

In this statement, written right before the postponement of the January 24th presidential “run-off” election, 68 grassroots organizations in Haiti issue an urgent call for solidarity with their struggle for free and fair elections, dignity and justice.



Photo: Facebook post by Dr. Maryse Narcisse

The statement was written as tens of thousands of Haitians have taken to the streets—braving assassination, tear gas, beatings, and police torture—demanding the annulment of the fraudulent elections that gave the lead positions in the legislative and presidential races to the hand-picked candidates of President Michel Martelly.

The postponement of the presidential election was a dramatic and hard-won victory for the people’s movement, which had insisted that no election take place until it could be free and fair and democratic.

The struggle for the right to vote and for all Haitians to participate in the political process continues.

**WE ARE HONORED TO CIRCULATE THIS POWERFUL MESSAGE**

Haiti Action Committee

[www.haitisolidarity.net](http://www.haitisolidarity.net), on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HaitiAction1), [@HaitiAction1](https://twitter.com/HaitiAction1)

## “WE WILL NOT OBEY” / “NOU PAP OBEYI”

### A Call for Solidarity from Haiti’s Popular Movement

Reflecting on the voting rights struggle led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and so many other courageous fighters for justice fifty years ago in the US; on the one person one vote struggle led by Mandela’s comrades in South Africa; reflecting on struggles everywhere, we came to the conclusion that a people can’t be sovereign if they don’t have the right to vote. No people can retain their dignity if their vote does not count. As clearly stated by President Aristide: “If we don’t protect our dignity, our dignity will escape us!” That is why we struggle and ask that people the world over with a history of struggle stand in solidarity with us.

Six years after the earthquake that jolted the country, causing the death of hundreds of thousands of Haitians, we, Haitian organizations, in the context of reflection, take our hats off and humbly say to the people all over the planet who opened their hearts to us, “We have not forgotten your acts of solidarity”. The sharing impulse manifested by people the world over, should have helped the Haitian people to rebuild their environment, rebuild their lives. Pity! To this day, the people’s lot has not changed. Adding insult to injury, shameless characters, local slave owners, empowered by various international organizations, hijacked the reconstruction funds.

Right after the earthquake, the internationals took advantage of our momentary state of helplessness to occupy the political space. Today, the Haitian people are engaged in an all out struggle to reclaim that space and to exercise their right to vote. The very ones who hijacked the reconstruction money want to prevent the people from choosing their government, in a wide scale conspiracy to continue the looting of the country’s resources. Subsequent to many schemes designed to remove the people from the political equation, local colonialists joined forces with international colonialists to force the people to accept choices against their best interests. Illegitimate officials implemented urban removal plans and land grabs, assaulting both the middle-class, as well as the poorer classes, putting the country on the brink of collapse. The people’s resistance slowed down the “terror apparatus,” preventing it from completing this program. Now they want to put more false officials at the helm of the government to continue their assault.

The blatant violence perpetrated in Ile-a-Vache, the hideous massacres perpetrated on the people of Arcahaie, the continuous massacre of the people of Cité Soleil because they manifest a will to vote, various acts of aggression perpetrated throughout the country, in the context of land-grab or voter suppression, convince the Haitian people that they are in a fight for their very existence. We say NO, WE WILL NOT OBEY ILLEGITIMATE OFFICIALS. Self-defense is a legitimate universal law. Civil-Disobedience is an accepted universal right when a people confronts an illegal regime. The right to elect a government is universally accepted as a way for people to protect its existence. Today, confronted by the danger presented by local and international colonialists, the Haitian people have started a RESISTANCE FOR EXISTENCE movement. They ask for people to people solidarity from everywhere on the planet. The local and international colonialists plan is not an earthquake, yet it has caused far more damage to the country.

