

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE (IOI) ON THE CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE IN HAITI

The International Ombudsman Institute (IOI)¹ expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims of acts of violence and supports the important call made by Dr. Renan Hédouville, Head of the Office for the Protection of the Citizen of the Republic of Haiti, to the government authorities of the country to guarantee the right to life and security of the population.

The IOI expresses its concern about the acts of violence that have been taking place in Haiti, particularly the acts of looting, vandalism, arson and murders recorded both in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and in other regions of the country during the the last months.

This follows the armed attacks on the residences of Mr. Carvès Jean, Representative of the Court of Cassation at the High Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ), and Dr. Josué Pierre-Louis, Secretary General of the Presidency, on the night of 1 September 2022; the violence in the Commune of Tabarre 27, Port-au-Prince District, on 20 August 2022, in which eight people were killed, including Josette Fils Desenclos and her daughters Sherwood Sondjie and Sarahdjie Desanclos; the assassination of former Senator Yvon Buissereth and his driver on 6 August 2022 in Laboule 12; as well as the attack perpetrated against the Raoul Pierre-Louis Hospital in the Commune of Carrefour on 14 August 2022, which put medical staff at risk. These and other acts, attributed to criminal gangs, are fueling the climate of violence in different parts of the country.

This also led to a massive internal displacement and international migration.

¹ The International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), established in 1978, is the only global organisation for the cooperation of more than 200 independent Ombudsman institutions from more than 100 countries worldwide. The IOI is organised in six regional chapters: Africa, Asia, Australasia & Pacific, Europe, the Caribbean & Latin America and North America. The Latin America and Caribbean chapter has 28 members. For further information, please consult: <https://www.theioi.org/>.

The IOI supports the work in defense of human rights of ombudspersons, who work in countries that have been impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Haiti (for example. Mexico, Brazil, Chile, United States).

The IOI reiterates its respect and support for the work of the Office for the Protection of the Citizen of the Republic of Haiti, whose work is essential to achieve the respect and guarantee of the human rights of the entire population in Haiti.

10 May 2023