

March 26, 202

From the desk of Ray Joseph

In lieu of Haïti-Observateur

Due to certain inconveniences, Léo Joseph, the editor, has not been able to publish the paper for this week. Thus, I am sending you these two articles, one for the English readers and the other for the Creole ones, because of their actuality.

Akòz sèten pwoblèm li pa t ka rezoud atan, editè Léo Joseph pa pibbliye journal la semen sa a. Men 2 atik sa yo ke m te prepare pou piblikasyon, younn ann angle, lòt la an kreyòl, tèlman enpòtan, mwen deside voye yo ban nou. Bonne lecture, jan yo di an franse.

Ray Joseph

GRENN PWONMENNEN!

Èske gouvènman ap kouri kite

Pòtoprens tou, akòz gang?

Asireman, gen mounn k ap rele anmwey, akòz tit sa a ke m mete pou m derape ak ti koze sa a m ap fè ak nou, kòm si mwen egzajere nan lafason m ap bay nouvèl la. Mwen ta swete ke se mwen k ap fè egzajerasyon vre. Men jan bagay yo ap dewoule nan peyi a, pinga sezisman pran pèsonn, lè n ta wè mounn ki anchay gouvènman peyi a, ki tabli nan kapital la, kivedi Pòtoprens, ta ranmase tout zagribay yo pou yo met deyò.

La tou, gen mounn ki mande kibò yo prale ? M ap kite sa kòm youn sipriz pou zòt ki pankonnen, Pi devan mwen pral di tou sa m aprann. Men tou m konnen gen sèten nan nou ki gentan okouran, ki ka menm konnen plis pase m. Antouka, se pa pou yo m ap ekri sa a, se pou lòt yo ki pa « *dans le secret des dieux* » ke m vini ak enfòmasyon sa a.

Anvan nou di kibò yo ka mete kapital la, m ap raple nou ke semèn pase a, nan editoryal jounal la, ki te parèt an franse epi ann angle, editè Leo te fè youn bèl travay pou l montre kijan tout gwo biwo Leta yo pa anba lavil ankò. Yo kite zòn anba lavil Pòtoprens la, sitou Bisantnè, pou y al tabli lòt kote, paske gang ap menase yo.

Pa egzanp, se depi sou Premye Minis Ariel Henry, ki te chèf gouvènman an, ki t oblije kouri kite zòn Bisantnè a, nan bèl biwo li te genyen an ki, oparavan, se te anbasad ameriken nan Pòtoprens. Se te youn kado Ameriken te fè gouvènman an.

Enben Premye Minis la t al refije l nan youn bilding gouvènman an jouk anwo nan Musseau, ki rele Villa D'accueil. Se la biwo Premye Minis la ye jouk kounnye a.

Sa k pi bèl la, se la tou biwo Konsèy Prezidansyèl Tranzisyon an ye, sa yo rele CPT a. Wi, se la 9 Konseye prezidan, jan yo rele tèt yo, vin geri bosko yo.

Kòm nou konnen, pa gen Palè Nasyonal depi tranbleman d tè 12 janvyè 2010 la, ki te kraze palè a, mete l atè plat. Epi yo pa janm repare l. Jouk kounnye a. Se youn pil fatra l tounen. Kidonk, nou ka di sa nou te konnen kòm senbòl ki reprezante gouvènman an pa nan Pòtoprens ankò.

Yo nan konfyolo ak gang, gang ap montre fòs yo, epi pèp la pran kouri

Mwen kwè kesyon gang ki fin pran prèske tout Pòtoprens dekouraje otorite yo. Menm si yo pa di sa piblikman, gen pami yo ki kwè si y al rebati Palè a, se ka youn palè pou gang, paske bandi a zam yo deja kontwole 90 pou san (90%) kapital la. Si bagay yo kontinye jan nou wè l la sa p ap pran lontan pou yo pran ti rès 10 pou san an (10%,) ki rete a. Amwens ke nou vin benefisye de youn mirak.