Our experience of the six years since the earthquake is no different than the experience of other small countries with natural and human resources. The internationals loot, have an orgy, while the international media turns a blind eye to lies spread by “their” ambassadors in their country’s name. The Haitian army, now being rebuilt to oppress the people, is a gift

to the Haitian people by the Organization of American States (OAS). The Cholera epidemic and the blood thirsty and corrupt Haitian Police, were United Nations (UN) gifts to the Haitian people. The Media is mute, as the country nears total collapse. We say NO, WE WILL NOT OBEY. We will not dig our own graves. We’d rather tell the truth and expose the conspiracy. ■

### Vwa oganizasyon anndan Ayiti

Nan refleksyon n fè sou lit pou vòt Dr. Martin Luther King te fè ozetazini sa gen 50 lane; nan lit “one man one vote” kanmarad Mandela yo te mennen an Afrikdisid; nan refleksyon sou lit divès lòt pèp, nou wè pa gen pèp ki souvren si yo pa gen dwa vòt yo. Pa gen pèp ki gen diyite si vòt yo pa konte. Jan Prezidan Aristide di: “Si nou pa sove diyite n, diyite n ap sove kite n!” Se sa k fè n ap lite e nou mande solidarite tout pèp ki konn lite pou dwa vòt yo.

Sis lane apre goudougoudou ki te sakaje peyi an, kote plizyè santèn milye Ayisyen mouri, noumenm, òganizasyon Ayisien, nan kad refleksyon nou, n ap mete chapo n byen ba pou n di pèp toupatou sou planèt lan ki te louvri kè yo ban nou, nou pa bilye zak solidarite yo. Elan pataj pèp tout kote te manifeste, te dwe ide pèp Ayisyen rekonstwi anvironman yo, rekonstwi lavi yo. Domaj! Jouk jounen jodi a, kondisyon pèp lan pa chanje. Ki di plis, zago loray yo, kolon lokal yo, met tèt ansanm ak divès òganizasyon entènasyonal pou fè dappiyanp sou kòb rekonstriksyon an.

Entènasyonal lan pwofite moman Pèp lan dezanpare an pou l okipe espas politik lan. Jounen jodi a, se gwo batay pou pèp Ayisyen ka ekzèsè dwa vòt li. Sila yo ki fè dappiyanp sou èd lan vle anpeche pèp lan chwazi moun li vle pou dirije peyi an, nan kad yon gwo konplo pou yo kontinye koupe rache resous peyi a. Apre divès magouy ki wete pèp lan nan ekwasyon politik lan, kolon lokal mete ak kolon entènasyonal pou foure yon remèd chwal nan gòjèt pèp lan. Fo reprezan ak dirijan, vini ak yon plan depozesyon ki agrese klas mwayèn ak sa k pi pòv yo, jouk peyi an vanse depafini. Rezistans pèp lan ralanti avansman machin laterè a, anpeche l deposede popilasyon an nèt ale, sa ki fòse yo setoblize rapouswiv ak you lòt fo gouvèlman remèd chwal ankò.

Ekzanp maspinay gouvèlman an fè nan kad depozesyon ilavach, zak maspinay sou moun Akayè, zak maspinay ki pa janm sispan pou pini moun Site Solèy pase yo vle vote, divès zak maspinay ki fèt toupatou nan peyi an nan kad vòlò tè oubyen vòlò vòt, pèp Ayisyen sèten li nan yon lit inevitab pou ekzistans li. Nou di NON, NOU PAP OBEYI FO DIRIJAN. Dwa lejitim defans, se dwa tout moun genyen pou pwoteje tèt yo. Dwa reziste lòd ilegal, se dwa tout pèp genyen pou pwoteje tèt li. Dwa chazi dirijan l, se dwa tout pèp genyen pou pwoteje tèt li. Jounen jodi a, anfas danje kolon lokal ak kolon entènasyonal yo, pèp Ayisyen antame yon REZISTANS POU EKZISTANS. Yo mande solidarite tout pèp sou la tè. Plan malfektè kolon lokal ak kolon blan yo se pa goudougoudou, men l kraze peyi an pi mal pase goudougoudou.

