

Joint Statement and Call to Action on the Crisis in Haiti

Deklarasyon konjwen ak apèl a aksyon sou kriz an Ayiti

-- vezyon kreyòl anba --

July 2021

In response to the crisis in Haiti, which has deepened in the wake of the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, we, the undersigned individuals and organizations, express our condolences and sympathy to all of the Haitian families that have lost a loved one to the ongoing violence. We further recognize that activists and human rights defenders in Haiti are currently facing grave danger as they continue to work for a better future for all Haitians.

In light of the horrific events of the past month in Haiti, including the [massacre](#) at [Delmas 32](#) and the high profile killing of prominent [activist Antoinette Duclair](#) and [journalist Diego Charles](#); the ongoing gang fighting and arson attacks in poor neighborhoods that have displaced more than [18,000 people](#); and the shocking assassination of Jovenel Moïse in his home on the night of July 6-7;

Considering that the Haitian people have been living in a brutal climate of insecurity that makes it hard to get to work, and that there is a growing food crisis; that crops have failed as a result of rising temperatures and climate disruption; that gang violence has blocked roads and shut off access to markets, and more than 4.4 million people do not have enough food to eat every day;

Considering that COVID cases are spiking, and that lack of security and gang violence make it impossible for life saving materials to reach hospitals in other parts of the country while also blocking the capital's main petrol depot, leading to massive gas shortages;

We call on the international community to stand in solidarity with Haitian calls for:

- (1) **A Haitian solution.** Haitians should lead in building the path forward. Foreign actors must not impose solutions from abroad. Even prior to Moïse's murder, Haitian [organizations](#) have been building [consensus](#) for a transitional government. Foreign governments and international institutions must not overstep their role by declaring who has authority in Haiti, particularly when that conflicts with Haitian law.

We need only look to the recent [MINUSTAH](#) mission to see that foreign efforts fail to create lasting public democratic institutions that are necessary for any country to function. Despite spending 13 years and \$7 billion -- [ten times](#) Haiti's GDP-- the MINUSTAH mission left Haiti with more guns and less democracy. The mission also afflicted Haiti's citizens with sexual exploitation and abuse, leaving behind hundreds of [children fathered by](#) peacekeepers, and was responsible for introducing cholera to Haiti, killing an estimated 10,000 people.

- (2) **A commitment to a participatory democratic process.** After decades of foreign intervention and aid policies that have destabilized Haiti, each branch of the Haitian government has been systematically dismantled, and public confidence in Haiti's governance has declined to nearly nothing. Haitian organizations and civil society have long been [calling for a transition government](#) to restore stability, basic security, and democracy. Haiti must have a transition process in order to rebuild its democratic institutions, and this process must be inclusive of all sectors of Haiti's population.
- (3) **Ensuring that conditions for fair, participatory, and credible elections are in place before rushing Haiti to the polls.** Elections are a fundamental part of the democratic process. However, they must be free and fair and perceived as legitimate in order to strengthen democracy. Elections will not be free and fair without inclusive voter registration, an independent and legitimate electoral body, and the security necessary not only to vote, but also to campaign leading up to election day. Meaningful participation requires that women and other marginalized groups also participate in the electoral process. A race to hold elections on an internationally-imposed timeline risks further eroding democracy in Haiti.
- (4) **Protection for the right to free expression and the right to life.** Over the past three years, all Haitian people have learned that there is no safety; there is no guarantee that they will make it home when they leave. Human rights defenders, journalists, and activists are frequent targets of threats and attacks, and essential health care workers have been injured and killed through kidnappings, attacks and gang violence. Gender-based violence, including rape, has been increasing during this crisis, and thousands of women and girls have been displaced from their homes, making them even more vulnerable.

Three years ago, on July 6-7, 2018, the emerging evidence that government officials had stolen more than [\\$2 billion](#) from state coffers and rising gas prices sparked the first in a series of protests against corruption and impunity. These massive mobilizations of Haitians across class and political lines marched together to call for accountability and democracy. They were consistently met with brutal repression from the government and indifference from the international community.

There have been [18 massacres](#) documented in Port-au-Prince over these past three years. Perpetrators have targeted neighborhoods active in opposition protests, and have not been held accountable. Human rights groups have documented connections between officials and the armed groups responsible for these massacres, including Moïse and other government ministers. Further, some argue that these massacres constitute [crimes against humanity](#).

