



## Call for international mobilization in defense of the rights of the Haitian people

### STOP SILENCE HAÏTI

" No, it is not possible. Can we desert the earth, can we turn our back on it, can we divorce it, without also losing its reason for existence and the use of its hands and taste for living? "

Jacques Roumain

#### The current situation

Since July 2018 and on many occasions, in a context of deteriorating rights and living conditions, Haitians have mobilized with force and courage against a type of governance that widely practices corruption and abuse of power. Authoritarianism and repression were among the main responses of Jovenel Moïse's government.

In two years, the situation has worsened in terms of access to basic social services (education, health, electricity, etc.) as well as economic and income-generating activities and the rule of law. The current situation is characterized by corruption, terror and impunity.

- **Corruption:** The Superior Court of Accounts and Administrative Litigation (CSCCA) documented the mismanagement and embezzlement of the 1.459 billion euros from the Petrocaribe agreement, intended for development projects. Haitian businessmen as well as the political class, including Jovenel Moïse himself, are involved.
- **Terror:** proliferation, the reinforcement and convergence of armed gangs, some of which are linked to the government. They are lethal and they perpetrated at least four massacres (the last one, at the end of August-early September 2020). The deadliest massacre is that of La Saline, where at least 71 people, including women and children, were killed on the night of November 13 to 14, 2018. National and international investigations have pointed out the responsibility of a former police officer, Jimmy Chérisier, alias "Barbecue", as well as the relations between armed gangs and the government.
- **Impunity:** The Petrocaribe scandal demonstrates not only the severity, but also the systematic nature of corruption, which feeds and reinforces impunity. No progress in the investigations on corruption and human rights violations, no trials on the horizon. Investigations have stalled, the massacres go unpunished, and the victims are without recourse.

Yet, the predictions are very worrying, given the president's desire to seize power by organizing elections and reforming the Constitution. In recent weeks, Haiti hits rock bottom with the assassination of the President of the Bar of Port-au-Prince, Me Monferrier Dorval, the Bel-Air massacre, and the unconstitutional establishment of a Provisional Electoral Council ( CEP) to hasten the holding of elections, which, under the current conditions, cannot be done freely nor legitimately.

## **What support have Haitians been able to count on so far?**

The international community? The United States supports the current government, while the other countries and international bodies of the Core Group, including the European Union (EU), do not differ from American politics. And all are calling for a consensual solution whereas there is already a very broad consensus in Haiti against the current president.

International civil society? The Haitian struggle has received very little response and relay in the international press and in the work of NGOs, associations and other actors; in any case, far below the severity of the situation and the solidarity that could have been expected.

## **What do we want?**

We want to break the silence, the indifference and the conspiracy that stifle the voices of Haitians, by calling for international mobilization in solidarity with Haiti. We intend to make heard the voice of the civil society in Haiti, to show our solidarity with its actors, to reaffirm the sovereignty of Haitians, to trigger a surge in Western countries, and to change the international policy that provides unconditional support to the government of Jovenel Moïse. .

It is a challenge to all those who clearly want to express their disagreement with the violation of the rights of Haitians, perpetrated by the government, with the support of the international community.

We want to carry out different forms of intervention, call for multiple initiatives. The most urgent thing is to bring together international associative actors around a position to demand the end of impunity in Haiti and denounce the masquerade of elections, for which no conditions (technical, legal, democratic) are met. In this regard, we will submit to you in the coming days a petition to be signed.

## **Are you on our side?**

This international mobilization for Haiti will have an impact only by relying on the strength and networks of all those who decide to get involved. If you want to be a part of it, please send an email at the following address: [STOPSILENCEHAITI@gmail.com](mailto:STOPSILENCEHAITI@gmail.com)

We will create a mailing list, which can be used to relay all the mobilizations, the progress of each of us, the networking.

For each mobilization that will be proposed to you or that you'll propose, we will ask each organization to agree to be a co-signatory of these calls for mobilization. The goal being that the list of co-signatories can grow rapidly to testify to the importance of the movement, to attract the attention of the media, to intensify the pressure that we want to / can exert with and for Haitians.

By next week, a first international mobilization will be sent to you. You will then have one week after receiving it to express your willingness to be a co-signer.

Please do not hesitate to send this document to all those who also wish to support Haitians and the respect for human rights.

**« Unity is our strength »!**

Frédéric Thomas, CETRI  
Geneviève FUKS, GEOMOUN  
Cécile NUYT, GEOMOUN