

**Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains
(RNDDH)**

Membre de la
fidh

**The Passing of Hurrican Matthew in Haiti : RNDDH
demands respect for humany dignity by the Haitian
Government, Political Parties, and Humanitarian
Agencies**

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I. Introduction

The 3rd and 4th of October 2016, a violent hurricane named Matthew struck seven (7) departments of the country, namely, Nippes, South, Grand Anse, West, Artibonite, North West and South East. However, the departments most affected are those located in the southern part of the country.

According to many experts, in some places Hurricane Matthew was Category 4 and others, Category 5 on the *Saffir-Simpson* scale, with winds of up to two hundred and thirty kilometers / hour (230 km / h).

With the objective of assessing the situation in the aftermath of the hurricane and to monitor the availability and distribution of humanitarian aid from the 11th to 18th of October 2016 the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) and its regional network visited several affected areas including Nippes, Sud, Grand'Anse and the Island of Gonâve..

This report documents the human rights situation in the above areas and is directed at all who are interested in the issue.

II. Methodology

In making this assessment, RNDDH and its regional network visited the targeted areas where they met with members of these communities.

In total seventeen (17) communities have been monitored. It is :

1. Anse d'Hainault, Grand'Anse Department
2. Bouchy, Anse d'Hainault, Grand'Anse Department
3. Jeremie, Grand'Anse Department
4. Les Irois, Grand'Anse Department
5. Lillette Anse d'Hainault, Grand'Anse Department
6. Rousselin, Dame Marie, Grand'Anse, Department
7. Anse-à-Veau, Nippes Department
8. Charlier, Petite Riviere de Nippes, Nippes Department
9. Petite Rivière de Nippes, Nippes Department
10. Aquinas, South Department
11. Cayes, South Department
12. St. Louis South, South Department
13. Chien Content, Island of Gonâve, West Department
14. Island of Gonâve, West Department
15. Palma, Island of Gonave, West Department
16. Plaisance, Island of Gonave, West Department

17. Terre Rouge, Island of Gonâve, West Department

However, RNDDH and its network prioritized remote locations because they often are not reflected in the decisions of authorities and humanitarian organizations working in the field.

During this assessment, community members were invited to share with the RNDDH and its regional network:

- The assessment of the situation
- The priority needs of the community
- The availability of humanitarian assistance and the conditions under which it was distributed

III. Preparation and awareness of the population of the hurricane

According to information gathered by RNDDH, hurricane warnings were not disclosed in the same manner to communities and they were not made aware at the same time.

Some communities claim to have been informed at least one (1) week in advance, allowing vulnerable people to move, while other communities had been informed two (2) or three (3) days before the hurricane. However, it has also been reported to RNDDH and its regional network that communities were not all forewarned. Consequently, many people were surprised while farming in their gardens (fields) for example.

For some communities, it was clear that the hurricane was going to hit the country violently and would cause much damage. Other communities were not aware of the strength of the hurricane and its consequences.

In addition, outreach/awareness methods were not similar. In some communities, the agents of the Civil Protection Office (DPC), armed with megaphones, roamed the cities, announcing the hurricane and urging vulnerable populations to move. In others, members of the population learned by radio and finally, several communities received a text message from the phone company Digicel, two (2) or three (3) days before the hurricane.

At least two (2) communities reported receiving a call to take caution, per text message of one of the presidential candidates.

There is not regular power/electricity in these communities visited, people who learned by radio claimed to have them running by batteries.

In some communities, the agents of the *National Police of Haiti* (PNH) and agents of the *United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti* (MINUSTAH) were very involved in the movement of people. However, at no time did they make use of their authority to force them

to evacuate. Their role was confined to persuading vulnerable people to go to temporary shelters.

In at least seven (7) of the communities visited, families had decided not to move. In at least three (3) others, parents relocated their children to safe places, their identification papers and documents, but returned to their houses located in vulnerable areas.

IV. Assessment of Hurricane Matthew

The human losses following the passing of Hurricane Matthew are many.

