

**National Human Rights Defense Network  
(RNDDH)**

Membre de la  
**fidh**

**A catastrophic human rights situation from January to March 2024:**

**RNDDH alerts the public**

**April 10, 2024**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. During the first quarter of 2024, the general human rights situation in Haiti remained very worrying.
2. Attacks on life and property, as well as acts of violence, were perpetrated against the civilian population, who had been handed over to armed bandits by the state authorities. In addition, the West department plunged into chaos at the end of February 2024 and is still struggling to recover.
3. The aim of this document is to encourage the adoption of immediate and appropriate measures to rectify the situation.

## **II. EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2024**

4. On December 21, 2022, Prime Minister Ariel HENRY, having noted with his allies the non-application of the September 2021 agreement, signed another agreement, giving him more powers and creating a three-member High Transitional Council (HCT).
5. He then promises to tackle the major challenges facing the country, including insecurity and deteriorating social and humanitarian conditions. He also pledged to undertake major reforms such as constitutional and economic reform, and finally, he offered a guarantee to organize free and fair elections in 2023, with the aim of handing over the reins of the country to an elected president on February 7, 2024.
6. Throughout 2023, however, Dr. Ariel HENRY and his government are criticized for doing nothing to restore order and security in the country. Armed bandits continue to extend their tentacles. They control more and more territories and are cornering the Haitian people.
7. Thus, from January to December 2023, the security situation is catastrophic in the West department. It is also very worrying in other departments such as Artibonite, Centre and Grand'Anse. Combined reports from the Episcopal National Justice and Peace Commission (CE-JILAP) and RNDDH reveal the murder of at least one thousand and forty-seven (1,047) people, including forty-three (43) police officers, and the perpetration of at least ten (10) massacres and at least fourteen (14) sporadic armed attacks. In addition, at least thirteen (13) police stations and/or fixed and mobile patrols were attacked by armed bandits. And, according to the feminist organization Nègès Mawon, at least two (2) women are murdered by their partners,

and over one thousand one hundred and sixty-nine (1,169) women and girls are victims of sexual violence.

8. Also in 2023, talks between political parties and civil society to find a Haitian solution to the crisis failed, as Prime Minister Ariel HENRY, with the unwavering support of the international community until then, was determined to run the country as he saw fit.

9. So, it's no surprise that the elections didn't take place.

10. From the beginning of 2024, the Haitian population questioned the Prime Minister's real determination to organize the elections, since he himself stated that the country's security situation was not conducive to organize the elections. Yet he and his government have taken no effective measures to improve the situation. On the contrary, he is banking on the deployment of a multinational force, which has been requested since October 7, 2022, and for which the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution on October 2, 2023.

11. An increasing number of citizens are demanding the departure of the Prime Minister, who they believe will never improve the country's security situation, since it is the deterioration of this situation that keeps him in power.

12. From February 5 to 9, 2024, protests were organized in several of the country's departments. The authorities immediately reacted with inexcusable violence. Loss of life, bullet wounds and police brutality were recorded. Demonstrators and journalists were among the victims.

13. The Prime Minister remains in power, however, and continues to steer the country to the brink of collapse.

14. On February 23, 2024, unexpectedly, the public learns from the Venezuelan authorities that the government of Ariel HENRY has just paid five hundred million (500,000,000) US dollars to Venezuela in payment of the PetroCaribe debt. While this information was making waves, on February 25, 2024, the Prime Minister left for Guyana, to take part in the 46th ordinary meeting of CARICOM Heads of State and Government. Following this meeting, Bahamian Prime Minister Philip DAVIS declared that Ariel HENRY was committed to holding general elections no later than August 31, 2025, a declaration considered a provocation in Haitian political circles.

15. On February 29, 2024, Ariel HENRY travels to Kenya to negotiate the Multinational Security Support Mission (MMAS), for whose deployment Kenyan President William RUTO expects payment of two hundred and thirty million (230,000,000) US dollars.

16. On March 1, 2024, a bilateral agreement was signed between Kenya and Haiti. The satisfied Prime Minister begins his return trip. However, he would not enter the country, as armed bandits had decided to sow chaos in Port-au-Prince and surrounding communes since February 29, 2024. Indeed, from February 29 to March 3, 2024, the two (2) coalitions of armed gangs G-9 An Fanmi e Alye and G Pèp, hitherto rivals, grouped around a federation called Viv Ansanm, decided to demonstrate their power. They sowed terror in Port-au-Prince and neighboring communes and demanded the departure of the government headed by Ariel HENRY. The Prime Minister's trip was thus transformed into an exile.

17. Discussions then began on setting up a Presidential Transitional Council (PTC). CARICOM led the talks and, at the end of a day of negotiations held in a hybrid format both in Jamaica and online, on March 11, 2024, Haitian political and civil society players agreed to give the country a nine-member Council, including seven (7) with voting status and two (2) observers. Following this meeting, in a pre-recorded message, Ariel HENRY undertakes to hand over the reins of the country to the CPT and remains in place to liquidate current affairs.

18. On March 28, 2024, the Council is assembled. Its composition was as follows.

- Régine ABRAHAM
- Smith AUGUSTIN
- Edgard Leblanc FILS
- Louis Gérald GILLES
- Fritz Alphonse JEAN
- Frinel JOSEPH
- Laurent SAINT-CYR
- Emmanuel VERTILAIRE
- Leslie VOLTAIRE

19. At the same time, the Haitian population, held hostage by armed bandits, is suffering enormously. In addition to the insecurity they face, their economic and humanitarian situation is deteriorating daily. Public transport is becoming excessively expensive due to the toll booths set up by the armed bandits. Foodstuffs are not circulating. Schools do not function in areas of the country controlled by armed bandits. Terror is also maintained by threatening messages, each more frightening than the last, inviting the population to stay at home to avoid being targeted by armed bandits.

20. Such is the context of socio-political chaos and denial of human rights in which the first quarter of 2024 unfolded in Haiti.

### **III. ACTS AGAINST LIFE AND PROPERTY**

#### **a) Persons killed**

21. For the period from January to March 2024, at least two hundred and eight (208) people were murdered. The bodies of fifty-five (55) of these victims were found by local residents. A number of cases caught RNDDH's attention:

22. On January 6, 2024, seven (7) passengers aboard a sailboat near Village Alpha, between Mariani and Gressier, were killed by armed men operating in Mariani.

