

UNDERSTANDING THE MECHANISMS OF THE MANUFACTURING OF MISERY AND DISTRESS OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE AND THE NEED FOR CONCRETE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY.

Today, globalized capitalism presents us with threats of all kinds and new challenges that must be tackled in solidarity in order to preserve the future of humanity. Indeed, the possibility of extinction of the planet challenges the conscience of the entire human community and reminds us that we are all on board, wherever we live, the same boat. (The coronavirus crisis that affected the whole human community, the problem of global warming are, among others, so many examples that eloquently illustrate this fact). In this context, as the philosopher Marie Claude Blais asserts, *“At a time of globalization, more than ever we will have to show solidarity... today we have reasons to be sensitive to the global dimension of solidarity... we form one single humanity and we are in solidarity with all our contemporaries as well as all future generations.”*¹

In the case of peoples in distress, the fulfillment of this duty of solidarity with other peoples, members of the human community and sharing a common destiny, is essential. Today the Haitian people are in a situation of enormous distress, planned state insecurity, unheard-of violence and cynically organized terror. We urgently need an active -long overdue- solidarity given the gravity of this situation. And that is why we are launching this vibrant appeal for genuine international solidarity, and not an appeal for humanitarian aid that sinks Haiti rather than helps it out. The solidarity that we are asking for is solidarity in the dimension of collective responsibility, reciprocity of obligations, and mutual debt. To facilitate, on a global scale, an awareness of the gravity of the situation and the need to act quickly in solidarity with Haiti, we make it our duty to briefly outline the state of the situation.

For about ten (10) years, the embassies of Global North countries,² through the Core Group,³ and a fraction of the local bourgeoisie have installed in Haiti, through rigged elections, a mafia political regime, operating totally outside the basic norms of public morals and ethics. What characterizes it fundamentally is the systematic violation of the fundamental rights of the population (right to life, to well-being, trade union rights, etc.), the constant use of lies, theft, generalized and trivialized corruption, without forgetting the practices of targeted assassinations, kidnappings and the organization of repeated massacres in disadvantaged neighborhoods. In addition to this, the establishment of gangs, which are now federated with the complicity of a powerful fringe of the international community and part of the mafia bourgeoisie, is now a reality. All of this poses a real threat to the present and the future of Haiti.

It should be noted that in less than ten (10) years, the corrupt *Tèt Kale* regime and other state leaders who preceded them looted more than \$4 billion (US) from the PetroCaribe funds (set up through an Agreement signed between Venezuela and Haiti in 2006 and implemented since 2008)- without counting other sums plundered from the public treasury every year through the

¹ [Marie-Claude Blais, *La solidarité*, https://www.cairn.info/revue-le-telemaque-2008-1-page-9.htm#](https://www.cairn.info/revue-le-telemaque-2008-1-page-9.htm#)

² Principally the United States of America, Canada, and France.

³ The Core Group is composed of the Special Representative of the United Nations, the Special Representative of the Organization of American States, the Ambassadors of the United States of America, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Spain, and Brazil.

national budget.⁴ Recall that this vast looting took place after the squandering of the funds entrusted to the *Interim Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti* (ICRH),⁵ a commission led by the team of Bill Clinton and Jean Max Bellerive in charge of the management of said funds after the 2010 earthquake that caused approximately three hundred thousand (300,000) deaths and over one million five hundred thousand (1,500,000) homeless people in Haiti. Yet, Bill Clinton and former Haitian Prime Minister Jean Max Bellerive, who headed the ICRH as well as other local and international mafia actors who squandered this money, have so far not been held accountable to the people. Worse, they managed not to have to ever be accountable. This is why the Clinton couple (Bill and Hillary) played an important role in the ascension of Joseph Michel Martelly to power as President of Haiti (May 2011-February 2016) in order to obtain the guarantee of total impunity and continue to plunder the country's resources. In this same perspective, this local and international mafia team is doing everything to ensure, after the upcoming departure of Jovenel Moïse, the official return to power of Joseph Michel Martelly in order to continue the looting process and thus guarantee their impunity.

More than ten (10) years after the earthquake, as corruption flourishes and is normalized within the state apparatus, the housing problem that ICRH was supposed to help solve still persists. Several thousand families continue to live in tents awaiting this reconstruction entrusted to the team of Clinton and Bellerive. In addition, the relatives of the thousands of victims of the deadly cholera introduced into Haiti by UN soldiers the same year of the earthquake have not yet been compensated by the said organization, which, on the contrary, seeks to flee its responsibilities towards them.