Se poutèt sa, gen otorite k ap reflechi, ki panse se pa pou yo rete nan zòn Pòtoprens lan menm. Sè ke pèp la trase egzanp lan. Olye ke mounn nan pwovens kontinye vin ranpli Pòtoprens, jan sa te konn fèt, jouk nou vin gen youn bann bidonvil, se le kontrè. Pèp la ap kouri kite Pòtoprens. Depi lane a kòmanse, se pa milye mounn yo kouri kite kapital la. Selon youn rapò Nasyon Zini, nan dat 19 mas, mèkredi semèn pase a, nan youn sèl mwa, 60 mil mounn kouri kite. Anpil ladan yo se mounn gang te gentan met deyò lakay yo, ki t al jwenn refij nan youn lekòl, nan youn legliz, osnon nan kan kote se anba prela y ap dòmi, jan nou te li sa semèn pase a, nan youn atik Marie-Forence

François te ekri nan Ayiti-Obsèvatè, ki gen tit : « *Le Calvaire des déplacés de Solino* ».

Se depi lane pase, n ap konstate ke mounn yo ap kite kapital la pa milye. M ap bay 2 egzanp, nan chif ki pibliye sou entènèt la. Nan mwa mas ane pase, nou li nan Associated Press, 33 mil mounn te pati kite Potoprens. Epi nan mwa davril, ane pase toujou, se BBC, nan Londres, kapital peyi Angletè, ki te pibliye chif 50 mil ki te kouri kite Pòtoprens.

Atansyon pa kapon, otorite yo pa soti pou yo jwe pèdan

Alò, gwo otorite lakay yo pran reflechi sou jan sitiyasyon an vin pi mongonmen ak kesyon gang nan depi gwoup « *Viv Ansanm* » Babekyou a (Barbecue), ki gen bon non Jimmy Chérizier, te fè youn masak nan Kenskòf, nan dat 27 janvyè ki sot pase a. Depi lè sa a, gang ap atake pi pre Pòtoprens, e menm anndan lavil la, epi nan Petyonvil tou. Sa vin mete Musseau an danje. Imajine nou ke gang yo ta atake Villa d'Accueil ! Se t ap lafen, ni pou Primati, ni pou CPT.

Se poutèt sa, pawòl deplase kapital Ayiti a ap pale. E se Okap Ayisyen, nan Nò peyi a, dezyèm pi gran vil Ayiti, yo panse yo ka transfere kapital la. Sè ke otorite Okap pa danse kole ak gang. Se youn lè konsa ou tande youn pawòl gang nan Okap, epi se gang lan ki toujou pèdan.

Sa k fè mwen bay koze a enpòtans, se paske youn kouzin mwen, ki byen souche ann Ayiti, rele m semèn pase a pandan li t al an vizit Okap. Li di m, « Fò w wè jan Okap bèl ! Ou wè tout klas vizitè, anpil etranje, Blan sitou. Pa gen pwoblèm leswa, mounn sikile nenpòt kilè. Lotèl yo ak restoran yo ap fè bon biznis. » Se sou telefòn li te ye, li pa t ka di twòp, men l ajoute youn ti degi : “Epi se nou menm nan Pòtoprens k ap sibi tou sa n ap sibi a. Se pa posib !” Anvan li di m orevwa, li di : « Men elikoptè a, nou pral tounen nan lanfè Potoprens lan. Men fòk sa chanje ».

Kòm mwen di nou se youn dam ki byen souche. Li pa di m sa, men m kwè li te an misyon pou sèten gwo zotobre ki bezwen sa yo rele an franse, « Une bonne lecture de la situation au Cap ! »

M ap rete la, men pinga nou di mwen pa t di n nou ka gen youn lòt kapital pou Ayiti, omoman nou pa atann. Atò mwen pran reflechi, epi mwen reyalize ke nou te gen 2 kapital deja. Kivedi n ap refè listwa, menm si se pa nan youn fason nou ta renmen. Nou ka gen kapital Ayiti nan Okap Ayisyen, epi Pòtoprens, ka vin kapital gang. M ap mande ki peyi ki pral rekonnèt yo ? M ale !



The crumbled palace since the 2010 earthquake the symbol of a broken government.

HAPPENINGS!

What's the Plan when the Gangs Take full Control of Port-au- Prince?

