

**Press Conference Office of International Lawyers (BAI) and Victims of Pelereen 5 To condemn the decision taken by the administration of Moise – Lafontant ordering the destruction of private homes owned by poor people residing next to the the president home in Pelereen 5.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99KIuiORoPA&feature=youtu.be>

The victims of Pelereen 5 continue to condemn the acts of destructive violence taken by the repressive power of the Moise-Lafontant administration against us residents of Pelereen 5 which took place from Monday July 2 to Wednesday July 4, 2018, in the presence of the district attorney Mr. Ocnam Clame Dameus, the Secretary of State for Public Security, Mr. Ronsard Saint-Cyr, and the owner of the house occupied by Jovenel Moise, Mr. Yves Leonard.

For the benefits of the media represented here, we will go over the sequence of events. On Monday July 2, a representative from the mayor's office of the district of Tabarre, Mrs Nice Simon, who is also the wife of the property owner, Mr. Yves Leonard, headed to the District of Petionville and began to place notices on several private homes: "DGI to demolish" (Direction Generale des Impots/ General Tax Administration)

Soon after, on Tuesday July 3 at about 4pm, the District Attorney, Mr. Ocnam Clame Dameus together with the Secretary of State for Public Security, Mr. Ronsard Saint-Cyr, invaded the neighborhood of Pelereen 5 accompanied by several police officers. This was intended to build fear in the neighborhood; a woman and her brother were forcibly taken away when they started to openly condemn the arbitrary behavior of these police officers. These policemen finally left the neighborhood, but just around midnight they returned wearing hoods, and carrying large heavy weights and began to demolish our homes.

On Wednesday morning, we went to the district court with family members of the property owner. The district attorney did not agree to see us. On the same day, the district attorney returned to Pelereen 5 accompanied by Ronsard Saint-Cyr and a larger group of police officers where they proceeded to knock down more homes. Since Tuesday, July 2, several of us, both adults and children have been displaced from the neighborhood, became homeless and now are living with fear from ongoing threats and pressures subjected by government authorities. This says a lot seeing as President Jovenel Moise has the same skin color as us and is from the same social class. Yet, he is the one who is demolishing houses on the basis that he doesn't take the side of the poor and disenfranchised.

The victims of Pelereen 5 were surprised to learn that a few days following the demolition of our homes by the government, the Moise-Lafontant administration through the District Attorney Ocname Clame Dameus and the State Secretary of State for Public Security, Mr. Ronsard Saint-Cyr, who are two of the most responsible for the demolition, expressed deep regrets to the owners of businesses that were destroyed by the sovereign people during the events that took place on July 6 and 7. Furthermore, President Moise publicly promised to assist with repair of the damages. Clearly, this government guarantees protection only to the social upper class.

This racist behavior clearly demonstrates that this administration will fuel an unequal society where only people with light skin and those who have political and financial power are being protected. The victims of Pelereen 5 are asking the state authorities to refrain from the practice of negotiating on the misery of disenfranchised groups of our society. We can't understand that the government officials responsible for the safety and security of our community are the ones responsible for demolishing homes and the exploitation of the vulnerable. These same people are the ones acting under false pretenses by negotiating under the table and outside of the law on the basis of charity, where poor and disenfranchised people do not have rights to justice, reparations or dignity.

The victim group of Pelereen 5 would like to take this opportunity to thank all the active progressive activists who have shown their solidarity in the midst of this racist act of violence. We ask that they continue to support our cause which aim at moving our case forward and take it to the national and international justice courts. Because we are prepared to fight until justice is obtained and reparation is received. Because it is not only President Jovenel, Mr. Leonard in the government and other racist powers who are the only heirs to the land that Dessalines was killed for.

Long live Haiti!

Long live a country that promotes respect for everyone's property, rich and poor, without any distinction on the basis of race or social class.