



## Latin American Confederation of Religious - CLAR

### Statement of CLAR on Haiti's situation of socio-political, legal and justice instability

While most of humanity is busy looking for solutions to the problem of the pandemic, the Haitian people are immersed in another situation that is unsustainable from every perspective.

Today we publicly denounce the current situation of violence, insecurity and widespread anarchy that have made the country and above all its capital Port-au-Prince a place where living is becoming impossible. The horror of widespread kidnappings is just a glimpse into the reality to which the Haitian people are being subjected by the heavily armed gangs that currently impact so much of day-to-day life.

Since the end of Jean-Claude Duvalier's dictatorship in February 1986, called by Haitians the "second independence," the Haitian people have remained immersed in an endless chain of failed efforts aimed at securing peaceful and democratic political transition. The tales of death seem to continue to smother the seeds of life that so many persist in sowing in the fields of this fertile and rich land, on the slopes of a joyful and supportive culture, and in the heart of a resilient and fighting people who continue to stand in the face of the oppression of evil, inequality, corruption, and violence.

The religious congregations of Latin America and the Caribbean have declared on the side of life in the face of the desperation of the Haitian people, the galloping insecurity, the death of the innocent, and above all the reality of the poorest whose dignity is being assailed from every point of view. Widespread confusion is made more serious by the reality of living in a geographical territory with no real state, no effective law, no justice, and with a failed economy expressed in the food insecurity of poor majorities. The absence of a legitimate government is also evident in state crime that drowns out the hope of individuals and communities.

We urgently call on the UN, the OAS, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to help the Haitian people get out of this legal, diplomatic, economic, and political chaos in which they are immersed. We do not understand how President Jovenel Moïse, who should have left power on February 7, 2021, under the guidelines of the Constitution and the democratic principle of peaceful political transition, insists on remaining at the helm of government using illegal maneuvers in the face of opposition passivity and ineffectiveness. This situation continues to lengthen the endless list of victims within the Haitian people, the popular majority, and above all the forgotten and abandoned in history.

We call on National Conferences of Religious communities in Latin America and the Caribbean and on religious congregations that make political advocacy at the UN (JCoR) to pressure the governments of the Continent and the world to cease indifference and apathy in the face of the humanitarian, legal and political crisis facing the Haitian people.

We are aware today more than ever of the interconnection of life and that the survival of the human person and the planet is intimately related to the conviction that we belong to and need each other. To the Haitian people and to the vowed religious who live their mission in that beautiful land, we ask that they hear today to our voice of solidarity that rises strongly to assure them that they are not alone, that we walk with them, and that we will do everything we can to help them achieve the liberation they seek and deserve around law, dignity, and justice.

In addition to raising our voices publicly for the Haitian people who seek their integral liberation, we also want to support them by addressing the God of Life as we walk towards Easter. May the God of justice and freedom, the God of peace, the God of Jesus, who came so that we may have life in abundance, accompany you in this national ordeal. We ask all consecrated persons from the Continent and the Caribbean to come together in a prayer of solidarity, Easter hope, and commitment to the people of Haiti.

*Presidency of CLAR*

Bogotá, D.C., March 17, 2021

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