It should be noted that the population faces a situation of acute precariousness. The following figures speak volumes: among the country's health institutions, 46.76% are private, 37.21% public and 16.03% are mixed.⁶ In public hospitals, health workers do not always have the necessary equipment to provide quality care to the population. In addition, the essential health workforce is 6.34 per 10,000 inhabitants. This number is well below the minimum established by the *World Health Organization* (WHO) of 25 per 10,000 inhabitants. As for the number of hospital beds, Haiti only has 6.86 beds per 10,000 inhabitants.⁷

In addition, the educational situation worsened under the PHTK regime. The relative share of the budget towards education has dropped significantly. From 17% in 2015, it fell to 9.6% in 2020. Yet, the State has less than 10% of schools in a country where more than 70% of the population is unemployed and therefore unable to pay the often high school fees for their children. In such a case, education, which is a common good, becomes a commodity, accessible only to those with purchasing power.

In the meantime, the living conditions of the population have continued to deteriorate with alarming speed, particularly due to the abandonment of the State, the opening of the market, the

⁴ For example, in several budgets under the administration of Jovenel Moïse - including that of 2017-2018 described as criminal by many sectors in the country, amounts of the order of ...% are distributed under unclear headings entitled " Other general services ", " Other community services " to hide mismanagement.

⁵ Former U.S. President Bill Clinton and Haitian Prime Minister at the time, Jean-Max Bellerive co-chaired the Interim Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti (after the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010)

⁶ Ministère de la santé publique et de la population (MSPP), *Liste des institutions sanitaires du pays*, avril 2015.

⁷ MSPP, *Rapport statistique 2016*, octobre 2017.

excessive devaluation of the national currency, the dizzyingly increased prices for basic necessities, which have almost tripled in record time. Over 6 million people (out of a population of nearly 12 million) live in food insecurity. Unemployment, poverty, corruption, disregard for the basic rights of the population, systematic repression ... are growing alarmingly. Added to all this, are organized insecurity, State massacres perpetrated in fragilized neighborhoods, each one of them causing the death of dozens of our compatriots.

It should be noted that the various massacres committed in the districts of La Saline, Tokyo, Carrefour-Feuilles, Bel-Air, Pont Rouge, Cité Soleil, Shada 2 (in Cap-Haitien), among others, were done with the complicity of local and international allies of the power in place who took the opportunity to establish armed gangs in various geographic Departments of the country. Curiously enough, this revolting and indignant situation, which has worsened further with the coronavirus crisis, has not caught the attention of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Haiti, Helen Meagher La Lime, who failed to mention such facts and crimes in the "Report" presented on June 19 before the UN Security Council. This omission, pointing to their complicity, was emphasized in an article titled "**HAITI AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY: BETWEEN DENIAL AND COMPLICITY**," published by Frédéric Thomas, on July 2, 2020 (Tricontinental Center (CETRI)⁸). He states: "*Less than a month after the Pont Rouge massacre, Helen La Lime Meagher spoke of 'the hard-won gains in security and development over the past fifteen years.'*"⁹ He adds that "*This denial of the increase in poverty (affecting more than 59% of the population), insecurity, corruption and high cost of living sounded like a slap in the face of Haitians.*"¹⁰

In addition, various reports presented by various human rights organizations make it clear that the massacres were orchestrated by authorities at the highest level of the State and thugs working for the criminal and corrupt PHTK regime currently in power. According to an investigative report by a human rights organization, RNDDH,¹¹ published on June 23, 2020, the ruling team united armed gangs and their allies under the name *G9 an fanmi e alye* (G9 in family and allyship). Arrest warrants have been issued against some gang leaders¹² for the massacres carried out, but these warrants have so far been unsuccessful due to their direct connection with those in power. According to the report, gang leaders sometimes have National Police armored vehicles available to carry out massacres. Another human rights institution, FJKL,¹³ confirmed, in a

⁸ The Tricontinental Center (CETRI), a non-governmental organization based in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), is a research, publication and documentation center on development and North-South relations. The CETRI aims to make voices heard from the South and to contribute to a critical reflection on the dominant conceptions and practices of development ...

