



5th of October 2023,

Object : Escalating human rights crisis in Haiti

Your Excellency,

We write on behalf of congregations of Catholic Sisters, Brothers, priests and of partners, many of whom have a presence in Haiti. We would like to express our deep concern over the rapidly escalating unrest in Haiti, to seek your support in the Security Council's Resolution 2699 adopted on the 2nd of October 2023 and to facilitate a response that prioritizes the safety, well-being, and freedom of the Haitian people. We have been alerted by the increasingly volatile situation on the ground by our colleagues.

We have alarming reports on the lack of security and safety for children, who suffer greatly due to the lack of potable water and the scarcity of food, but also because of the very real likelihood that they or their parents may be killed or kidnapped whenever they step outside their homes. Extreme poverty is at its highest level in decades in Haiti. It is now too dangerous for parents to go to the local store either by car or on foot to purchase food or medicine for their children. Gasoline is a scarce commodity with prices that make it even more difficult for the people to operate their vehicles in order to obtain basic human needs. This rapid and intensifying inflation have made prices for every basic commodity in Haiti, almost all of which are imported, reach levels never before seen in the country, placing them beyond the means of the vast majority of Haitians. The same holds true for basic medicines and clean drinking water.

The Haitian state is failing to fulfill its primary obligation to provide its citizens safety and security and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for what now amount to crimes against humanity since these attacks have become widespread and systematic in the country. In addition to extrajudicial executions, serious allegations of torture, sexual abuse and enforced disappearances have emerged in recent weeks. The failure to protect along with serious evidence that state officials are either directing, supporting, benefiting from or acquiescing to these crimes makes the Haitian state complicit in the violence. Also alarming is that those brave enough to document human rights abuses are themselves targeted and in some cases attacked and killed because of their work.

We urge all States at the Human Rights Council to actively participate in the upcoming Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on the interim report on Haiti on the 10th of October and to **address the urgent issues of impunity, children's rights, rights to food, to water and sanitation and extreme poverty.**

Thank you.

Fr. Aniedi Okure OP
Director
Dominicans for justice and peace

Sr. Durstynne Farnan OP
UN Representative, New York
Dominican Leadership Conference