



General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 March 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by Every Casualty Worldwide, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 February 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Human Rights Situation in Haiti

Défenseurs Plus is a member of the Casualty Recorders Network convened by Every Casualty Worldwide (ECC), which has monitored the human rights situation in Haiti for many years. Their casualty records show that the armed violence which has been consistently worsening in Haiti over many years has continued to increase exponentially.

The Independent Expert has highlighted in his report that almost 5,000 people were murdered in Haiti during 2023 – more than double the number killed in 2022. The number of recorded murders in 2022 was itself a doubling of the figure from 2019. Due to the deliberate ‘disappearance’ and mutilation of remains, as well as a lack of effective infrastructure to record and investigate such crimes, the true figures are likely to be higher.

Défenseurs Plus has individually documented 2,500 of the killings which took place in 2023, as well as 1,742 of the instances of kidnapping. Their records show that every part of society is affected by the violence in Haiti. Victims include police officers, shopkeepers, professionals, academics, journalists and children. The national police union recorded 37 killings of police officers, including two police inspectors.

Due to the pervasive insecurity across Haiti, there has been a rapid increase in vigilante citizens’ ‘self-defence brigades’, known as ‘Bwa kale’. These groups have lynched, stoned and burnt alive approximately 500 people suspected of being involved in criminal gangs, often with the cooperation or acquiescence of police.

Every Casualty Worldwide and Défenseurs Plus call on the Council to make use of this casualty data to take evidence-based and urgent action to address the extreme and worsening violence affecting the people of Haiti. This should include action to:

- Support the government of Haiti to organise democratic elections and restore democratic institutions without further delay;
- Encourage the Government of Haiti to submit periodic reports on the implementation of the human rights conventions and treaties ratified by the Haitian Government, issue an open invitation to the Council’s special rapporteurs to visit the country, and accept the inquiry procedures under the Convention Against Torture and the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, which could aid better understanding of the structural and systemic causes of violent deaths in Haiti;
- Provide technical support and resources to develop a comprehensive and effective national casualty recording system, to ensure all victims are documented and identified.

Collectif Défenseurs Plus, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.