⁹ Frédéric Thomas, **HAÏTI ET LA COMMUNAUTÉ INTERNATIONALE : ENTRE DÉNI ET COMPLICITÉ**, <https://www.cetri.be/Haiti-et-la-communaute?lang=fr>

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Réseau National De Défense Des Droits Humains (<http://rnddh.org/>, rnddh@rnddh.org), « Attaques contre les quartiers défavorisés : Le RNDDH exige la fin de la protection des gangs armés par les autorités au pouvoir », 23 juin 2020.

¹² Among them, Jimmy Chérisier, a former police officer who is the subject of an arrest warrant. This gang leader is identified as one of the authors of the La Saline massacre, together with Pierre Richard Duplan (the former Delegate of the Department of Ouest) and Fednel Monchéry (the then Director General of the Ministry of interior and local authorities).

¹³ Fondasyon Je Klere (<https://fjkl.org.ht/>), « *Terreur dans les quartiers populaires / Pont Rouge au cœur d'une stratégie électorale macabre : La Fondasyon Je Klere (FJKL) tire la sonnette d'alarme* », 22 juin 2020.

report dated June 22, 2020, the existence of very good relations between state authorities and armed gangs. According to the report, gangsterization is part of an electoral strategy to keep the current PHTK regime in power. It should be noted that two (2) leaders of the PHTK regime, Pierre Richard Duplan (ex Delegate for the Department of Ouest)¹⁴ and the former Director General of the Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities, Fednel Monchéry, are indexed in reports as being involved in the massacre organized in La Saline in November 2018. These two leaders are covered, like the gang leader Jimmy Chérisier, by the protection of the PHTK regime. Frédéric Thomas confirms this by indicating the following: *“On November 13, 2018, armed groups, linked to public authorities, carried out a massacre in La Saline, a popular district of Port-au-Prince, killing 59 people. Reports from the UN and local human rights organizations pointed to the State’s responsibility. But, the investigation has stopped, and the violence has amplified and normalized. What’s more, the main organizer, former policeman Jimmy Chérisier, aka “Barbecue,” is at the center of yet another massacre.”*¹⁵

In fact, these state-sponsored assassins continue to sow mourning everywhere and with impunity. This is evidenced by the latest serial cases of assassination in recent days in the Haitian capital. On the evening of Friday August 28, 2020, the Chairperson of the Port-au-Prince Bar Association, Monferrier Dorval was coldly shot in the parking lot of his house located a few meters from the residence of the accused President Jovenel Moïse. The day after the assassination, the President's residence, the scene of the crime that was already under judicial control, was vandalized. Many wonder, perplexed, how assassins could afford to enter this highly secure residential area and commit such a crime without being worried or even apprehended? The day before, at least three people including two businessmen and a radio host were murdered within hours of each other. In the specific case of Chairman Dorval, do these assassins, like Jimmy Chérisier, benefit from the protection of the power in place or were they on a mission?

This crime is akin, according to more than one, to a planned crime of the State. A source close to the Chairman of the Bar, who requested anonymity for fear of reprisal, told the Rezonòdwès online agency that: *“Me. Dorval, contacted by the National Palace, categorically refused to send a representative of the Bar to sit on the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP).”*¹⁶ *He said Jovenel Moïse was furious at Monferrier Dorval's insistence on staying out of the formation of his unconstitutional CEP.”*¹⁷ Is it this refusal that would have earned him this fate? Note that this administration continues despite everything to benefit from the unconditional support of the Core Group, the UN and the US government in particular.

Faced with this indecent and shameful situation of deep complicity between a fringe of the International and the corrupt and criminal PHTK administration that causes so much harm to the desperate Haitian population, after having caused, until recent days, so many gratuitous losses in human lives, the author of the aforementioned article wonders: *“How many massacres will it take*

¹⁴ The Departmental Delegate is the representative of the President of the Republic in the Department. As for the General Managers, they are directly appointed by the Chairman.