According to the report published by the *United Nations Human Affairs Coordination Office* (OCHA) on the 17th October 2016, five hundred forty-six (546) deaths and one hundred twenty-eight (128) were reported missing.

Two million one hundred thousand (2,100,000) people were affected by the hurricane. Of these, one million four hundred thousand (1,400,000) are in vulnerable situations and in need of humanitarian aid and no less than one hundred seventy-five thousand five hundred and nine (175,509) people are displaced.

The communities met as part of this evaluation and stated to RNDDH that children were swept away by the wind as well as some adults. The elderly perished and bodies washed away into other communities also affected by the hurricane.

Material losses are immeasurable. Many houses were completely flattened. Hundreds of thousands more were severely damaged.

Consequences of Hurricane Matthew

The consequences of Hurricane Matthew on affected communities are disastrous. In addition to the human and material losses, roads are cut off, others blocked and bridges collapsed.

Today, the cholera epidemic is raging in several of these departments. At *Anse d'Hainault*, for example, a joint department of Grand'Anse, more than a dozen people have already died.

Hunger is in full swing. If nothing is done, especially in forgotten communities, hunger and famine may severely hit populations.

Mosquitoes abound, especially on the *Island of Gonave*.

Schools are dysfunctional because those that were spared are being used as temporary shelters.

Drinking water is not accessible to the populations of these communities. The sources were not sufficiently protected before the hurricane and have merged with contaminated water.

In many of these communities, people need to defecate on the ground which has also contribute to the contamination of water sources.

The unhealthy situation is very serious. In the town of *Dame Marie*, for example, latrine pits were not deep. Consequently, during the floods, feces filled the streets.

Another consequence of Hurricane Matthew is the postponement of elections. Several members of the communities visited say they have not lost their electoral cards, but the situation of despair that exists is not yet conducive to vote. In addition, 30% of the electoral infrastructure was damaged, according to the assessment by the *Provisional Electoral Council* (CEP).

V. Description of areas visited

All the communities visited by the delegations of RNDDH are either partially devastated or completely destroyed. The coastal areas are very affected.

However, it should be noted that the damage recorded in cities are less than those recorded in the remote areas, especially in the communal sections and neighborhoods.

The majority of trees fell. The few that are not, have lost all their leaves and fruit, providing a desolate perspective of nature.



Public buildings, schools, churches, voodoo temples, hospitals and homes that are sheltering families, were seriously damaged. Sheet metal roofs have been removed completely or partially. They were swept away by the winds. These sheets, according to what has been reported, had been the cause of several deaths because the bodies were found with wounds to the neck.

In the above areas, the houses that did not collapse are mostly those which were built of concrete. However, those built of wood, straw and whose roof were tin or straw, were completely flattened. For some of these homes, even the trace of the house location is gone, erased by water.

VI. Specific situation of areas visited

In general, the situation is catastrophic, but RNDDH and its regional network still consider it appropriate to recount some specifics regarding certain regions visited as part of this evaluation.

1. Nippes Department



The town of *Petite Rivière des Nippes* was ravaged. Today, traces of the flooding caused by the hurricane are visible. The sludge is piled up around houses and fields. The landscape is devastated.

Fourteen (14) houses belonging to the commune of *Anse-à-veau* were all damaged. Of the houses that were formerly located in *Ti Plas, Morne Berthe* in the commune of *Anse-à-veau*, 90% were destroyed according to the population. It is a place where about five hundred (500) families lived.

In the town of *Anse-à-veau*, the damage is also extensive. The delegation visited the *Rue Bord de Mer* which has a population whose main activity is fishing. No deaths were recorded on this street because the community had been forewarned of the hurricane. However, material losses are extensive because people who lived there lost everything: their homes, their belongings, canoes with which they fished, their livestock, etc.

In many cases, canoes were needed to enter the homes in order to rescue the residents.

Today, members of the community of *Rue Bord de Mer* are living in patched houses, built of debris and tarps they they procured at exorbitant prices.

