

URGENT ACTION

HUNDREDS FACE VIOLENT FORCED EVICTION

Hundreds of people left homeless after the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti are the victims of an ongoing violent campaign involving police officers to forcibly evict them from their makeshift shelters.

Residents of the Lanmè Frape area of Canaan, an informal settlement in the municipality of Cabaret, on the northern outskirts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, have had their simple dwellings repeatedly destroyed by police officers accompanied by armed men. The residents told Amnesty International that they have been the victims of attacks on more than 10 occasions over the last 18 months and several of them have also been arrested on unfounded charges for periods of up to a month. **Two hundred families** currently remain in the Lanmè Frape area, although as many as 600 lived there before the forced evictions began.

According to residents, police accompanied by armed men arrived and began pulling down their shelters on 31 August. They returned on 4 September with a tractor and continued to tear down their homes. In total, 393 shelters were destroyed. On 18 September the shelters they had managed to rebuild were again destroyed by police and armed men. On each occasion their belongings were stolen, including construction materials and commercial goods. The residents depend on the sale of these goods for their livelihood.

The Lanmè Frape area of Canaan is part of a large tract of land which the then government declared for "public use" (utilité publique) two months after the earthquake in March 2010. Tens of thousands of people who lost their homes in the earthquake have subsequently relocated there, but many face eviction from people claiming ownership of the land. The residents of Lanmè Frape told Amnesty International that they have never been presented with an eviction order. The residents have filed complaints to the Office of the Public Prosecutor (parquet), the police, the Ministry of Justice and the Senate. They are unaware, however if any investigation has been opened.

Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- Calling on the authorities to ensure that residents Lanmè Frape are not evicted without due process, adequate notice, consultation and that all those affected have access to adequate alternative accommodation;
- Calling for an investigation into allegations of arbitrary arrest and ill-treatment by police against Lanmè Frape residents;
- Urging them to seek durable solutions to the housing needs of Lanmè Frape residents and the hundreds of thousands of others still living in makeshift camps.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 29 NOVEMBER 2013 TO:

Minister of Justice and Public Security

(Ministre de la Justice et de la Sécurité Publique)

Jean Renel Sanon
18 avenue Charles Summer
Port-au-Prince
HAÏTI

Email: secretariat.mjsp@yahoo.com

Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/Dear Minister

General Director of the Haitian Police
(Directeur Général de la PNH

Police Nationale d'Haïti)

Godson Orélus
Port-au-Prince
HAÏTI

Email: godore68@hotmail.com

Salutation: Monsieur le Directeur/Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister for Human Rights and the Reduction of Extreme Poverty

Roseanne Auguste
33, Boulevard Harry Truman
Port-au-Prince
HAÏTI

Email: rosanne.auguste@primature.ht

Also send copies to:

Ambassador H.E. Raymond A. Joseph, Embassy of the Republic of Haiti
2311 Massachusetts Ave.NW., Washington DC 20008
Fax: 1 202 745 7215 | Email: embassy@haiti.org

Please send appeals immediately. Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More than three and a half years after the devastating January 2010 earthquake, an estimated 278,000 individuals are still living in makeshift camps. Nearly 30% of them are under risk of forced eviction.

Many families forcibly evicted from camps have rebuilt their shelters several kilometers away on the northern outskirts of Port-au-Prince in an informal settlement known as Canaan. According to figures from the International Organization for Migration approximately 70,000 people who were displaced by the earthquake live in large informal settlements in Canaan and the surrounding area. These informal settlements, which have no running water or sanitation, continue to grow as more victims of forced evictions arrive.

Canaan is located on an extensive tract of land that former President René Prével declared for “public use” two months after the earthquake. However, the status of the land remains unclear and the families resettled there do not have any security of tenure.

Name: 200 families (f)

Issue(s): Forced eviction

UA: 291/13

Issue Date: 18 October 2013

Country: Haiti