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Bureaux des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) suggests a link between the demonstrators, victims of gunshots, and the 8 foreign mercenaries apprehended with an arsenal of weapons

Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), in its primary mission to defend the rights of the poor, the inalienable, imprescriptible and inherent rights of the human person, especially those victims of cholera imported by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), women victims of rape and sexual assault, and citizen victims of state terrorism, indignantly learns that the killing of several citizens in the exercise of their constitutional right would be the work of foreign mercenaries working for the National Palace, recruited expressly by the so-called President of Haiti, Mr. Jovenel MOISE whose Haitian people call for his departure.

During the 10 days of national protest from February 7-17, 2019, during which about 3 million Haitian citizens took to the streets of several major cities to demand the departure of Jovenel MOISE, calling for better socio-economic conditions and a major social transformation, acts of political repression unprecedented since the fall of the Duvalier dynasty were perpetrated against demonstrators peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly, guaranteed and protected by articles 28, 31 and 31-2 of the 1987 Constitution, by Articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Article 16 of the American Convention on Human Rights signed and ratified by the Haitian State.

BAI recalls that during the demonstrations of October 17 and November 18, 2018, several protesters were hit in the head with projectiles. Several voices within the Haitian Society stood up to denounce the presence of a sniper working for the National Palace. With this in mind, BAI notes that 8 foreign mercenaries armed with weapons, working for the National Palace, were apprehended by agents of the National Police of Haiti (PNH) in a context where several protesters had just been murdered once again.

BAI calls on the parents of those killed or wounded by bullets in the exercise of their constitutional rights and/or their survivors, not to rush to perform the funerals of the murdered persons, before having performed autopsies of the corpses. It is also important to use a justice of the peace in order to provide a record of the conditions under which these citizens were murdered.

For victims of attempted murder, in addition to the record from the justice of the peace, a medical certificate is necessary.

To this effect, BAI invites victims to file a complaint. BAI wishes to remind the Haitian population that it has a program of free legal assistance for citizens, victims in the exercise of their public freedom. It also wishes to inform the public that it will file a complaint in front of both national and international bodies for its clients, victims of the barbarity of power in place.

Finally, BAI calls on the Haitian people, especially the forces of the nation who do not allow themselves to be intimidated or even corrupted by the reactionary forces, to show solidarity with the victims of state terrorism.

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