2. South Department

The South Department was severely affected by Hurricane Matthew. The areas along the coast were the most ravaged: *Torbeck, Arniquet, Saint John, Roche-a-Bateau, Coteaux, Hi-Port, Port-à-Piment, Chardonnières, Les Anglais, Tiburon*, etc.

Other inland areas such as *Maniche* and *Camp Perrin* have also been totally devastated.



Homes built of concrete, encountered mostly in the municipalities of the department, have been more or less spared. However, houses built of wood and wooden splints, especially in communal sections were completely flattened or partially damaged.

To date, the **Office of Civil Protection** (DPC) is very conservative in their estimates of human and material losses in the department. However other figures we have heard cite that two hundred and eighty-eight (288) have died.

For these communities, these figures do not include remote locations. They believe that between only the third communal section **Coles**, and the second communal section **Les Anglais**, there were at least two hundred fifty-eight (258) people killed, one hundred ninety four (194) of those in **Coles** alone.

Following the passage of Hurricane Matthew, **Les Cayes** was completely flooded. The water entered houses and some public infrastructure such as the **Immaculate Conception Hospital**.

In the town of **Aquin**, all houses were damaged. **Vieux Bourg d'Aquin** was totally ravaged due to the ravine that passes through it.

Lozandye, a town in the fourth communal section of **Flamand**, was totally destroyed. Today, there are no homes. Moreover, the production of salt which was the specialty of the area was completely destroyed.

Passe Bois d'Homme, another town in the fourth communal section of **Flamand**, was also ravaged. The plantations are completely destroyed. The houses are flattened and livestock is missing.

3. Grand Anse Department

All thirteen (13) municipalities of the Grand'Anse Department have suffered great damage. An interim evaluation submitted by the **Office of Civil Protection** of **Jeremie** on the 6th of October 2016, shows the following statistics for the department: five hundred and twenty-two (522) people died. One thousand fifty-six (1056) are injured. Sixty-six thousand one hundred and sixty six (66,166) homes destroyed and thousands of houses were damaged.



These damaged houses are categorized, according to the census, as slightly damaged houses (nine thousand fifty-one (9051)) and badly damaged houses (two thousand fifty-seven (2057)).

The town of *Jeremie* itself is very affected. However, the situation is much more catastrophic in communal sections.

The city of *Dame Marie* is floundering in filth. The reason for this particular situation is that the latrine pits were excavated at a depth of five (5) feet. During the hurricane, several latrines were damaged. Consequently, feces invaded the city.

4. West Department

The communal sections of *Leogane, Grand Goave and Petit Goave* have been severely hit by Hurricane Matthew.

The western part of the *Island of Gonâve* has been severely affected. Several houses were totally or partially destroyed on the coast as in the hills. Many roofs were ripped off.

On the coast of the island, many houses were flooded.

Gardens (fields) have severely suffered from the passage of Hurricane Matthew. According to an estimate by *Concern Worldwide*, 70-75% of crops were destroyed. Thousands of livestock have been washed away.

At the end of the *Anse-à-Galet* towards the west, the roads are impassable. They are all water-damaged, making the most affected communities difficult to reach.

In *Chien Content*, a locality of the first communal section *Palma, Anse-à-Galets, Gonâve Island*, almost all tin roofs were torn off by the winds. Several houses under construction have had their walls destroyed. The wells appear to have resisted in most cases, but many houses were almost completely flattened.

In *Terre Rouge*, a locality in the third communal section *Grand Source, Anse-à-Galets, Gonâve Island*, crops were damaged extensively. Along the road, and around houses, one can see a lot of trees on the ground. Some houses were flattened by the winds and are only piles of stone. Others have lost some of the walls.

In *Plaisance*, the ninth communal section of *La Palmiste, Pointe-à Raquettes*, as in *Terre Rouge*, houses were severely damaged. Some are totally destroyed. The roofs of many were torn off and others have lost almost all their walls.

The people took refuge with neighbors or relatives. They try to cover what remains of their house with leaves.

5. Situation of other areas affected by the Hurricane Matthew

The Northwest department was hit by the hurricane. *Baie-de-Hennes*, *Bombardopolis*, *Môle Saint Nicolas* and *Jean Rabel* recorded big losses.