23. On January 7, 2024, nine (9) partially charred bodies were found on a landfill site at Rue Pierre Anselme, Delmas 19. Among these bodies, that of Remy BRUNEL was identified by his wife;

24. On the night of January 8 to 9, 2024, in Bassin-Bleu, spouses Alfred DESTIMA and Mureille GUERRIER, who had just closed their store, were decapitated by armed bandits;

25. Early in the morning of January 9, 2024, in Christ-Roi, two (2) bodies were discovered by local residents;

26. On January 18, 2024, in Delmas 24 Roselaure MIZAINE was killed by armed bandits. She was thirty (30) years old;

27. On January 21, 2024, in Croix-des-Bouquets, Joanès DUME was murdered by armed bandits. The victim was in his car;

28. On January 22, 2024, Litherné RAYMOND, aged twenty-seven (27), Jackson DOLL, aged twenty-five (25), and Mackendy, thus known, were murdered in Jérémie in a shootout orchestrated by armed individuals in a vehicle;

29. On January 24, 2024, in Baryè Batan on Route Nationale # 1, in the Artibonite department, four (4) people, including the driver, were murdered in a minibus by members of the Kokorat san Ras armed gang;

30. On February 1, 2024, early in the morning, six (6) bodies were discovered in the streets of Port-au-Prince, including two (2) in the Rue Caroline Christ-Roi area and four (4) in Rue du Centre, downtown;

31. On February 6, 2024, an armed attack was carried out on the Ouanaminthe police station. During the attack, one (1) young man was killed, and several other people were injured;
32. On February 6, 2024, in Mirebalais, during an exchange of fire between PNH officers and the Protected Areas Security Brigade (BSAP), one (1) person was killed;
33. On February 7, 2024, in Laboule 12, one (1) man in civilian clothes was murdered. He was later identified as a BSAP agent;
34. On February 7, 2024, in Laboule 12, on the road leading to Kenscoff, five (5) BSAP agents were shot dead in cold blood by police officers. They were Daniel ZEPHIRIN, Mackendy VIEILLARD, Jean Fontange DORVIL, Chrisner DESIR and Thomas CLERSAINT. Three (3) others were arrested. They are: Lanio HERVE, Sindia PAUL and Clerty CLERNIUS. The vehicle carrying the BSAP agents was confiscated by the police. RNDDH subsequently spoke to the BSAP agents then being held at the Central Directorate of the Judicial Police (DCPJ), who confirmed that there were two (2) distinct groups of agents: a first group of seven (7) agents, of whom the five (5) mentioned above were executed, and another group of fifteen (15) agents, of whom fourteen (14) were executed;
35. On February 8, 2024, in Boudette, Les Cayes, during an intervention by the Departmental Unit of Maintenance of Order (UDMO) to unblock streets that had been barricaded by demonstrators, Roosevelt CONSTANT, alias Tipa, was shot in the head. He was at home;
36. On February 12, 2024, Jean MICHEL, a member of the Council of Assembly of the Communal Sections (CASEC) of the 10th section of Carrefour, was lynched by the population, following accusations that he was an informer for armed men who had invaded La Rivière-Froide, a locality of Carrefour;
37. On the afternoon of February 14, 2024, more than five (5) people were murdered in Portail Léogane by armed men in a car. Among the victims was Jonathan JASMIN, a photographer known by the nickname Diamond Pic.
38. On the afternoon of February 18, 2024, in Morne-à-Cabris, the driver and nine (9) other people were killed and eight (8) were wounded by bullets while on board a public transport bus on the Port-au-Prince / Mirebalais route;
39. On February 19, 2024, in Bouc-Champagne, a locality in Pétion-ville, five (5) lifeless bodies were discovered by local residents;

40. On February 21, 2024, in the South-East, a young man aged twenty-six (26) was killed and another injured by a female PNH officer who had attacked a mentally ill man;
41. On the afternoon of February 26, 2024, at the corner of Rues de l'Enterrement and Louis Joseph Janvier, one (1) man was murdered by armed individuals;
42. On February 29, 2024, at Rue Cameau, two (2) merchants were killed at Avenue Magloire Amboise during an attack orchestrated by armed bandits;
43. On March 5, 2024, Sergeant Fourrier Joseph ORIL was hit in the head by a stray bullet and died immediately. He was on the premises of the Forces Armées d'Haïti headquarters on Champ de Mars, not far from Place des Martyrs;
44. On March 9, 2024, in Ruelle Chavannes, Jeff DESHOMMES alias "Degoutan" was shot dead. He was a singer;
45. On March 13, 2024, a BSAP agent was murdered in Laboule 14 by individuals on motorcycles. He was not far from his home;
46. On March 13, 2024, in Léogane, unidentified armed individuals burst into the operating room of Hôpital Sainte Croix and executed an eighty (80)-year-old patient, known in the area by the nickname Kòk. ;
47. On March 13, 2024, in Bellevue 3, Pétion-ville, a seven (7)-year-old child was hit by a stray bullet and died;
48. On March 18, 2024, in Laboule and Thomassin, several people were killed, and others wounded by bullets fired by armed individuals. Among the victims was Esther TURNIER, presented as one of the leaders of the Collège Classique Féminin (C.C.F.);
49. Early in the morning of March 18, 2024, fifteen (15) bodies were discovered by local residents in several Pétion-Ville neighborhoods;
50. On March 20, 2024, seven (7) lifeless bodies were discovered in Pétion-Ville;
51. On March 21, 2024, in Delmas 19, Nerval Pierre VILIAT, aged twenty-six (26), a journalist with Echo News Sport, was hit by a stray bullet while at home. He was rushed to Hôpital La Paix, where he died on March 24, 2024;
52. On March 21, 2024, in Poste Marchand, twenty-eight (28)-year-old basketball player John Germain EXDES was hit by a stray bullet while at home. He died in the hospital where he was taken;



53. On March 28, 2024, in Rue Capois, the chief accountant of the Secretary of State for Literacy, Maurice ANTOINE, was shot and seriously wounded by armed individuals. He was rushed to a hospital in the capital, where he died. He was in a vehicle with his wife;

