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Port-au-Prince, November 12, 2018

## Press Release

### **Bureau des Avocats Internationaux condemns the neocolonial press release from CORE GROUP**

Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), in its primary mission of defending the rights of the most deprived, the inalienable, imprescriptible and inherent rights of the human person, particularly those victims of cholera imported by MINUSTAH, women victims of rape, sexual assault and other law, **denounces with the utmost rigor the neocolonial, shameful, and racist press release from CORE GROUP**, on the commitment of the Haitian people in the fight for the realization of the petro-caribe trial, particularly involving former and current corrupt senior state officials who have squandered the \$3.8 billion, contributed to the development of Haiti.

Indeed, in a press release published on November 2, 2018, members of CORE GROUP welcomed the commitment of the Haitian people expressed in particular in the demonstration of October 17 that called for an explanation on the management of "public funds," while assuming the right to give the following lesson to the Haitian people: "The members of the group recall the democratic legitimacy of the Government of Haiti and the elected institutions and that in a democracy, change must be through the ballot boxes and not by violence. "

BAI notes that this press release appears in a context where Mr. Jovenel Moïse is facing several major demonstrations since his irregular accession to the presidency of Haiti, a sign of a national rejection linked to a crisis of chronic legitimacy of which he suffers: firstly, the national protest movements against the 2017-2018 budget, then the riots of July 6, 7, and 8 following the increase in the price of petrol at the pump and, above all, the national protest of October 17 and the announcement of three more days of national demonstrations (November 18, 19, and 20).

BAI sees in this cancerous neocolonial press release, masked by demagogic democratic rhetoric to come to the aid of the illegitimate and anti-democratic power of Jovenel Moïse, a reminder of the recent history of Haiti characterized by the cynical double game of this international community that compromises the

future of the Haitian people. Because, every time the Haitian people hold elections, this international community that claims to defend democratic and institutional values, always responds against the popular vote in favor of a political consensus to impose a poorly elected president. And whenever there is a democratically elected president, the international community overthrows him in favor of political consensus to impose a de facto president.

Thus, this neocolonial press release from CORE GROUP reveals once again the irresponsibility, even the genocidal character of the interference from imperialist powers like the United States, Canada, France, and the United Nations, among others, who want to condemn Haiti to repeat the same mistakes in order to push the Haitian people further into misery. This is an authentic testimony of the contempt of this international community for the efforts of the Haitian people to fight corruption, impunity, and to build a truly democratic, socially just and equitable society.

To this end, BAI honors the massive participation of the Haitian people in the national demonstration on October 17 to demand that light be shed on this vast corruption scandal, despite the intimidation of militants on the eve of October 17 and a campaign of fear orchestrated by the power, claiming that there was going to be an explosion of violence.

However, BAI calls for citizen vigilance because these historic enemies of the Haitian people, in this case the so-called friendly countries or international organizations grouped within CORE GROUP who manufactured this regime *tèt kale* (versions 1 and 2) under the guise of a fair trial, propose elections to the struggling Haitian people who seek justice in demanding a **sovereign national conference** to take on the big national issues.

BAI reminds CORE GROUP that the Haitian people are smart enough to understand their double standard policy towards their country. CORE GROUP remains silent on major national issues concerning the best interests of the Haitian people, for example: why is CORE GROUP not concerned about the consultation and compensation demanded by the victims of cholera, given that the United Nations, who introduced cholera into Haiti, and the major donor countries of the United Nations are all members of this international community? This epidemic introduced by the United Nations in Haiti, is it an epidemiological weapon of mass destruction intended to exterminate the poor with the complicity of CORE GROUP? Why is CORE GROUP not interested in the undue debt, now estimated at more than \$21 billion, that France must return to Haiti? Why is CORE GROUP not interested in the gold reserve of the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti (BNRH) taken by the US Marines on December 17, 1914? Why does CORE GROUP not require the UN, which is its member, to take responsibility for abandoned children born to peacekeepers? Why did CORE GROUP not endorse the note on February 25, 2018 in which Ms. Susan D. Page, the special representative and head of UNMIK, welcomed the demonstrations of Haitian citizens and the appointment of an investigating judge on the petro-caribe case? Why does CORE GROUP not comment on the painful situation of the 7 families whose homes have been destroyed in order to forcibly evict them from Pèlerin 5, the neighborhood of Mr. Jovenel Moïse? But, whenever the Haitian people decide to take control of their destiny, CORE GROUP is always there to blame it.

So, in the face of CORE GROUP's complicit silence on the major issues of Haitian national interest, BAI understands that CORE GROUP members are, evidently, the historical enemies of the Haitian people's

interests. The latter must hold the international community accountable, as they exploit the National Councils against the nation.

In this sense, the BAI believes that it is up to the Haitian people to judge and decide on the path to take, in a sovereign, free, and independent way, in accordance with the ideals of the Haitian people of **well-being for all** that have guided all the struggles for national liberation.

BAI urges the Haitian people to condemn the neocolonial press release from CORE GROUP, asking them to abdicate the fight against corruption and impunity. As such, BAI approves the continuation of the mobilization, not only so that light is shed on the petro-caribe funds, but also and especially, to claim an alternative society where the fundamental rights of the Haitian people will be respected, in particular the right to self-determination as well as economic, social, and cultural rights.

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