In the communal sections *La Comma* and *Colette* part of *Jean Rabel*, no human life was lost. However, material losses are extensive and the houses showed great damage.

In the Southeast department, at least three (3) people were killed and five (5) are injured. In addition, 80% of the gardens were destroyed.

VII. Situation of the Public Markets

Formal trade and informal trade were severely affected. Vendors of food products recorded very large losses.

Today, public markets are recovering very slowly. However, prices have increased exponentially. Examples:

- In *Jeremie*, A *marmite* (a measurement equivalent to five pounds) of rice was selling at a hundred and thirty (130) gourdes before the hurricane. It increased to one hundred and fifty (150) gourdes. Similarly for a *marmite* beans which sold two hundred and twenty five (225) gourdes, rose to three hundred (300) gourdes. A bag of charcoal sold for two hundred fifty (250) gourdes. It now sells for six hundred (600) gourdes.
- In *Anse d'Hainault*, bag of flour sold for one thousand (1000) gourdes before the hurricane. It rose to 1500 (1500) gourdes. Rice per pound price rose 50%.
- In *Abricots*, a *gode* (a measurement equivalent to a small can) of rice was selling at twenty (20) gourdes before the hurricane increased to thirty-five (35) gourdes, or about twice the original price.
- In *Dame Marie*, the price of the pound of rice increased from seventeen (17) gourdes to twenty-five (25) gourdes. The price of salt has doubled.

On the *Island of Gonave*, storefronts in places visited, are functional and products are available, but these are not locally produced products. However, it should be noted that on 12 October 2016, prices had not increased as the inhabitants of the island had not yet begun to travel along the coast to stock. Visited communities believe that prices will certainly rise strongly from the new shipment of commodities.

VIII. Distribution of humanitarian aid

1. Interventions by humanitarian organizations

There are many organizations that provide disaster humanitarian assistance. This is among others: Action Aid, CRS Aid Act, Samaritan's Purse, Food for the Poor, WFP, KORAL, CARE, Doctors Without Borders, Doctors of the World, some city halls, Rotary Club, Foreign Armed Forces.

These institutions offer victims food, water, water purification tablets, soap bars for washing, tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.

They were mostly seen in large cities of the South and Grand'Anse departments. The aid has not reached remote areas. The *Island of Gonave* and other departments affected by the hurricane are not considered as priorities.

It should be noted that in some communities, people have complained of having received food to which they are unaccustomed. However, having nothing else to eat, they are resigned to consuming it.

In general, the distribution of humanitarian aid is in a partisan manner. It was reported to RNDDH and its regional networks that people who work in these institutions use their position to primarily help their families and friends before thinking about touching others.

In some municipalities of the country, like in *Ile-a-Vache*, in the area *La Hatte*, humanitarian aid was dropped on the 12th of October 2016 by the Good Samaritan Foundation and boxes broke and food was strewn everywhere. .



In other cities, the above organizations have been criticized in their distribution of humanitarian aid that have created general disorder. The victims gave to fight. Yet, many of these organizations subscribe to humanitarian accountability rules and mostly promoting HAP and SPHERE regulations.

Today, members of all the communities visited as part of this evaluation are not satisfied by those providing humanitarian assistance. The reasons are many:

- Humanitarian aid is slow in coming
- Humanitarian assistance is not accessible
- Humanitarian assistance is not available to victims in remote areas

- Humanitarian aid is distributed in total disrespect of human dignity
- Humanitarian aid is distributed in a partisan manner
- Communities of communal sections and neighborhoods are not included in the distribution of humanitarian aid.

2. Interventions of religious institutions

According communities visited, the Mission of the Methodist Churches, the Mission of Baptist Churches and the Catholic Church intervened in the field, offering victims assistance and services.

They distributed disaster food, water, clothes and hygiene kits.

It should be noted that to-date only two (2) institutions seem to have adopted a strategy of intervention and distribution that works hand in hand with respect for human dignity. It is the *Mission of the Methodist Churches* of *Jeremie* and the *Rotary Club of Les Cayes*.