54. On March 31, 2024, a person was shot dead in the Plaine du Cul-de-sac.

#### **b) Armed attacks**

55. From January to March 2024, at least five (5) armed attacks are recorded, resulting in the murder of at least sixty-seven (67) people:

56. Throughout the month of January 2024, in Beudet, Croix-des-Bouquets, bandits raided citizens' homes, killing at least ten people they met along the way and raping women and girls;

57. On January 16, 17 and 18, 2024, Corridor Bastia, Solino, Ruelle Bergeau, not far from Spring Hill Collège, Ruelle Oriol, Nan Félix, Rue Casimir not far from Eglise Bellevue Salem located in Delmas 24 zone Caonabo as well as the third Ruelle Laraque, were invaded by armed bandits who killed the citizens. More than twelve (12) people were killed during this period, including at least two (2) in Solino on January 16, 2024. The bandits also set fire to several houses, forcing the surviving victims to flee;

58. On January 25, 26 and 28, 2024, more than thirty (30) people are murdered in a new war between the men of the Jérémie Wharf and those of La Saline.

59. On January 30, 2024, the population of Pernier was again attacked by armed bandits. At least four (4) people were killed;

60. On March 8, 2024, armed bandits from the 400 Mawozo gang attacked the population of Ganthier. At least eleven (11) people were killed.

#### **c) Police officers killed from January to March 2024**

61. Between January and March 2024, at least thirteen (13) Haitian National Police (PNH) officers were killed. Information on the circumstances of their murder is given below:

62. On the evening of January 5, 2024, at the corner of rue Caméléon and rue Bois-Verna, the body of police officer Merlince SEVERE was discovered. He was an Agent IV assigned to the Directorate General of National Police of Haiti. According to a

family member met by RNDDH, on January 4, 2024, the victim left his home to drive a vehicle to the garage at Delmas 19. He did not return. Agent Merlince SEVERE was the father of seven (7) children;

63. On February 14, 2024, on Rue Oswald Durand, not far from the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, police officer Roubens LECTOR was riddled with bullets. He died in the hospital, where he was rushed to the emergency room. He was assigned to the SWAT TEAM;

64. On February 19, 2024, in Petite Anse, Cap-Haïtien, police officer Rémy CYNCE is shot dead. He was assigned to the Service Departmental Service of the Police Judiciaire Nord (SDPJ-Nord). He had just completed a banking transaction;

65. On the evening of February 22, 2024, in Mahotièrè 85, Carrefour commune, police officer Gétro CADET was murdered in his home. He was assigned to the Departmental Policing Unit (UDMO);

66. On February 29, 2024, in Bon Repos, six (6) Haitian National Police (PNH) officers were murdered by armed bandits. On that day, they were stationed at the Bon Repos sub-station. They were Junior MARION, Principal Inspector, Monode ETIENNE, Divisional Inspector, Espéra PIERRE, Divisional Inspector, Luciana PIERRE, AII, Guilliamson JEAN-BAPTISTE, Agent I and Pautrace RESULA, AI.

67. On March 20, 2024, in Delmas 72, police officer Anel NOËL, assigned to the Security Unit of the Primature (USPM), was murdered by armed bandits;

68. On March 25, 2024, in Carrefour Vincent, police officer Joveny DUPLAN was murdered by armed individuals. He was assigned to the Corps d'Intervention et de Maintien de l'Ordre (CIMO) and was accompanying four (4) other police officers at the time of the incident, two (2) of whom also sustained gunshot wounds.

69. On March 29, 2024, in Mirebalais, police officer Ananel ALEXANDRE, assigned to the Motorized Intervention Brigade (BIM), was lynched by members of the population who accused him of buying weapons and ammunition for armed bandits. He was accompanied by Michelet MUSCA, presented as a security agent for the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP). They had in their possession a large sum of money in gourdes and dollars, as well as firearms.

#### **d) Women and girl's victims of sexual violence**

70. From January to March 2024, the feminist organization Nègès Mawon and RNDDH received sixty-four (64) rape victims. Many of the victims were gang-raped

by armed bandits, particularly during the armed attacks mentioned above. Others were raped by their spouses or relatives.

### **e) Persons wounded by bullets**

71. During the period covered by this report, at least one hundred and fifty-eight (158) people were wounded by bullets. Here are a few examples:

72. From February 29 to March 7, 2024, the Hôpital Universitaire La Paix (HUP) treated sixty-nine (69) gunshot wounds, and Médecins sans Frontière - Tabarre (MSF - Tabarre) treated fifty-nine (59) patients. In addition to the cases recorded during armed attacks and anti-government demonstrations, there are a few other examples:

73. On February 7, 2024, in Gros Morne, Radio Poltron journalist Alain CHARLES was shot in the testicles. On that day, armed bandits were attempting to take control of the town's police station;

74. On February 28, 2024, in Fort Senklè, Rue Magasins de l'Etat, Grand-Rue zone, during a confrontation between armed bandits and PNH officers, a lady was shot, crushing her mouth and part of her face;

75. On February 29, 2024, in the West Department, several people were shot and wounded, including two (2) police officers, S.S. and G.S., assigned to the Bon Repos and Airport sub-police stations respectively; T.C., a young girl whose mother ran a store in front of the Faculty of Human Sciences; and D.W., a first-year student at the Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine.

### **f) Abduction**

76. Several cases of kidnapping followed by sequestration for ransom have also been recorded. At least forty-eight (48) of these have made the headlines:

77. On January 7, 2024, the estimated ten passengers of a public transport bus were abducted by armed men from the Gran Grif base;

78. On January 11, 2024, Dr. Berthony FRANÇOIS of the Centre Hospitalier Elohim was kidnapped on Rue de la Réunion, Port-au-Prince;

79. On January 11, 2024, Magistrate Jean Frantz DUCASSE, substitute judge at the Carrefour Peace Court, was kidnapped in Martissant by armed bandits;

80. On January 19, 2024, eight (8) people were kidnapped in Port-au-Prince, including six (6) nuns from the Sœurs de Sainte-Anne congregation;