Eksperyans n ap fè depi si zan goudougoudou an pa diferan ak sa pèp ti peyi ki gen resous fè. Entènasyonal ap piye, ap banbale, pandan medya yo fèmen je yo, sou manti anbasadè ap fè sou non pèp. Lame k pare pou kraze zo pèp lan, se òganizasyon eta Ameriken ki bannou l. Kolera ak lapolis sanginè kowonpi an, se loni k bannou l. Medya bèbè, pandan peyi a ap depafini. Nou di NON, NOU PAP OBEYI. Nou pap fouye pwòp twou tonb nou. N ap di laverite, met kaka chat lan deyò. ■

## Oganizasyon ki siyen mesaj sa a / List of Signers

Action Nationale des Chauffeurs (ANC)

Aide Humanitaire

Alternative Syndicale pour le  
Transport Moderne (ASTM)

APMS: Action des Paysans de Masson Sion

APTN: Association pour le  
Développement Terre Noire

Association Professionnelle des  
Enseignants Haitiens pour l'Avancement  
de l'Education (APEAE)

APSAB: Association Planteur Savane Dubois

Asosiyasyon Fanm Senlwidisid (AFS)

Asosiyasyon Fanm Vanyan Okay (AFVO)

Asosiyasyon Machann Aken (AMA)

Asosiyasyon Peyizan Gwomaren (APG)

BPN (Baz Popile Nord)

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Aken

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Anike

CEGBD

CHANJE LESON

CURO: Comité Usager Rodaille

COSCOB

CRCSPFL (Cellule de Reflexions des Cadres  
Socio Professionnels de Fanmi Lavalas)

CUREH (Cercle Universitaire pour  
le Renouveau d'Haiti)

DEMELE FANM

G.R. (Gwoup Refleksyon)

FAJEP (Fanm an Aksyon  
pou Jistis ak Pwogre)

FANM LENTO

FANM WOZO

FASA

Groupe Alternative pour Petites et  
Moyennes Entreprises (GRAPME)

Gwoupman Plante Senlwidisid (GPS)

JOFAP

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Kanperen

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Kavayon

Kodinasyon Peyizan Sid (KPS)

KPDS (Konbit Planteur pou Devlopman Sanyago)

KORE MAP KORE W

Le PHARE

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Maniche

MOFUP

MOJIDMA: Mouvement des Jeunes Intègres  
pour le Développement de Marigot

Mouvement d'Opposition Citoyenne (MOC)

Mouvman Tet Kole Kavayon (MTKK)

OBMP

Oganizasyon Devlopman Solon (ODS)

Oganizasyon Fanm Vanyan (OFAV)

OGANIZASYON LEVE KANPE

OJFS

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Okay

Organisation 30 Septembre

OPG: Organisation Paysan de Grande Rivière

Organisation Sans Bloff (OSB)

OPDPS: Oganizasyon Pou  
Devlopman Peyizan Sarazin

OPPB: Organisation Paysan Platon Blan  
Plateforme Nationale des Syndicats  
de Transports Fidele (PNSTF)

POGRES (Oganizasyon Planteur  
pou Devlopman Sanyago)

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Port Salut  
Pou Solèy Leve

Regroupement des Enseignants  
Normalien Haitien (RENOH)

RFDP (Rasanbleman Fanm pou  
Devlopman Petitans)

Rasanbleman Militan Pwogresis (RMP)

RASSINE (Rasanbleman Sitwayen  
NORD AK NORD EST)

SDDC (Societe d'Encadrement pour le  
Developpement Communautaire)

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Senlwidisid

Solidarite Jenn Kavayon (SJK)

SOPU- FANM pou FANM

S.O.S Transport Federee

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Tibiron

Baz Fanmi Lavalas Torbec

Union du Mouvement Syndical de  
Transport Public (UMSTP)

UJDSB: Union des Jeunes pour le  
Developpement Savane du Bois.



Photo from [www.pulsamerica.co.uk](http://www.pulsamerica.co.uk)