Recipients of aid claim that distributions made by the *Mission of the Methodist Churches* are performed in an orderly fashion. In addition, the mission's mobile clinic was made available to those affected, providing health care services also in an orderly and disciplined manner.

Also, the *Rotary Club of Les Cayes* provided aluminum sheets (commonly used for roofing) in *Nan Savann*, a lower income neighborhood of the city of *Les Cayes*, to repair the roofs of their houses. The *Rotary Club* visited private houses, did a needs assessment based on the size of houses and handed them claims which they could use to acquire materials in the local hardware store in town.

3. Interventions political organizations, political parties and politicians

Many politicians have also made appearances in the affected areas by bringing humanitarian aid. The parties seen most often are *Fanmi Lavalas*, *Tet Kale Party* (PHTK) and the *Alternative League for Progress and the Haitian Empowerment* (LAPEH).

In general, the humanitarian aid distributed by the candidates were purchased with election campaign funds. Some candidates even took the opportunity to distribute their photos to the victims. For their part, they chanted slogans in favor of their candidates, and these slogans were echoed in the majority of cases in affected populations.

They provided food, water and sheets for repairing or patching roofs of houses and workers were dispatched to the field to clear roads.

In the department of *Grand'Anse*, the presidential candidate Jovenel MOISE offered around six thousand (6,000) sheets of aluminum for affected families in the municipality of *Jeremie* and two thousand (2000) sheets for each of the other municipalities in the department. To proceed with this distribution, they passed by the City Halls. However, to-date no one can provide information on procedures, distribution strategies and techniques adopted by the municipal authorities.

The candidate Jovenel MOISE also sent early in the morning of 15th of October 2016, a shipment of bananas to the Nippes and whose distribution was not ensured by City Hall. In this case, it was reported that bananas were distributed in general disorder. The victims had to fight to gain access. Consequently, women, senior citizens and anyone living with disabilities, could not access the bananas.



Water and food kits were also distributed to the victims by the presidential candidate of PHTK, in bags prepared for this purpose.

The presidential candidate of the *Lavalas Political Party*, Maryse Narcisse offered bags of rice and food kits to victims. She chose directly affected neighborhoods. Also in this case, distributions were made in complete disorder.

The deputy of Aquin affiliated with the *Organization of People in Struggle* (OPL), Jean Robert BOSSE offered to victims of his constituency, food kits. However, again, the members of this community have drawn attention to the fact that the victims had to fight to have access it.

At the time of RNDDH's assessment the bulldozers dispatched by the presidential candidate of LAPEH, Jude Celestin, were spotted covered in pictures of him, trying to clear roads.

Other cases of distribution which disrespected accountability regulations which attracted the attention of RNDDH and its regional networks include :

- In the city of *Jeremie*, a humanitarian aid container was placed in the street, near the Police Station of *Jeremie*. Individuals climbed onto the roof of the container, and started to throw sacks from the container. People on the ground were fighting that many of the bags torn open and strewn across the mud becoming unusable.

4. Interventions of state authorities

The central government seems to be limited to speech. In the aftermath of the hurricane, the rules of coordination and the conditions for intervention were dictated by the government and encouraged good coordination of humanitarian assistance. However, today the situation being what it is, it is clear that the state authorities are overwhelmed by events.

The Departmental Centers for Emergency Coordination (COUD) and Municipal Emergency Operation Center (COUM) could not meet the needs of affected populations. Today, these structures are crumbling under the weight of meetings with humanitarian agencies but they are unable to effectively coordinate responses.

Moreover, some Mayor's offices have been chosen to receive help from central government while others were ignored.

Community members who have not yet been touched by humanitarian aid also blame the Haitian authorities, including local authorities for not having visited them.