- (5) **Recognition of how foreign interventions have contributed to current conditions in Haiti.** While many are calling Haiti a "failed state", what we see is the failure of centuries of policies imposed on Haiti by the international community, including aid policies, that prioritized foreign interests and short-term gains over sustainable democracy and prosperity for Haitians. The 2010 earthquake was an opportunity to rebuild Haiti with strong public institutions. However, despite

hundreds of millions of aid dollars, Haiti's entire public administration was outsourced to foreign institutions and NGOs.

For a stronger Haiti,

Adrian Dominican Sisters

AL- AHAD

American Friends Service Committee

American Jewish World Service

Association d'Initiative Civique Culturelle et Communautaire (ASPIC)

Benedictine Sisters of Erie

Beyond Borders

Border Network for Human Rights

Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI)

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Defend Haiti's Democracy

Diaspora Community Services

Dominican Leadership Conference

Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids

Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, NY

Dominican Sisters of Hope

Dominican Sisters of Houston

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office

Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti

Erie Benedictines for Peace

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Free the Slaves
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UNANIMA International
Unlocking Communities
Washington Office on Latin America
Wheaton Franciscans JPIC Office
Win Without War
Xaverian Brothers
Zanmi Lakay

Deklarasyon konjwen ak apèl a aksyon sou kriz an Ayiti

Jiyè 2021

Pou reponn ak kriz an Ayiti a, ki vin pi grav swit ak zak sasinay sou Prezidan Jovenel Moïse, nou menm, moun ak òganizasyon ki siyen anba nòt sa, voye kondoleyans ak mo senpati bay tout fanmi ayisyen yo ki deja pèdi yon moun pwòch yo nan vyolans san kanpe dènye tan sa yo. Nou rekonèt kounya gen militan ak defansè dwa moun an Ayiti ki ap fè fas ak gwo malè pandye pandan yo ap kontinye fè travay yo pou yon pi bon lavni pou tout Ayisyen.

Pami anpil evènman malouk ki sot rive nan mwa pase yo an Ayiti, ki gen ladann [masak](#) nan [Delma 32](#) epi lanmò wo nivo yon [gwo militant](#) ki se [Antoinette Duclaire](#) epi [journalis Diego Charles](#); batay san rete gang ak atak mete dife nan katye popilè ki koz plis pase [18,000 moun](#) kite kay yo; epi grav asasinay Jovenel Moïse lakay li nan lannwit 6-7 jiyè;

Lè nap konsidere jan pèp ayisyen an ap viv nan yon kondisyon ensekirite malouk ki fè li difisil pou li ale nan travay, epi gen yon kriz grangou ki ap gwosi; rekòlt yo echwe akoz chalè tanperati ki ap monte piwo akoz dezòd kap fèt sou klima a; vyolans gang yo bloke wout yo epi fèmen posibilite pou rive nan mache yo, epi plis pase 4.4 milyon moun pa gen ase manje pou yo manje chak jou;

Lè nap konsidere jan ka COVID yo ap ogmante, epi jan manke sekirite ak vyolans gang fè li enposib pou materyèl pou sove lavi yo rive jwenn lopital nan lòt pati nan peyi a pandan yo tou lakoz blokaj pi gwo depo gaz kapital la, ki lakoz anpil kote pa gen gaz nan moman an;

Nou mande kominote entènasyonal la pou kanpe solidè ak pèp ayisyen an ki ap mande pou:

1. **Yon solisyon ayisyen.** Ayisyen ta dwe pran kontwòl nan bati chemen an pou pi devan. Aktè etranje yo pa dwe enpoze solisyon apati de letranje. Menm anvan asasinay Moïse la, [òganizasyon ayisyen](#) yo te deja ap bati [konsansis](#) pou yon gouvènman tranzisyon. Gouvènman etranje yo ak enstitisyon entènasyonal yo pa dwe depase wòl yo pou yo deklare ki moun ki gen otorite an Ayiti, sitou lè sa gen kontradiksyon sou lalwa ayisyenn.

Nou bezwen sèlman gade misyon [MINUSTAH](#) ki sot pase a pou wè jan entèkansyon militè etranje yo pa rive kreye enstitisyon piblik demokratik dirab ki nesè pou nenpòt ki peyi fonksyone. Malgre yo fè 13 ane epi depanse 7 milya dola ki reprezante [10 fwa](#) PIB Ayiti a - misyon MINUSTAH kite Ayiti ak plis zam epi mwens demokrasi. Misyon an aflije sitwayen Ayiti yo ak eksplwatasyon seksyèl ak abi, kite dèyè [dè santèn](#) de pitit moun ki tap travay pou misyon nasyonzi, epi ki te responsab pou pote kolera an Ayiti, ki touye yon anviwon 10,000 moun.

