



UN Human Rights Council, Fifty-fifth Session
26 February to 5 April 2023

ITEM 4 General Debate

Situation of human rights in Haiti

Intervention by: Max Weber

Mr President

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and partners express our deep concern for the human rights situation in Haiti. Church partners there describe the gangs as having taken the whole country hostage since February 29th, with extreme levels of violence and looting, creating fear and trauma throughout Haiti.

Hundreds of people have been caught in the crossfire and by targeted killings, rape and kidnappings. Hospitals are overwhelmed by the number of victims of gunshot wounds, and over 360,000 have become internally displaced. Half of these are children. Access to guns is reportedly far greater than access to food, clean water and medicine. Livelihoods are disrupted, children cannot go to school, some pastors have been kidnapped during church services, and churches are now closed. The gangs have restricted everyone's movements and control the ports and the roads. Many public offices and houses have been destroyed.

We urge the Human Rights Council to call for an international presence in Haiti to bring safety to the people in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian standards.

We call upon the international community to take all possible measures to support the formation and implementation of a Haitian transitional council. All sectors of society, including churches, must be heard and their messages incorporated into an inclusive Haitian-led peace process which is critically needed to bring to an end the cycle of violence and to build a democratic society based on the respect for human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