IX. Forgotten communities

As part of this evaluation, RNDDH and its regional network were able to identify a large number of communities that have not been touched by the distribution of humanitarian aid. These among others :

- ***Lilette*** third communal section of ***Anse d'Hainault, Grand'Anse***
- ***Bouchy*** third communal section of ***Anse d'Hainault, Grand'Anse***
- ***Boulmier***, twelfth communal section of ***Les Cayes, South***
- ***Coles***, fourth communal section dependent of ***Les Anglais, South***
- ***Casse***, first communal section of ***Verone, South***
- ***Deye Lagon***, locality of the town of ***Les Anglais, South***
- ***Nan Sab***, first communal section of ***Tiburon, South***
- ***Damette*** fourth section of ***Tiburon, South***

The current situation of these communities have attracted the attention of RNDDH.

- ***Lilette*** and ***Bouchy*** are two (2) coastal communities of the third communal section of ***Anse d'Hainault***, specialized in fishing, agriculture and livestock. Members of these communities have lost everything: their material for fishing such as canoes, boats, traps and bait, their gardens and their livestock. The few subsistence crops they kept at home were washed away.

The town of **Anse d'Hainault** appears to be on the aid map. However, members of these two (2) communities part of **Anse d'Hainault**, claim to not have been visited by any authority or any person responsible for the evaluation of human and material losses.

Today, members of the communities of **Lilette** and **Bouchy** are left to themselves. They have nowhere to go, not even a way to protect themselves from the rain. They do not have no place to sleep. Because of this, influenza and fever are prevalent in these communities.

- **Boulmier** is a locality in the sixth communal section of **Les Cayes**. Before Hurricane Matthew, at least three hundred (300) houses were built in this locality. Today, there remain only five (5), which were built of reinforced concrete.
- **Casse**, first communal section of **Verone**, the sea came three hundred (300) meters inland sweeping away everything in its path.
- **Deye Lagon**, a locality part of **Les Anglais**, there remains not a single home. The victims took refuge in schools.
- **Nan Sab**, first communal section of **Tiburon**, as well **Dalmette**, there is not a single house. A member of Civil Protection went to **Nan Sab** to encourage the community to evacuate during the Hurricane. In the process of warning residents, he was killed.

Reactions of populations in affected areas

Discontent and frustration are awaiting, especially in remote areas that are forgotten. In many places, the delegations of RNDDH were stopped by members of the population who felt that they should have at least received a visit from the local authorities, having lost everything, they can not stand up alone, without help of the Haitian State.

In some municipalities, an accurate, but partial assessment had begun to be carried out, but for others, not evaluation was conducted. For **Abricots**, **Grand Anse**, the Office of Civil Protection with the Mayor's office presented an assessment of the number of people in temporary shelters.

According to members of the communities visited, many convoy attacks had been recorded. Some of these cases are banditry. However, for others it is the consequence of the distribution strategies of those involved today in the field and who choose, based on their own data, their intervention regions. The fact that humanitarian aid pass through affected areas that have still not received any assistance is a strategy that can endanger the lives of people who are a part of a convoy. For example, on the 13th of October an IOM convoy was blocked in **Fogasse** at the entrance of the city of **Les Cayes**. MINUSTAH had to assist the convoy. The angry population from the nearby hills, threw stones at the officers of MINUSTAH.

On the other hand, several humanitarian aid depots were attacked. Examples:

- 14th of October, the storage depot of the *Mayor of Les Cayes* was looted.
- 15th of October, an attack was perpetrated against the base of MINUSTAH in *Les Cayes*. The population was stopped from looting the storage depot because of the intervention of MINUSTAH

X. Needs of the population

The needs of the affected populations are diverse. Sometimes they are similar but have been classified by different priorities, depending on the capabilities of these areas and the level of damage recorded.

In communities that have been forgotten, the priorities today are water, food, and medicine.

In all of these communities, needs also include building materials or for repairing and patching up homes or for their total reconstruction. In addition, these communities need seedlings and seed products that grow in less than three (3) months, such as: sweet potatoes, corn, black peas, cabbage, peppers, carrots, etc.

For coastal communities affected, they need canoes/boats, baskets, masks, spearfishing equipment in order to spearfish.

In other places, people need mosquito nets to protect them from bites and the diseases the mosquitos potentially carry.