Now that the armed gangs, that have caused death and desolation in almost all sectors in Haiti, are in control of 90% of Port-au-Prince and will, no doubt, take full control of the capital, unless an unforeseen miracle happens, we're asking what's the plan to deal with the worsening situation?

Certainly, the Presidential Council of Transition (CPT by its French acronym) won't be able to remain much longer in Port-au-Prince, neither will the Prime Minister, both occupying the Villa d'Accueil, a building of the government in Musseau, an upscale neighborhood away from the center of the city. As it is, all government offices have abandoned the center of the city, as was detailed in an editorial in the Haiti-Observateur, last week, by Léo Joseph.

Imagine that even the Prime Minister's lavish seaside office, in the Bicentenaire, was also abandoned long ago. When Ariel Henry had

assumed the Prime Minister's post, in July 2021, following the assassination, on July 7, of President Jovenel Moïse, he felt it wise to relocate the office, due to threats from Johnson André, nicknamed Izo, head of the "5 Seconds" gang, with headquarters at Village de Dieu, adjacent to the southern tip of the Bicentenaire, and close to Martissant, the southern suburb of Port-au-Prince under full control of gangs since June 1st, 2021.

New offensive by the gangs,a menace to the CPT

Interestingly, the members of the CPT don't feel it's safe to remain in the Haitian capital, or anywhere near it, no matter the neighborhood. For, the latest offensive of the gangs is disconcerting. As reported, on January 27, the "*Viv Ansanm*" (Live Together) coalition of gangs under the leadership of Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier, attacked Kenscoff, the upscale community in the mountainous area, some 15 miles southeast of Port-au-Prince. More than 50 people were killed in the massacre, many more wounded, and reportedly more than 1,660 people are homeless. Since then, several neighborhoods close to Port-au-Prince have been attacked, causing much fear. There's a constant exodus from the capital, whereas before, it was an attraction, a situation that led to a bunch of shantytowns.

Moving the capital to Cap-Haitian

Thus, behind the scenes, there's talk about moving the capital to Cap-Haitian, in the north. As it is, that city, the second in terms of importance in Haiti, hasn't been welcoming gangs. Rarely does one hear about gang activities in Cap Haitian, and when there's any such encounter, the gang in question loses out. In that light, Cap-Haitian is coveted as the alternative capital of Haiti.

That harks back to the time of the northern kingdom, under Henry Christophe (1811-1820). Then there was the Republic of Haiti, with Port-au-Prince being the capital, under President Alexandre Pétion, in the Southern and Western parts of Haiti.

If the plan being conceived now by the authorities to escape from the gangs becomes reality, we'll end up with Cap-Haitian as the capital of Haiti, and Port-au-Prince, the capital of the gangs. What country will recognize such governance to the point of giving gangs diplomatic standing? On the other hand, one would expect that the international community, with the U.S. in the lead, will undertake an invasion of Haiti, to wipe out the threat of terrorists for the whole region.

Haitian Leadership and the International Community to blame

Such is the current situation in Haiti. And we didn't have to get there, because there has been ample warning about the danger of the gangs. For example, the authorized voice of Haiti's Catholic bishops was heard more than once on this issue. In a statement, September 19, 2023, in the Vatican News, Haiti's Bishops Conference asked for ***"an end to the genocide against defenseless people"*** and called for ***"action"*** from the Haitian authorities and the international community. It's as if the bishops were preaching in the desert.

Yours truly, in a blazing statement, September 8, 2021, first published in the Haiti-Observateur, in bold letters in Creole, had warned: ***"Toutotan kesyon gang nan pa regle, anyen pa ka regle ann Ayiti."*** ***(As long as the gang issue isn't resolved, nothing can be resolved in Haiti.)***

But who am I for them to heed my advice? So, they haven't done what's required to defeat the gangs. And today, we're heading to the total control of the capital by gangs, who will replace the illegitimate Haitian government, established by foreign powers that could care less about the wellbeing of the first independent Black nation in the Western Hemisphere. For there's still resentment regarding our ancestors who put an end to slavery, by defeating the mighty army of Napoléon Bonaparte, on the Battlefield, at Vertières, on November 18, 1803, to declare independence on January 1, 1804.