81. On January 21, 2024, in Croix-des-Bouquets, Saralie DUME, aged seventeen (17), was kidnapped by armed individuals;
82. On January 22, 2024, in Tabarre, near the American Embassy, Divisional Inspector Antoine JOACHIM was abducted and released sometime later;
83. On the night of February 2 to 3, 2024, the mayor of Bassin Bleu, Tony MANIGAT, and several other people were kidnapped by armed men operating in Tibwadòm. They released the mayor after looting his house, and kept the other hostages;
84. On February 23, 2024, six (6) brothers of the Congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart were kidnapped by armed men on their way to the Bicentennial, on the premises of the John XXIII SchoolI;
85. On February 23, 2024, the vicar of the Paroisse Saint Martin et Saint Yves de Delmas 5, Reverend Father Berthony JEAN, and members of the Télévision Amen staff were kidnapped in Port-au-Prince;
86. On February 26, 2024, a juice merchant with a store on rue Monseigneur Guilloux, known as Chantale, was kidnapped by armed individuals;
87. On February 28, 2024, a video of an abducted woman being severely beaten by her captors circulated on social networks;
88. On March 1, 2024, in Rue de l'Enterrement, Port-au-Prince, armed bandits stormed the presbytery of the Parish of Sainte Anne and kidnapped the parish priest, Reverend Father Alain MICHEL. He was later released;
89. On March 5, 2024, at the Croix-des-Bouquets, armed bandits invaded the residence of the sisters of the Congregation of Saint Joseph de Cluny and kidnapped three (3) nuns;
90. On March 18, 2024, in Vivy Mitchell, Pétion-ville, journalist Lucien JURA was kidnapped at home by armed bandits;
91. On March 23, 2024, in Lilavois 23, Fred Hercules GUERRIER, a young musician from the Lilavois Baptist Church, was kidnapped at home by heavily armed individuals;
92. In most cases, the relatives of the hostages pay a huge ransom to the kidnappers, so that they can regain their freedom.

## **g) Repression of anti-government demonstrations and violence against journalists**

93. In January and February 2024, at least nine (9) anti-government demonstrations, some peaceful and others violent, were recorded in various geographical departments of the country. All were severely repressed by the forces of law and order. At least four (4) demonstrators were killed and fifteen (15) injured, including at least eight (8) journalists:

94. On January 29, 2024, in Fort-Liberté, in the northeast, two (2) people were killed during an anti-government demonstration demanding the departure of Prime Minister Ariel HENRY;

95. On January 29, 2024, in downtown Roseaux, in the Grand'Anse department, Gilbert XAVIER was murdered. According to residents, the victim was executed by police officers firing at man-height in the direction of the demonstrators;

96. On February 5, 2024, in Cayes, one (1) demonstrator was killed, and three (3) others were wounded by bullets during an anti-government demonstration;

97. On February 5, 2024, in Petit-Goâve, demonstrators set fire to the offices of the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) and torched two (2) DINEPA vehicles. On the same day, when the police intervened to restore order, two (2) people were injured by bullets;

98. On February 6, 2024, in Petit-Goâve, police fired at demonstrators, wounding two (2) people. The victims were Adler CASSEUS and Mayis;

99. On February 7, 2024, in Cap-Haitien, Radio Tropical and Island TV journalists Philome NARCISSE and Love Marckendy PAUL were shot and wounded by agents of the Brigade of Fight against Drug Trafficking (BLTS);

100. On February 7, 2024, in Jérémie, at least three (3) journalists Wilborde YMOZAN of Tande Koze, Stanley BELFORT of Island TV and Lemy BRUTUS of the online media Grandans Bèl Depatman were injured during an anti-government demonstration;

101. On February 8, 2024, in Delmas, police officers in a white Land cruiser pickup, license plate 1-01152, inscribed UDMO West, fired tear gas in the direction of an anti-government demonstration. Journalist Jean Marc JEAN alias JJM, who was covering the demonstration, was hit in the face by a tear-gas canister and lost his left eye;

102. On February 8, 2024, two (2) journalists were beaten up in Petit Goâve. They were Jacky SAINT-FLEUR and Jocelyn LINDOR.

#### **h) Acts of vandalism and fire recorded from January to March 2024**

103. At least eighty-three (83) premises, including private and public institutions and companies, three (3) hospitals, six (6) magistrates' courts and nineteen (19) police stations, were attacked, looted and/or set on fire by armed bandits between January and March 2024.

104. On January 18, 2024, the Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity was looted by armed bandits, and all the music school's equipment was taken away by armed bandits;

105. On February 5, 2024, in Petit-Goave, demonstrators set fire to the DINEPA offices and torched two (2) vehicles belonging to the office;

106. On the night of February 6 to 7, 2024, armed bandits attacked the Ouanaminthe police station;

107. On February 29, 2024, in ruelle Alerte, Port-au-Prince, gunmen vandalize the Special Education Center for the Integration of All, a school for special children; In Croix-des-Missions, they vandalize the Faculty of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (FAMV) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) which shares the premises of the said faculty; in Shada, they loot the offices of the National Office of Old Age Insurance (ONA);

108. On February 29, 2024, the Portail de Léogâne and Bon Repos sub-stations were set on fire by armed bandits; in Route de Frères, Pétion-ville, the perimeter wall of the National Police Academy was partially destroyed by armed bandits, who were repulsed by the forces of law and order;

109. On February 29, 2024, Guy Malary Terminal was riddled with bullets by armed bandits. Many windows were smashed. Aircraft were riddled with bullet holes;

110. From February 29 to March 3, 2024, between Delmas 3 and Delmas 18, numerous businesses were vandalized by armed bandits. These included STICO, Informatek, Nicky Eau Traitée, Confiance Hôtel, Détermination (MonCash, NatCash, Eau Traitée), Complexe Kay Bab and others;

111. On the night of February 29 to March 1, 2024, in Rue Oswald Durand, Port-au-Prince, Stade Sylvio Cator was stormed by armed bandits, who looted it for three

(3) days and took advantage of the opportunity to set fire to the merchants' trestles and vehicles parked in the vicinity;

112. On March 1, 2024, at the corner of Rue de l'Enterrement and Rue Oswald Durand, Port au Prince, armed bandits looted and then set fire to the La Province Market supermarket; in Tabarre, they set fire to the offices of the Insurance Office Vehicles (OAVCT);

