Joint Statement and Call to Action on the Crisis in Haiti

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 Duclaire 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 (ASPIIC)
Benedictine Sisters of Erie
Beyond Borders
Border Network for Human Rights
Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI)
Caribbean Evaluators International
Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore
Center for Economic and Policy Research
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Centre de sante
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
Communities for Haitian Entrepreneurs and Startups (CHES), Inc
Community Coalition for Haiti
Community Powerhouse Consulting & Coaching, LLC
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St Agnes and CSA-USA Associate Community
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Congregation of St. Joseph Peace and Justice Team
Congregation of the Mission
Congregations of St. Joseph
Daughters of Wisdom US Province
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
Faiths for Safe Water
FEWGI
FONDAMA
Fondatione PROCLADE internationale ONLUS
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Free the Slaves
Friends of Matènwa
Global Justice Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ
GOALS Haiti
Groupe d'Appui au Développement et à la Démocratie (GRADE)
Haiti Design Collective
Haiti Dream Keeper Archives
Haiti Justice Alliance
Haiti Response Coalition
Haiti Solidarity Network of the North East
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Haitian Studies Association
Health and Education for Haiti
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center
International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School
Just Haiti, Inc.
La Troupe Makandal
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Latter-day Saint Democrats of America
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
MADRE
Maryknoll Lay Missioners
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Mercy Beyond Borders
Micatal
Missionary Oblates
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC)
NJ State Industrial Union Council
Nou Pap Dòmi
Oblats de Marie Immaculée - JPIC
OBMICA
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity/ Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
OKAP KONEKTE
Organisation for Dondon’s Intégral Development
Overture Outreach International
Passionists International
Pax Christi USA
Plateforme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA)
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presentation Sisters San Francisco, CA
Prince of Peace Christian Fellowship
PRODEV
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Project Blueprint
Quixote Center
RDC Social Justice Board
Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
Repatriate Our Patriots
Rights Action
Robert F Kennedy Human Rights
Salesian Missions
School Sisters of Notre Dame - CP JPIC Office
School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic Midwest Province
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Francis Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany Province
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Sisters of the Divine Compassion
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA
Société du Samedi Soir
Society of Helpers
Society of the Sacred Heart US Canada Province
Sojourners
Solidarité Québec-Haïti
Southern California Partners for Global Justice
Springfield Dominican Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation Committee
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church Atten; Patricia Waddell, Coordinator of Haiti Mission
Summits Education
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 oganizasyon ki siyen anba nôt sa, voye kondoleyans ak mo senpati bay tout famni ayisyen yo ki deja pédi yon moun pwòch yo nan vyolans san kanpe dénye 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 jounalis Diego Charles; batay san rete gang ak atak mete difè 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 gwosì; 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 sekririte ak vyolans gang fè li enposib pou materyèl pou sove lavi yo rive jwenn lopital nan lòt pati nan peyi a pandan yo tou lakozy blokaj pi gwo depo gaz kapital la, ki lakozy 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, _oganzasyon ayisyen_ yo te deja ap bati _konsansis_ pou yon gouvenman tranzision. Gouvenman etranje yo ak enstisisyon 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 entèvansyon militè etranje yo pa rive kreye enstisisyon piblik demokratik dirab ki nesèsè 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 piti moun ki tap travay pou misyon nasyonzini, epi ki te responsanb pou pote kolera an Ayiti, ki touye yon anviwon 10,000 moun.

2. **Yon angajman pou yon pwosesis demokratik kote tout mounptatisipe.** Aprè plizyè dizèn lane entèvansyon etranje ak politik eò ki te destabilize Ayiti, chak branch nan gouvenman ayisyen an te sistematikman demantle, epi konfyans piblik la te gen nan gouvenans Ayiti prèske rive zero bare. Oganization ayisyen yo ak sosyete de _sivil_ la depi lontan ap mande pou yon _gouvenman tranzision_ ki ka retabl estabilite, sekririte debaz, ak demokrasi. Ayiti dwe gen yon pwosesis tranzision nan lide pou rive rebati enstisisyon demokratik li yo, ak pwosesis sa a dwe gen patispasyon 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 yon rive ranfòse demokrasi a. Eleksyon yo pap lib epi jis si tout moun ki ka vote pa gentan anrejistre alèz, yon konsej elektorl endepandan epi lejitim, ak sekririte nesesè non sèlman pou vote, men tou pou kanpay ka rive fèt jiskavan jou eleksyon yo. Yon patispasyon solid ki mande pou fanm ak lòt gwoup majinalize patisipe tou nan pwosesis elektorl la. Yon mache prese pou fè eleksyon sou yon delè ki enpoze entènasyonalman riske pou plis degrade demokrasi an Ayiti.

