligation to distinguish at all times between civilians and armed terrorists, in order to target only the latter and their strongholds, while avoiding collateral victims. For this reason, RNDDH reiterates its call for the state to redirect the funds currently allocated to intelligence services and make them available to law enforcement agencies. Only in this way will these agencies be able to collect accurate information to identify armed gangs and their strongholds while protecting the civilian population and children.

33. Finally, RNDDH regrets that since the attacks of September 6 and September 20, 2025, the Presidential Transitional Council (CPT), the Prime Minister’s Office, and the Superior Council of the National Police (CSPN) have remained silent. This behavior reflects cynicism toward the surviving victims, their relatives, and grieving parents. It also illustrates the abandonment of the State, which has already driven many citizens to turn toward armed gang leaders for help, as happened again after the September 20 massacre. Several destitute parents were forced to accept assistance from the Simon Pelé gang leader, Steevenson Albert, alias “Djouma,” to organize the funerals of their children. RNDDH deplores the fact that the Haitian State, through its policy of absence and neglect, continues to leave space for armed gangs, rather than acknowledging its own failings and supporting the victims and their families.

34. In light of all the above, RNDDH calls on state authorities to:

- Ensure the unconditional protection of the civilian population during kamikaze drone operations.
- Make all state funds allocated to intelligence services fully available to law enforcement agencies.
- Reach out to the parents of the children and to the relatives of the adults killed in the September 20, 2025 attack, in order to provide them with assistance tailored to their specific needs.