113. On March 1, 2024, armed bandits set fire to the Delmas 3 police station;

114. From March 1 to 3, 2024, armed bandits looted the premises of SunAuto in Tabarre;

115. On March 2, 2024, armed bandits vandalized the premises of the Ministry of Culture and Communication; they spread terror in the vicinity of Toussaint Louverture International Airport and fired in its direction for many hours, once again damaging at least one plane;

116. On March 2, 2024, the Croix-des-Bouquets and Cazeau sub-stations were vandalized and set on fire by armed bandits;

117. On the evening of March 4, 2024, the Carrefour de l'Aéroport sub-station and the Morne-à-cabris police station were set on fire by armed bandits;

118. On the night of March 2 to 3, 2024, armed bandits set fire to the Croix-des-Bouquets Peace Court and vandalized the premises of National Credit Bank, SOGEBANK and UNIBANK;

119. On March 3, 2024, the Cabaret police station was set on fire by armed bandits;

120. On March 3, 2024, in Rue de l'Enterrement, Port-au-Prince, armed bandits looted the Hôpital Saint François de Sales;

121. On March 4, 2024, in Tabarre, armed bandits vandalized the premises of MSC Plus. The same day, they fired again in the direction of the airport and attempted to take it over;

122. On March 4 and 5, 2024, in Rue du Centre, armed individuals attack the Hôpital Asile Français d'Haïti. The premises were looted;

123. On the night of March 4 to 5, 2024, armed individuals looted the Faculty of Midwives located next to the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH). Four

(4) buses belonging to the institution, as well as a private car, which were in the courtyard of the said faculty, were taken away by the armed bandits;

124. On March 5, 2024, at Route de Frères, the National Police Academy was again attacked.

125. On March 6, 2024, the Cafeteria police station was attacked by armed bandits;

126. On the evening of March 6, 2024, the Marché Salomon sub-police station was vandalized and set on fire by armed bandits; one (1) vehicle belonging to the police force and several other cars parked on Place Carl Brouard, not far from Marché Salomon, were set on fire; several warehouses at Marché Salomon were also looted and set on fire;

127. On the night of March 6, 2024, gunmen fired at the Croix-des-Bouquets town hall. Several windows were broken, and offices vandalized;

128. On March 7, 2024, in Delmas 18, bandits vandalized the premises of the UNIBANK branch; in Delmas 3, the premises of the Public Company for the Promotion of Social Housing (EPPLS) and the Dadadou Sports Center were respectively set on fire and looted; in the APN Complex on Boulevard de La Saline, the Caribbean Port Services (CPS) company closed its doors following acts of vandalism;

129. On the night of March 7 to 8, 2024, in Damien, armed individuals looted and then set fire to the premises of UNIBANK on Route Nationale No. 1;

130. On March 8, 2024, in Croix-des-Bouquets, armed individuals stormed the Calvaire sub-police station;

131. On the evening of March 8, 2024, armed bandits simultaneously attacked the Port-au-Prince police station, the UDMO base, the Supreme Court and the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Collectivities, where they attempted to set fire to a generator found in the institution's courtyard. Numerous bullet holes can be seen on the walls of the Ministry;

132. On March 8 and 9, 2024, in Lathan, the UNIBANK and SOGEBANK branches were vandalized by armed bandits;

133. On the night of March 9 to 10, 2024, the Faculty of Science at Haiti State University was vandalized by armed bandits. Windows were smashed and solar panels and other equipment found on the premises were taken away;



134. On March 14, 2024, in Santo 17, armed bandits looted and then set fire to the residence of PNH Director General Frantz ELBE;

135. On March 16, 2024, at the corner of Delmas 12 and 16, armed bandits looted the Kay Dupuy S.A. warehouse and the premises of the Salvadoran and Guatemalan consulates;

136. On March 16, 2024, armed bandits invaded Caribbean Port Services S.A. for a second time, looting containers, some of which belonged to humanitarian organizations;

137. On March 16, 2024, the Toyota house in Delmas A1 was looted by armed bandits;

138. On the night of March 17 to 18, 2024, in Laboule 12, armed bandits attacked a branch of the Capital Bank; in addition, houses were looted in Laboule and Thomassin, including the residence of Pierre Volmar DEMESYEUX, judge at the Court of Accounts and Administrative Litigation (CSC/CA);

139. On the evening of March 21, 2024, armed bandits vandalized the Canez Construction company in Delmas 4;

140. On March 23, 2024, armed bandits simultaneously attacked the base of the Departmental Operation and Intervention Brigade (BOID) at Fort-National, the base of the Motorized Intervention Brigade (BIM) at Tabarre and the Tabarre police station;

141. On March 24, 2024, on Rue de l'Enterrement, several warehouses and dozens of vehicles in garages were set on fire by armed bandits;

142. On March 24, 2024, the Port-au-Prince South Peace Court was partially destroyed by fire.

143. As mentioned above, from January to March 2024, nineteen (19) police stations were attacked, vandalized and/or set on fire. These included the Police Academy, the police stations and sub-stations of Bon Repos, Cabaret, Cafétéria, Calvaire, Cazeau, Croix-des-Bouquets, Carrefour de l'Aéroport, Delmas 3, Gros Morne, Marché Salomon, Morne-à-cabris, Ouanaminthe, Portail Léogane, Port-au-Prince, Tabarre, the Traffic Service as well as the bases of the UDMO, BOID and BIM.

144. At least eleven (11) journalists were affected by insecurity, eight (8) during anti-government demonstrations: Lemy BRUTUS of Grandans Bèl Dépatman, Jocelyn LINDOR of Monopole, Philome NARCISSE of Radio Tropical Cap-Haïtien,

Love Marckendy PAUL of Island TV Cap-Haïtien, Jacky SAINT-FLEUR of Radio Planète Vibration, Wilborde YMOZAN of Tande Koze, Stanley BELFORT of Island TV and Jean Marc JEAN of Télé Actualité. The three (3) other journalists were killed in other circumstances. They are Lucien JURA, who was kidnapped, Alain CHARLES, who was shot when bandits stormed the Gros Morne police station, and Nerval Pierre VILIAT, who died after receiving a stray bullet.

145. Numerous houses belonging to citizens were also looted and/or set on fire by armed bandits in Port-au-Prince and Delmas, particularly in Bas-Delmas.

