

ACTION IN UNITY, UNIONS TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY  
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## PRESS RELEASE

We together, the organizations SOTA-BO, GOSTTRA, SROD'H, ROHAM and AASP who are engaged in a fight for improving living conditions and dignity for workers/laborers in the country, would like to congratulate each and every worker/laborer and every other person who collaborated in our movement to force the Government to take responsibility for these conditions in accordance with the law and with international agreements. We would like to announce to the general public and especially media organizations through this press release regarding where we are at, what is happening, and what our perspective is in this movement.

The coalition of unions met with Prime Minister Ariel Henry upon the request he made to us to discuss certain points together on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February this year. During this meeting, we all made it clear as to our position regarding the demands of workers and laborers such as:

- 1- The need for the Government to reconsider the Decree of February 21, 2022, because it does not well reflect the socioeconomic reality that workers and security agents are facing currently. Additionally, it does not mention the MANUFACTURING SALARY as required by Article 2.2 of the Minimum Wage Law for factory workers. This gives the factory managers the liberty to raise tariffs to whatever rate they want.
- 2- We discussed and clarified questions related to social assistance, including bus transportation, a fund for purchasing food, and other forms of assistance. The Prime Minister agreed with us on this point and said that we need to move forward quickly and effectively. As such, there should be joint commissions created between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Worker's Unions to work together and come up with more effective and sustainable plans, starting with bus transportation and food for the Workers and Laborers.
- 3- Unconditional REINTEGRATION for all Union Leaders who were arbitrarily fired while exercising their rights to participate in union activities. The Prime Minister has asked for the Minister of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labor head to submit a report quickly to resolve this question once and for all. Additionally, we are requesting an urgent meeting between the Ministry of Social Affairs, Mediators, Company Executives, and Unions to discuss the issue of violation of union rights and the dignity of Workers and Laborers.
- 4- We accepted the proposition to set up a three-pronged commission as quickly as possible to lead an investigation into how the Social Security System is functioning, including ONA, OFATMA, and CAS. This commission will have the responsibility of provide recommendations to the Government to make changes wherever they are needed as soon as possible.
- 5- We are requesting that the government raise the 15% taxable income bracket (IRI) to 350,000

gourdes to enable day laborers such as factory workers to obtain some much-needed respite. The Prime Minister requested that the Minister of Social Affairs, the Minister of Economy and Finances, and the DGI Director meet together to resolve this problem.

6- The Prime Minister agreed to set up a new Higher Salary Council (CSS) as well as a new CAOSS in a rapid time frame, this time with true representatives from the Worker and Laborer sector.

7- We showed the Prime Minister that the Inspection, Conciliation, and Mast Regional Offices are not meeting their defined objectives. In particular, the West Regional Office (BRO), Bizoton, and Ouanaminthe. These offices have become subservient to their overseers, and they give orders based on their own whims and desires, because the individuals who manage these offices are under the influence and control of the higher-ups.

8- We asked a question about the police brutality and criminal activity among police officers, in particular the repression of the CIMO manager against the peaceful protest organized by Workers and Laborers, in which people were even killed. Our lawyers have already requested that PNH provide full information on every single police officer who was responsible for the death of a Journalist, as well as many Laborers who were victims, and they also requested that the head of the government reconsider the Decree of 21 February 2022 which does not respect the minimum wage law of 2009.

In light of this, we are asking all Workers and Laborers to continue mobilizing and to keep abreast of the advocacy work we are undertaking. The struggle inside factories for tariff prices will continue, and we are watching in all directions so that the government is not able to take advantage of workers this time as they have done on past occasions.

Together we are Workers and Laborers, in UNITY and SOLIDARITY our victor is sure.

	For the labor unions:
Thony SAINFY General Coordinator (SOTA-BO)	Camitho SAINT-CLAIRE General Coordinator (ROHAM)
Reginald LAFONTANT National Coordinator of GOSTTRA	Reginald JEAN General Coordinator of SROD'H
	Junior DEROSE President (AASP)

Seal: [TEXTILE AND CLOTHING WORKER'S UNION; WORKER'S FIGHT; SOTA/BO]  
Seal 2: [.....PROFESSIONAL SECURITY; AASP; .... EQUALITY]