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ <https://reznodwes.com/2020/08/29/monferrier-dorval-aurait-categoriquement-refuse-a-jovenel-moise-lenvoi-de-tout-representant-au-sein-de-son-cep-dermalog-illegal-inconstitutionnel/>

¹⁷ Ibid

to lift the mask of indifference and cynicism, to recognize in beheadings and burnt bodies the mirror of international diplomacy? For the press to talk about it, for public opinion to be moved, for policies to change? "

It should be noted in passing that the hostile, racist attitude or unspeakable indifference of the former enslaving colonial and racist powers, which have now become imperialist powers, vis-à-vis Haiti, stems from historical fears and resentments not yet digested and outdated after more than two centuries. Indeed, "*The triumph of the Haitian Revolution in 1804, which gave birth to the Haitian State and ended the slavery-based system of production, exploitation and domination, marks a decisive turning point in the history of humanity. This exceptional event, considered by some to be the greatest of the 19th century, greatly worried the enslaving colonial and racist powers of the moment who united against this new State. Haiti's presence in the concert of nations has been very frowned upon and unwelcomed by these powers, who see it as a real threat that must be averted at all costs,*"¹⁸ argues Josué Merilien.

Also, the idea that Haiti represented a danger continues to gain ground even today and largely motivates this hateful, unfavorable, insensitive posture of a greater part of the international community in relation to Haiti. Ricardo Seitenfus, former OAS representative in Haiti, understood this very well when he wrote: "*Historically, Haiti has generally been seen as a threat, by part of the international system. This explains why its relationship with the world is defined by force and never by dialogue.*"¹⁹

Christiane TAUBIRA pointed out that this striking indifference, while at the same time highlighting what Haiti represents for the world and Black people in particular. "*It is not to me alone that the people of Ayiti opened the avenues for a world of justice and brotherhood. It was also to the Black world, as a whole, which recognized the first Independent Republic, torn and then codified by former slaves, built in the morgue of the colonial empire. It was also a gift for the oppressed world in its quest for references and models in a universe not only hostile, but which, as Frantz Fanon asserted, had already seized hold of his past to disfigure and distort it.*"²⁰

The French historian, Jean-Pierre Le Glaunec, author of the book *L'armée indigène : la défaite de Napoléon en Haïti* (The native army: the defeat of Napoleon in Haiti), examines the systematic erasure of the Battle of Vertières of November 18, 1803, resulting in the capitulation of the French army and the independence of Haiti in 1804. He explains how the marginalization of Haiti was made possible by the simple fact of the deliberate refusal to speak, in the history books, of Haiti or great heroic moments in its history, particularly the Battle of Vertières marking, according to the author and others, the triumph of the right to life, liberty and citizenship, and therefore human rights. Yet in the land of Human Rights, the Battle of Vertières is completely eclipsed in order to mask the defeat of the Napoleonic army in Haiti. He stresses

¹⁸ Josué Mérielien, Haïti, *Education à la citoyenneté : Enjeux et perspectives*, ed. Les Engagés, Rotterdam, 2018, p.

¹⁹ Ricardo Seitenfus, *L'échec de l'aide internationale à Haïti, Dilemmes et égarements*, ed de l'Université d'Etat d'Haïti, P-au-P, 2015, p. 25

²⁰ www.cadtm.org/Lettre-de-Christiane-Taubira-au-Peuple-d-Ayiti

that: "*The word Vertières is a word that does not exist in French history and memory ... This defeat has been hidden, erased ... it is scandalous ...*"²¹

Just as there is a clear desire to obscure the remarkable history of Haiti or this extraordinary page of our history, there is also an obvious desire to distort the current outrageous Haitian reality or to block all circulation of exact information about the matter. This, in order to prevent the rest of the world from really understanding what is happening in Haiti, to fully grasp the responsibility of the imperialist powers and that of the local elites in this alarming situation of distress of the Haitian people and to be able to bring, in return, concrete solidarity.

In this sense, this powerful branch of the International has managed to gain the complicit silence of the International Press, which is careful not to disseminate all the information necessary for a real understanding of the Haitian situation. So, helping us today to reverse this harmful trend, this detrimental situation and to define other types of relationships with the International to allow Haiti to take its course, is necessary for this anticipated concrete solidarity. Because, among other things, this represents one of the conditions to make Haiti's launch possible.