#### **IV. TOLLBOOTH SET UP BY ARMED BANDITS**

146. Combined data from the Union Unified Movement of Haitian Transporters (MUTH) and RNDDH identify at least thirteen (13) toll booths set up by armed bandits to hold the Haitian population to ransom.

- Three (3) toll booths have been set up in the Port-au-Prince commune, at Ruelle Alerte, not far from the Port-au-Prince cemetery, in Martissant and in Fontamara;
- Three (3) substations in the commune of Cité Soleil from the Varreux Terminal exit, at Cité Soleil, La Saline and Drouillard;
- Two (2) substations on Route Nationale # 1, at Titanyen and between Saint-Marc and Gonaïves respectively;
- Two (2) substations on route nationale # 2, at Paloma, near the Carrefour cemetery, and at Mariani;
- One (1) substation on route nationale # 3, in Onaville 12;
- One (1) substation on route nationale # 5, between Gros Morne and Port-de-Paix;
- One (1) substation on route nationale # 8, at Calvaire, Croix-des-Bouquets.

#### **V. ESCAPES AND ATTEMPTED ESCAPES**

147. During the period covered by this report, at least two (2) prison breaks, one (1) police station escape, and one attempted escape were recorded.

148. On the evening of March 2, 2024, and on the night of March 2 to 3, 2024, with the help of armed bandits, the civil prisons of Port-au-Prince and Croix-des-Bouquets were emptied of their inmate population. A few hours before the spectacular escape from Port-au-Prince, the armored vehicles stationed around the prison were ordered to move. At least four thousand, six hundred and twenty-four (4,624) prisoners escaped, 85.5% of whom were awaiting trial.

149. On the evening of March 3, 2024, at the Delmas 33 police station, six (6) officers in solitary confinement escaped;

150. On the night of March 5 to 6, 2024, at the Jacmel civil prison, an escape attempt was recorded. Three (3) inmates lost their lives, two (2) on the roof of the prison and the other hanging from the barbed wire encircling the building. Six (6) others were injured;

151. Early in the morning of March 14, 2024, fire broke out in the Titanic block of the Port-au-Prince civil prison.

## **VI. FUNCTIONING OF THE COURTS OF PEACE AND FIRST INSTANCE**

152. On November 20, 2023, prosecutors went on strike to demand better working conditions, respect for their rights and treatment similar to that of judges. On December 11, 2023, the strike is lifted. On December 12, 2023, the clerks and bailiffs declared an indefinite work stoppage. Since then, they have never returned to work.

153. Thus, since the beginning of 2024, the Courts and Tribunals have been unable to function, either because of insecurity, or because of more structural problems dating from before 2024, or because of the unlimited strike by the clerks mentioned above. Here are just a few examples:

154. In the jurisdiction of Fort-Liberté: On February 7, 2024, demonstrators looted and then set fire to the premises of the Ouanaminthe Peace Court;

155. In the jurisdiction of Petit-Goave: On the night of February 8-9, 2024, a demonstration from the 2nd Plain headed for the town. The demonstrators broke into the premises of the Court of First Instance, ransacking them and taking away all the equipment found there. They even attempted to set fire to the premises. They then went to the home of Government Commissioner Pierre Elioth PAUL and tried to set fire to his residence. Finally, they passed in front of Doctor Elvarin JOSSELIN's house and fired stones in its direction, breaking through the perimeter fence;

156. In the Croix-des-Bouquets jurisdiction: During the night of March 2 to 3, 2024, armed bandits set fire to the Croix-des-Bouquets Peace Court. However, officials interviewed for this report stated that the court was already operating in slow motion, due to the fact that staff were already finding it difficult to get to the court because of the lack of security, and also because of the clerks' strike. No assessment of losses has yet been made;

157. In the Port-au-Prince jurisdiction: Since February 29, 2024, the doors of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Court of First Instance have remained closed;

158. Between February and March 2024, bandits set fire to the main gate of the Delmas Peace Court. On the evening of April 2, 2024, they perforated the wall of the building and attempted to break in. However, the police arrived in time to stop them;

159. On March 29, 2024, bandits looted the premises of the Port-au-Prince South Peace Court. They took the opportunity to partially set fire to the first floor of the building. To date, however, no report has been drawn up, as those in charge were unable to visit the scene. The judge in charge of the Tribunal also stated that he had called on his ministry for an assessment of the building. He has yet to receive a reply.

160. In the Jacmel jurisdiction: The Peace and First Instance Courts are not directly affected by the insecurity situation.

However, despite the appointment of four (4) judges and investigating magistrates, activities have slowed down at the Jacmel Court of First Instance, due to the clerks' strike.

161. The Jacmel and Côte-de-Fer Courts of Peace, as well as the Gris Gris annex, have no permanent judge, and the Grand-Gosier Court has no judge at all. The two (2) magistrates assigned to Grand-Gosier are ill. One of them even went to Port-au-Prince for more advanced health care. Today, a member of the Council of Assemblies of Communal Sections (CASEC), Jean LEON, is acting as justice of the peace.

162. The Belle Anse and Mapou Courts of Peace are run by a single judge.

163. The Cayes-Jacmel Justice of the Peace coexists with the Civil Registry Office in the multi-purpose center.

164. In the jurisdiction of Gonaïves: on February 6, 2024, the Court of Peace, Northern section Gonaïves was vandalized by demonstrators;

165. The L'Estère Justice of the Peace has not been functioning for over a year, long before the start of 2024, because the incumbent judge is unable to travel to his place

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of work, due to armed bandits from the Kokorat san Ras base. If the court is open every day, despite its destitution, it is only to provide information and extra-judicial services to litigants.

166. In the jurisdiction of Saint-Marc: the Liancourt and Petite Rivière de l'Artibonite Courts of Peace are not functioning because of acts of banditry by the Grand Grif base.

167 From January to March 2024, the Petit-Goâve Court of First Instance, and the Courts of Peace in Ouanaminthe, Port-au-Prince, Southern Section, Croix-des-Bouquets, Saint-Marc and Delmas were attacked, looted and set on fire by demonstrators and armed bandits.

## **VII. CURRENT SITUATION IN CAMPS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

168. According to the estimates issued by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on March 22, 2024, there are eighty-six (86) reception sites for victims of insecurity in the West department. These camps are home to almost eighty-nine thousand (89,000) people.