XI. Comments and Recommendations

Hurricane Matthew has been disastrous for the Nippes, South and Grand'Anse. Many areas of the West, Northwest and Southeast departments were also severely affected.

Again, the people of Haiti have proved resilient. They are indeed many who are already trying the best they can again. They are recreating their own homes by preparing shelters with debris and pieces of sheets collected here and there, picking up the items they were able to retrieve, and hand washing their clothes after the hurricane. The poorest await humanitarian aid that is slow in coming, but they believe that the aid will never allow them to recover completely. So they are already thinking about what to do, once the emergency phase passes.

Many international organizations have decided to intervene directly in the field, without engaging local government structures, Haitian organizations and most importantly, community-based organizations. In this sense, RNDDH and its regional network remind

that these intervention strategies in the aftermath of the earthquake produced mixed results.

RNDDH and its regional network estimate that Hurricane Matthew did as much damage because of the vulnerability of the victims well before its passage. They lived in coastal areas or in homes built in total disrespect of building standards.

Several communication strategies have been used to raise awareness of the arrival of Hurricane Matthew. However, many communities were notified too late, which did not allow vulnerable people to evacuate in time.

The PNH officers as well as officers of MINUSTAH have not used their authority to force vulnerable populations to evacuate.

Many victims have lost their lives due to the fact that they had trivialized the affects of the hurricane.

RNDDH and its regional network deplore the attacks suffered by convoys. In some cases there is banditry, in other cases, these attacks prove that the situation is worsening in many areas. Moreover, these attacks demonstrate the lack of involvement of MINUSTAH in the management of the post-hurricane and the insufficient number of PNH officers in the communes and communal sections.

RNDDH and its regional network believe that countries that call themselves friends of Haiti do not need to deploy military forces to deliver aid. RNND would support the presence of MINUSTAH agents on the ground, including the two missions who's current mandate is to contribute to political stabilization in Haiti and to strengthen the institutions of the State.

Today more than ever, the Haitian authorities must take seriously the consequences of global warming and poor Haitian traditional practices such as cutting trees for making charcoal. It is time that the Haitian authorities are introducing alternatives to charcoal, accessible to all communities.

At the time of writing this report, torrential rains hit the country. Floods are ravishing areas that were already damaged by the hurricane. It is inconceivable that the authorities continue to count more victims which are from already extremely vulnerable areas, especially during these torrential rains. The Haitian government should consider adopting a definitive evacuation strategy for victims.

The Civil Protection Office (DPC) shall, before launching evacuation calls to vulnerable populations, assess the reception centers (temporary shelters). In *Aquin.*, vulnerable people were encouraged to go to *Ecole Armée du Salut*. However, while they were inside the shelter, the roof of it was ripped off by the winds.

Local authorities should be more involved in management after Hurricane Matthew. It is inconceivable that even today, communities were not visited by them.

RNDDH and its regional network bitterly regret that humanitarian aid has been politicized. Indeed, the candidates have used poverty, precariousness and vulnerability of affected populations to campaign, despite the fact that the CEP has forbidden candidates to continue campaigning and many radio stations have denounced these actions. It is unfortunate that some of these campaign strategies are working and members of some communities have said they will vote for certain candidates because they have come to their aid immediately. Again, voters may cast votes for the wrong reasons.

RNDDH and its regional network recommend to the authorities concerned :

- Publish a seismic construction and para-cyclonic collection
- Develop a reconstruction plan that takes into account the vulnerability of areas
- Develop effective communication strategies to communities at risk as a means of prevention
- Evaluate the shelters before the hurricane season prior to referring vulnerable populations
- Prepare the reception centers/temporary shelters to make them suitable for receiving victims
- Define intervention strategies that make humanitarian aid accessible and available for all victims
- Coordinate the distribution in such a way that all affected areas are touched
- Prohibit formally candidates and political parties intervening directly in the affected areas
- Develop intervention strategies that take into account the respect for human dignity
- Require any institution wishing to intervene in the management of natural disasters to comply with strategies that take into account the respect for human dignity
- Take all necessary measures to resume school in the affected areas.