4. **Pwoteksyon pou dwa libètè lapawòl epi dwa a lavi.** Pandan twa dènye lane ki sot pase yo, tout pèp ayisyen te aprann jan pa gen sekririte; 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 pandankriz 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, prèv yo te gonfle pou montre moun nan gouvenman an te vôtè plis pase $ 2 milya dola nan kès leta, epi pri gaz yo te monte te pwolve premeye lansman nan yon seri de manifestasyon kont koripsyone ak epminite. Gwo mobilizasyon Ayisyen tout kalite ki soti nan tout kouch sosyal ak politik te mache ansannm 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 represony brital nan men gouvenman an epi endiferans nan kominote entènasyonal la.
Gen 18 masak ki dokimante nan Pòtoprens pandan twa dénye lane sa yo. Moun ki komèt krim yo te vize katye ki pi chofe nan manifestasyon opozisyon a, moun sa yo pa jann ko rekonèt koupab pou zak sa yo. Gwoup dwa moun yo te rive dokimante koneksiyon ant kòk ofisyèl nan gouvenman an ak gwoup ame ki responsab nan masak sa yo, pami moun sa yo gen Moïse ak lòt minis gouvenman an. Gen kèk moun ki ale pi lwen pou di jan kalite masak sa yo se krim kont liimanite.

5. **Rekonèt kijan entèvansyon etranje kontrìbuye 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 pwogré 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,

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)
Caribbean Evaluators International
Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore
Center for Economic and Policy Research
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Centre de santé
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
Communities for Haitian Entrepreneurs and Startups (CHES), Inc
Community Coalition for Haiti
Community Powerhouse Consulting & Coaching, LLC
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congregation of Sisters of St Agnes and CSA-USA Associate Community
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Congregation of St. Joseph Peace and Justice Team
Congregation of the Mission
Congregations of St. Joseph
Daughters of Wisdom US Province
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
Faiths for Safe Water
FEWGI
FONDAMA
Fondatione PROCLADE internationale ONLUS
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Free the Slaves
Friends of Matènwa
Global Justice Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ
GOALS Haiti
Groupe d'Appui au Développement et à la Démocratie (GRADE)
Haiti Design Collective
Haiti Dream Keeper Archives
Haiti Justice Alliance
Haiti Response Coalition
Haiti Solidarity Network of the North East
Haitian Bridge Alliance
Haitian Studies Association
Health and Education for Haiti
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center
International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard Law School
Just Haiti, Inc.
La Troupe Makandal
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)
Latter-day Saint Democrats of America
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
MADRE
Maryknoll Lay Missioners
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Mercy Beyond Borders
Micatal
Missionary Oblates
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCC)
NJ State Industrial Union Council
Nou Pap Dòmi
Oblats de Marie Immaculée - JPIC
OBMICA
Office of Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity/ Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
OKAP KONEKTE
Organisation for Dondon’s Intégral Development
Overture Outreach International
Passionists International
Pax Christi USA
Plateforme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA)
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presentation Sisters San Francisco, CA
Prince of Peace Christian Fellowship
PRODEV
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.
Project Blueprint
Quixote Center
RDC Social Justice Board
Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance
Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province
Repatriate Our Patriots
Rights Action
Robert F Kennedy Human Rights
Salesian Missions
School Sisters of Notre Dame - CP JPIC Office
School Sisters of Notre Dame Atlantic Midwest Province
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee
Sisters of Bon Secours, USA
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership
Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Francis Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany Province
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Sisters of the Divine Compassion
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA
Société du Samedi Soir
Society of Helpers
Society of the Sacred Heart US Canada Province
Sojourners
Solidarité Québec-Haïti
Southern California Partners for Global Justice
Springfield Dominican Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation Committee
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church Atten; Patricia Waddell, Coordinator of Haiti Mission
Summits Education
Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL)
The Afia Center
The El Paso (TX) Chapter, The Links, Incorporated
The Episcopal Church
The Haitian Women’s Collective
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
UNANIMA International
Unlocking Communities
Washington Office on Latin America
Wheaton Franciscans JPIC Office
Win Without War
Xaverian Brothers
Zanmi Lakay