169. The many victims of insecurity who have taken refuge at Gymnasium Vincent, Lycée Anténor Firmin, Lycée Marie-Jeanne, Rex Théâtre, Ecole nationale Caroline Chevreau, Ecole nationale Virginie Sampeur, the former Dei Vitus premises, the Ecole nationale Colbert Lochard, the Lycée du Cent-cinquantenaire and the Ecole nationale république du Chili are still there, several months after the creation of these camps, thanks to the murderous events that shook the western department;

170 However, the victims of insecurity who had taken refuge at the Ecole Nationale République du Brésil, the Ecole Nationale République du Paraguay, the Lycée Fritz Pierre-Louis, the Ecole Nationale Daguesso Lespinasse and the Hôpital Le Messie (formerly the Centre de Traitement du Choléra (CTC)), were forced to seek refuge elsewhere, due to insecurity. For example, on March 3, 2024, displaced persons from various camps, including the Lycée Fritz Pierre Louis and the Ecole Don Direlan Dumerlain, occupied the premises of the Ministry of Culture and Communication;

171. On March 8, 2024, displaced persons occupied one of the premises of the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP), which housed the Office of Management of Preschool Education (BUGEP), the School Health Directorate (DGS), the Commission d'Adaptation Scolaire et d'Appui Social (CASAS) and the IT Unit (UI);

172. On March 9, 2024, displaced persons from the Daguesso LESPINASSE and Ecole Municipale Carl Brouard camps took refuge in the premises of the Faculty of Applied Linguistics (FLA);

173. On March 9, 2024, victims of insecurity took refuge on the premises of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research (IBSR). They were repulsed by PNH officers. During the ensuing scuffle, Alex ALEXANDRE, aged fourteen (14), was killed and the displaced people were forced to leave the area;

174. On March 9, 2024, dozens of people displaced by insecurity occupied the premises of the Citizen Protection Office (OPC) in Bourdon. They were chased away by PNH officers.

#### **a) Creation of new refugee camps for victims of insecurity**

175. In this context, where many victims of insecurity are seeking refuge elsewhere, new shelter sites are also being created. RNDDH has counted eight (8), including five (5) schools. These are.

- From the Ministry of Culture and Communication
- From the National School of Argentine Bellegarde
- From the National School of Darius Denis
- From the National School of the Republic of Colombia
- New Marie-Jeanne High School Space
- From the National School of the Republic of Liberia
- From the Faculty of Applied Linguistics
- From the Annex of the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training

### **VIII. SITUATION IN HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTERS**

176. All the hospitals and health centers contacted by RNDDH report shortages of inputs, fuel, and oxygen. In addition, due to insecurity, movement is limited, and health personnel do not regularly report for duty. As a result, patients do not receive the care they need. The examples are numerous. Here are just a few:

177. In the Northeast department: the two (2) pharmacies at Fort-Liberté Hospital are empty, and there are no medicines. The North-East health department is unable to supply the hospital, as they are also in short supply. The hospital is also facing a fuel shortage, preventing a constant supply of energy, and unfortunately, the money brought in by the hospital is far from sufficient to cover all expenses. What's more, staff are not receiving their salaries on a regular basis, and arrears are piling up;

178. In the West department: the crisis is having a serious impact on Hôpital Notre Dame in Petit-Goâve, which is facing a shortage of inputs, medicines, and fuel. Some healthcare staff are unable to get to their place of work due to the presence of armed bandits in Martissant and Mariani;

179. At the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH) in Port-au-Prince, staff and some patients left the premises in the wake of the armed bandits' assaults. At the end of March, hospital officials were discussing the resumption of activities for the beginning of April 2024, but on April 1, the bandits returned and took over the HUEH premises;

180. Throughout the reporting period, hospitals, health centers and pharmacies in the West department were attacked, vandalized, and set on fire. In addition, at least thirteen (13) hospitals and health centers were rendered dysfunctional by armed bandits:

- Beudet community hospital
- Bon-Repos community hospital
- Dash Delmas 18 Hospital
- Port-au-Prince Sanatorium Hospital
- Hôpital Saint-François de Sales
- Hôpital Sainte-Catherine LABOURE
- Haiti State University Hospital (HUEH)
- Aurore du Bel-Air Health Center
- Croix-des-Bouquets Health Center
- Pernier Health Center
- Saint-Martin 1 Health Center
- Saint-Martin 2 Health Center
- Isaïe Jeanty de Chancerelles maternity hospital,

181. In the North Department: Justinien Hospital in Cap-Haïtien lacks fuel and medicines. As a result, the hospital is struggling to meet the needs of its patients. The scarcity of foodstuffs is also having an impact on the hospital's operations;

182. In the South-East department, specialists from Hôpital Saint Michel in Jacmel, who used to visit regularly from Port-au-Prince, are no longer coming. Stock-outs of inputs are also having an impact on the medical service offered. Today, relatives of the sick are themselves obliged to obtain the inputs;

183. The health centers in Marigot, Cayes-Jacmel, Belle Anse, La Vallée de Jacmel, Bainet and Côtes-de-Fer are also operating very poorly, due to the country's security situation and their lack of supplies of inputs;

184. In the Artibonite department: at the Hôpital la Province de Morne Blanc, the materials and inputs that were supposed to serve patients were stolen by hospital employees. As a result, patients have to pay for everything. For example, for a delivery, a patient has to provide a gas card proving that she has purchased fuel in order to be entitled to the requested service. Patients are also referred to pharmacies belonging to hospital employees for the purchase of inputs.

185. In the rest of the Artibonite department, health centers are facing a shortage of inputs that cannot be delivered due to the security situation.