2. **Yon angajman pou yon pwosesis demokratik kote tout moun patisipe.** Aprè plizyè dizèn lane entèkansyon etranje ak politik èd ki te destabilize Ayiti, chak branch nan gouvènman ayisyen an te sistematikman demantle, epi konfyans piblik la te gen nan gouvènans Ayiti prèske rive zero bare. Oganization ayisyen yo ak sosyete sivil la depi lontan ap mande pou yon [gouvènman tranzisyon](#) ki ka retabli estabilite, sekirite debaz, ak demokrasi. Ayiti dwe gen yon pwosesis tranzisyon nan lide pou rive rebati enstitisyon demokratik li yo, ak pwosesis sa a dwe gen patisipasyon tout sektè nan popilasyon an Ayiti.
3. **Asire kondisyon pou eleksyon rive fèt nan sans ki dwat, patisipatif, ak kredib yo an plas anvan yo prese Ayiti nan pran wout pou fè moun al vote.** Eleksyon se yon pati fondamantal nan pwosesis demokratik la. Men, yo dwe fèt lib epi san patipri de fason lejitim pou yo rive ranfòse demokrasi a. Eleksyon yo pap lib epi jis si tout moun ki ka vote pa gentan anrejistre alèz, yon konsèy elektoral endepandan epi lejitim, ak sekirite nesè non sèlman pou vote, men tou pou kanpay ka rive fèt jiskavan jou eleksyon yo. Yon patisipasyon solid ki mande pou fanm ak lòt gwoup majinalize patisipe tou nan pwosesis elektoral la. Yon mache prese pou fè eleksyon sou yon delè ki enpoze entènasyonalman riske pou plis degrade demokrasi an Ayiti.
4. **Pwoteksyon pou dwa libète lapawòl epi dwa a lavi.** Pandan twa dènye lane ki sot pase yo, tout pèp ayisyen te aprann jan pa gen sekirite; pa gen okenn garanti yo pral ka rantre lakay yo lè yo soti. Defansè dwa moun ak militan yo se souvan sib menas ak atak, epi moun ki travay nan bay swen sante esansyèl yo tonbe anba bal epi mouri nan ka kidnapin, atak ak vyolans gang. Vyolans ki baze sou sèks, ki gen ladan kadejak, te ogmante pandan kriz sa a, epi dè milye de fanm ak tifi te oblije deplase kite kay yo, ki vin rann yo plis vilnerab.

Twa zan de sa, nan dat 6-7 jiyè, 2018, prè yo te gonfle pou montre moun nan gouvènman an te vòlè plis pase \$ 2 milya dola nan kès leta, epi pri gaz yo te monte te pwovoke premye lansman nan yon seri de manifestasyon kont koripsyon ak enpinite. Gwo mobilizasyon Ayisyen tout kalite ki soti nan tout kouch sosyal ak politik te mache ansanm pou mande met kòd nan bra moun ki patisipe nan move zak sa yo epi mande pou demokrasi tabli. Moun sa yo te viktim anpil zak represyon brital nan men gouvènman an epi endiferans nan kominote entènasyonal la.

Gen [18 masak](#) ki dokimante nan Pòtoprens pandan twa dènye lane sa yo. Moun ki komèt krim yo te vize katye ki pi chofe nan manifestasyon opozisyon a gouvènman an, epi jiska jounen jodia a, moun sa yo pa janm ko rekonèt koupab pou zak sa yo. Gwoup dwa moun yo te rive dokimante koneksyon ant kèk ofisyèl nan gouvènman ak gwoup ame ki responsab nan masak sa yo, pami moun sa yo gen Moïse ak lòt minis gouvènman an. Gen kèk moun ki ale pi lwen pou di jan kalite masak sa yo se [krim kont limanite](#).

5. **Rekonèt kijan entèkansyon etranje kontribye nan kondisyon aktyèl yo an Ayiti.** Pandan anpil moun ap rele Ayiti yon "eta fayi", sa nou wè se echèk plizyè syèk move politik enpoze sou Ayiti pa kominote entènasyonal la, ki gen ladan politik èd, ki priyorite enterè etranje ak pwogrè ti bout tan devan demokrasi dirab ak pwosperite pou Ayisyen. Tranblemandetè 2010 la se te yon opòtinite pou rebati Ayiti avèk enstitisyon piblik solid. Men, sa ki te rive pito sè ke dè santèn de milyon èd dola te ale nan men enstitisyon etranje ak ONG, olye yo te ale jwenn administrasyon piblik Ayiti.

Pou yon Ayiti djanm,

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