



KOFAVIV Camp Security Report
Port au Prince, Haiti
18 July 2010

KOFAVIV (Committee of Women Victims for Victims) is a grassroots women’s group that has members living and operating in camps throughout Port au Prince and has been working with victims of sexual violence since 2004. We have 25 agents (*ajan*) in different camps that provide support for victims and document rape. We have found that the problem of insecurity in the camps is still unresolved. Contrary to the recent UN report that claims security has been provided in problem areas, people living in many camps are forced to provide their own security through banding together, forming informal security patrols or “brigades,” and using whistles as a deterrent for rape with little resources. Each night, there are groups of armed men who come to harass camp dwellers. There is no police protection. There have been some camps including Stad and Fomekredi Meranata that have received electricity during the evening to increase visibility and safety. However, those camps do not have official or unofficial security patrols to augment those improvements, resulting in a continued lack of security. Several women reported that they were aware of at least two camps that have adequate and more consistent lighting as well as informal security, which has resulted in decreasing levels of rape and other violence against women. Informal security efforts, which have demonstrated success should be supported with resources. For example, flashlights, salaries, telephones, t-shirts and small salaries would be of little cost and go a long way towards making women and girls safer.

The following list describes the current security situation in the camps, as measured by lighting and informal security, as documented by KOFAVIV in the camps where our agents operate:

CAMP SECURITY LIST				
Camp Name	Electricity	Informal Security	Rape Cases	Comments
Kafoufey	Yes	Yes	No	This is an example where the coupling of lighting with informal security has had a positive effect. Improved lighting, even though only on the perimeter, has appeared to decrease the number of cases.
Stad	Yes	No	Yes	

Kasim Matisam	No	No	Yes	Camp managers have issued an identification cards for people who live in the camp to control entry, but it has not been entirely effective without other resources.	
Kanaren 2	No	No	Yes		
Fomekredi Meranata	Yes	No	Yes		
Mon Jn Pije	No	No	Yes	There were two rapes between July 11-17 reported to KOFIVIV. There is security during the day, but there is no security during evening.	
Fils Pye Lwi	No	Yes	Yes	In addition to sexual assault, there have been other security concerns, such as robbery.	
Sant Pilot 1	No	No	Yes		
Sant Pilot 2	Yes	Yes	No		
Reji Site Soley	No	No	Yes		
Plas Petion (CDM)	Yes	No	Yes		
Matisan 2B	No	No	Yes		
Mozele 7	No	No	Yes		
Tiplas Kanzo	No	No	Yes		
Soley 17	Yes	No	Yes		
Plas St Ann	No	No	No	KOFIVIV started an informal brigade of local residents to help provide security. Camp residents have started an informal committee for security.	
Plas Dessalines (CDM)	No	No	Yes		
Sit CSDSM	No	No	No		
Krwa De Bouke (Duval 30)	No	No	Yes		
Krwa De Bouke, Lyse St					
Jak	No	No	Yes		
La Hochel – suplas	No	No	Yes		
La Hochel – de uzin	Yes	No			
Petion Ville Club	No	No	Yes		KOFIVIV has documented at least 15 rape cases here since the earthquake.

Some flashlights have been distributed, but that is not a substitute for security. The informal brigades and committees that camp community members created for security cannot do their job without proper resources including lighting. Because of the continuing insecurity, people cannot leave their tents at night, and instead are obliged to stay inside their tent and must remain awake because they are scared of violence.

There have been several cases of younger girls who are victims of rape. Children are often left unaccompanied, either because they have no parents or their parents must leave in search of food or work. KOFAVIV also reported that young girls will be lured away by one man to a secluded area where 10 more will be waiting to gang rape her. In addition, if water is not provided to a camp, young people must leave to search for water for the family, which puts them at a greater risk for rape.

KOFAVIV has a presence in these camps where our members live. These are the facts on the ground in the camps as we experience them daily. As mentioned previously, there are some camps that have electricity in the evening as well as informal security patrols. Those camps do not have problems of violence against women and rapes, and we hope that more camps can receive these services now.

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