

# URGENT ACTION

## FAMILIES FORCIBLY EVICTED, 100 MORE AT RISK

**Around 60 families have been forcibly evicted from their homes in an informal settlement in the area of Titanyen on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. A further 100 families face a similar threat. Many of them are victims of the January 2010 earthquake who had already been forcibly evicted from their makeshift camp in May 2012.**

On the morning of 7 December, a justice of peace (*juge de paix*) from the municipality of Croix-des-Bouquets accompanied by 17 police officers and a group of men armed with machetes and sticks forcibly evicted around 60 families from an informal settlement in Titanyen on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince. The residents stated that the justice of the peace did not present an eviction order and that they had no prior notice of the eviction and therefore had no opportunity to appeal against it. The armed men began to tear down their dwellings without allowing the residents time to collect their belongings. These belongings were then stolen as police fired their weapons in the air in order to intimidate the residents. According to the residents over a dozen people were assaulted, including a woman who is four months pregnant. They were told that the remaining families living on the site (approximately 100) would also be forced off the land.

Most of the families are former residents of a camp for people internally displaced by the earthquake, known as Camp Mozayik, located in the municipality of Delmas of Port-au-Prince, who were forcibly evicted in May 2012. Titanyen where they now live is part of an area commonly known as Canaan, 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.

### Please write immediately in French or your own language:

- ✓ Calling on the authorities to ensure that residents of this community 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 the participation of state authorities in an illegal eviction, and into the apparent excessive use of force employed by the police officers;
- ✓ Urging them to seek durable solutions to the housing needs of these Titanyen residents and the hundreds of thousands of others still living in makeshift camps.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 JANUARY 2014 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, Haiti  
 Email: secretariat.mjsp@yahoo.com  
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre / Dear**  
**Minister**

General Director of the Haitian Police  
(Directeur Général de la PNH)  
 Godson Orélus  
 Police Nationale d'Haiti  
 Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
 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, Haiti  
 Email: rosanne.auguste@primature.ht

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nearly four years after the devastating January 2010 earthquake, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimate that 171,974 individuals are still living in makeshift camps. A third of them are under risk of forced eviction. However, this figure does not include 52,926 residents of Canaan which IOM recently removed from its list of IDPs, due to the fact that the Haitian government believes the area to be “new neighbourhoods needing urban planning with a long term view” and not IDP sites.

Canaan, an informal settlement several kilometres away on the northern outskirts of Port-au-Prince has no running water or sanitation, continues to grow as more victims of forced evictions arrive. It is located on an extensive tract of land that former president René Préval 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. Many, including residents of Camp Mozayik, were forcibly evicted from an IDP camp or moved out of an under threat camp in order to seek a more secure place to live. Many residents of Canaan face forced eviction from people claiming ownership of the land, including residents of Lanmè Frape (for further information please visit [www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR36/020/2013/en](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR36/020/2013/en)).

On 4 May 2012, 126 families who lived in Camp Mozayik in Delmas municipality were forcibly evicted by local officials accompanied by armed members from the Delmas’ Streets Control Brigade (Brigade de Contrôle des Rues, BRICOR) and officers from the Haitian National Police. The land where the internally displaced people built their makeshift shelters in the wake of the earthquake was set aside for a commercial development. The alleged owners did not initiate any legal proceedings to obtain an eviction order from the courts, as required under national law; they instead regained possession of the property through the involvement of the local municipal authorities and private individuals.

Name: Around 60 families forcibly evicted  
Gender m/f: both

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