Frédéric Thomas, in the same vein, points out this powerful fringe of the international community's responsibility in this situation of planned violence, and therefore in the current drama of the Haitian people who fight for the significant and real improvement of their life conditions. The Haitian people have already undertaken a lot to achieve freedom from the corrupt and criminal PHTK regime as well as the corruption system put in place to the detriment of the population, and which rather serves the interests of a certain international community and a certain Haitian mafia bourgeoisie who intend to preserve the status quo and try at all costs to break the struggle for well-being and delay the assured victory of the people. Frédéric Thomas believes that: "*The international is one of the strongest links in impunity in Haiti. And we will not get rid of that responsibility with a new batch of peacekeepers and humanitarian aid. The current violence is fueled and instrumentalized by a government which, without the support of the international 'community,' would have already fallen under pressure from the streets.*"

It is worth recalling the widespread protest movements of July 6, 7 and 8, 2018, the major street demonstrations in October and November of the same year, bringing together three to four million demonstrators. This vast movement of mobilization was relayed and reinforced by the young PetroChallengers, mobilized all over the country to denounce corruption, the massacres and so many other crimes perpetrated and to demand the immediate departure of the accused President Jovenel Moïse and the indictment of the criminals of the PHTK regime.

Today, faced with the population who continues to demand better living conditions: justice, freedom of expression, security, arrest of the corrupt, respect for the right to life, fundamental rights, etc., the mafia team in power responds by violence and systematic repression. We have for proof the brutal police repressions exerted and the eight illegal arrests carried out during the demonstration of May 18, 2020, demonstrations carried out by a coalition against, in particular, corruption, hunger, insecurity and the mismanagement of the health crisis by the government. Then came the violent police repressions exerted on June 29, 2020 during the sit-in organized by

²¹ <https://parolenarchipel.wordpress.com/2014/11/13/lhistoire-meconnue-de-la-defaite-de-napoleon-en-haiti-tv5monde/>

the group of PetroChallengers²² "*Nou Pap Dòmi* " in front the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to denounce insecurity and to demand the respect for the right to life, without forgetting the brutal dispersal with tear gas and gunshots of the protest activities of teachers, PetroChallengers and other trade union and popular organizations on July 6 and 7, 2020. While the police brutally repressed these two days of mobilization, they allowed armed gangs to march freely and with impunity, during the day of July 7, through the streets of the capital brandishing assault weapons under the watchful eye of National Police and United Nations agents.

This leads us to conclude that the PHTK team supported by BINUH and the Core Group²³ are planning the descent into hell of the Haitian population in extreme distress. But, the Haitian people do not intend to concede respect for their fundamental rights to the apprentice dictator Jovenel Moïse or to his mafia allies ...

Local and international human rights organizations, trade unions, political, social and popular organizations around the world, international figures sensitive to the rights and interests of peoples, international activists, Nobel Peace Prize winners, political and intellectual figures from around the world, Representatives of the High Council for International Cooperation and Solidarity, peoples in struggle,

The Haitian people intend to pursue their legitimate struggle towards salvation to the end and count on the active solidarity of all of you and ask you to take a stand as soon as you are informed of this astounding situation of daily distress. As Desmond Tutu rightly considers "*if you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have taken the oppressor's side because neutrality always helps the oppressor, never the victim.*"

In the name of **international solidarity**, we invite you to take into account the gravity of the infernal and indignant situation of disregard for fundamental rights, injustice, impunity, inequality, planned state insecurity, systematic repression and therefore to undertake, in favor of the Haitian people left to their own devices, a set of solidarity actions including the organization of international information campaigns on the current situation, letters of denunciation, sit-ins in front of the various embassies of the Core Group member countries ...

The Haitian people are in a situation of extreme distress. Like George Floyd, the country has on its neck the powerful and heavy knees of the government of Donald Trump, among others, through Ms. Michèle J. Sison, U.S Ambassador to Haiti; as well as those of the UN through the U.S. American, Helen Meagher La Lime, UN representative in Haiti and finally those of the other members of the Core Group. We therefore urgently need the solidarity of brotherly and sisterly peoples and of all men and women of good will to not to be asphyxiated.

²² This is the name claimed by actors and actresses of a vast citizen movement launched in August 2018 following a hashtag posted on socio-digital networks by a filmmaker under the name of "PetroCaribeChallenge" asking where is the PetroCaribe money.

²³ It is the name of a group in Haiti composed of the Special Representative of the United Nations, the Special Representative of the Organization of American States, the Ambassadors of the United States, France, Canada, the European Union , Germany, Spain and Brazil.

Brotherly and sisterly peoples, celebrities, internationalist activists, representatives of trade unions, social organizations, artists from all over the world, the Haitian people cry out for help: **our oppressors are suffocating us...** Get furious, and get involved! Act now before the worst comes!