## **IX. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

186. From January to March 2024, there were numerous acts of violence and attacks on life and property perpetrated against the Haitian population:

- At least two hundred and eight (208) people were killed, including thirteen (13) police officers. The bodies of fifty-five (55) of these victims, including that of one (1) policeman, were discovered by local residents in Port-au-Prince, Delmas and Pétion-ville;
- At least five (5) armed attacks were recorded in Beudet, Croix des Bouquets, Bel-Air, La Saline, Pernier and Ganthier;
- At least sixty-four (64) women and girls are victims of sexual violence, including gang rapes, according to combined data from RNDDH and Nègès Mawon, which is far from exhaustive;
- At least one hundred and fifty-eight (158) people were wounded by bullets in Port-au-Prince and neighbouring communes, according to combined data from certain hospitals and RNDDH;
- Numerous cases of kidnapping were recorded, including at least forty-eight (48) high-profile cases;
- At least nine (9) demonstrations were severely repressed by PNH agents, during which at least four (4) demonstrators were killed and fifteen (15) injured, including eight (8) journalists; Three (3) other journalists were also affected by insecurity in different circumstances;
- Eighty-three (83) private and public institutions and/or businesses were attacked, vandalized and/or set on fire in Port-au-Prince and neighbouring communes, including nineteen (19) police stations, five (5) peace courts and one (1) court of first instance;



- At least thirteen (13) toll booths installed by armed bandits were counted during the period covered by this report. Six (6) of these were located in the communes of Port-au-Prince and Cité Soleil, while the other seven (7) were set up on or near national roads 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8.
- Numerous houses belonging to citizens were looted and set on fire, particularly in Port-au-Prince and Delmas. Thousands of victims of insecurity who had been living in camps were forced to take refuge elsewhere, and other camps also sprang up.
- Two (2) prison escapes, one (1) escape from a police station and one (1) attempted prison break were recorded. However, the prison authorities have yet to draw up a report.

187. Since February 29, 2024, in particular, under the pretext that the armed gang coalitions G 9 an Fanmi e Alye and G-pèp, grouped around a new federation called Viv Ansanm, are leading a revolution, armed bandits have been killing, raping and kidnapping numerous people, trampling on the population's rights to life, security and physical and psychological integrity. They continue to extort the population via their toll booths, thus violating the right to free movement of all Haitians on the national territory and hindering the circulation of goods and services. They attack, loot and set fire to private and state enterprises and institutions, as well as private property, violating the population's right to development and private property, and demonstrating their power and untouchability.

188. RNDDH reiterates its position that the armed bandits who sow terror and grief among the Haitian population could never have been so powerful without the links of connivance they maintain with state authorities and part of the private business sector, and without the assurance of impunity they have enjoyed for several years.

189. The police force has been facing enormous difficulties for some time. However, even in 2002-2004, when it was demobilized and politicized under the presidency of Jean Bertrand ARISTIDE, the PNH had not reached this level of dysfunction caused by a lack of leadership on the part of its hierarchy, some of whose members maintain connivance with armed bandits, thereby endangering the lives of honest police officers of integrity who have never been involved in serious crime and corruption.

190. At the same time, at the beginning of 2024, the courts were targeted by armed bandits. For example, at least five (5) courts of peace and at least one (1) court of first instance were attacked, looted and/or set on fire in the jurisdictions of Croix-des-Bouquets, Fort-Liberté, Petit-Goâve and Port-au-Prince. Others have been rendered dysfunctional due to insecurity, as in the jurisdictions of Gonaïves and Saint Marc.

191. What's more, since January 2024, the courts and tribunals have not yet started work, as magistrates, clerks and bailiffs have taken it upon themselves to abuse their right to strike. In fact, the prosecutors' strike, launched on November 20, 2023, and lifted on December 11, 2023, was followed by the clerks' and bailiffs' strike on December 12, 2023. Four (4) months later, this strike is still going on. So, since January 2024, the entire Haitian judicial system has not been functioning, without this seeming to alert the judicial authorities.

192. The indifference and sluggishness of the Superior Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ) towards issues that should have been receiving its highest attention, further weakens the Haitian judiciary. And, since its creation, this is the first time that the CSPJ has demonstrated its inability to manage the judiciary to such an extent, thereby violating the judicial guarantees of all citizens, particularly those who are being held in illegal and arbitrary preventive detention and are awaiting a ruling on their fate.

193. Hospitals and health centers are no longer able to function due to insecurity, lack of supplies and shortages of fuel and medicines. Yet the health authorities are content to merely assess the damage, without proposing any solutions to ensure that the right to health of the country's citizens is respected and fulfilled.

194. A Presidential Transition Council (CPT) has been set up. It is waiting to take office so that Ariel HENRY and his resigning government are no longer at the head of the country. This council is made up of several personalities, some from sectors that do not inspire confidence, due to their past or present behavior. A political agreement has been produced. It sets out guidelines for the respect and realization of the rights of the Haitian people and provides the broad outlines for a return to constitutional order. On this point, RNDDH believes that it is the duty of the population to remain vigilant and to monitor all the decisions and actions of the Council in order to prevent the State's coffers from being plundered and acts of corruption from being perpetrated.

195. The first quarter of 2024 was catastrophic in terms of respect for and realization of human rights. But, in reality, since the advent in 2021 of Prime Minister Ariel HENRY at the head of the country, insecurity, impunity, trivialization of life, gangsterization of the country, etc. have always constituted the daily life of the Haitian people.

196. The situation described in this document, aggravated by the violation of the right to the free circulation of goods and services, risks leading to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, if no measures are adopted immediately.

197. Finally, RNDDH believes that from 1990 to 2024, no political transition has ever been as bloody for the Haitian people as the one led by Ariel HENRY in concert with the political coalition resulting from the agreements of September 11, 2021, and December 21, 2022.

198. In light of the above, the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) recommends:

199. To the Supreme Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ)

- Rapidly reach an agreement to put an end to the unlimited strike by court clerks and bailiffs, and immediately resume activities in the country's courts and tribunals;

200. To the Presidential Transitional Council (CPT)

- Make changes to Haiti's security chain as soon as they take office;
- To dismiss the Director General of the PNH, Frantz ELBE, for incompetence;
- To re-establish adequate security conditions to enable those displaced by insecurity to return home;
- Implement psycho-socio-economic programs for victims of insecurity;
- To manage state resources in such a way that they no longer continue to feed armed gangs, as has been the case since de facto Prime Minister Ariel HENRY came to power;
- Undertake to fight corruption and demand financial audits for the period from July 2021 to 2024, of the National Palace and the Prime Minister's Office on the one hand; the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Collectivities, the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation and the Ministry of Public Works and Communication; and finally, the National Old Age Insurance Office (ONA), the National Airport Authority (AAN) and the National Civil Aviation Office (OFNAC).