

Press Release

For immediate diffusion -

November 12th, 2014 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the public execution, ordered by François Duvalier, of Marcel Numa and Louis Drouin, members of the group *Jeune Haïti*.

In August 1964, thirteen members of *Jeune Haïti* courageously took up arms against the tyrannical regime of François Duvalier, who had just declared himself *President for life*. They resisted for 80 days in the Grande-Anse region.

The reaction of the regime to this resistance movement was blind and bloody. Hundreds of innocent people were executed and entire families were massacred. While their eleven comrades were killed in action, Marcel Numa and Louis Drouin were arrested, tried by military court (although they were not military), and sentenced to death.

The entire population was invited to their execution and school-children were forced to attend. Their bodies remained exposed for several days to terrorize the population.

ASIRE invites all citizens to convene at the site of the execution, -Port-au-Prince cemetery (at the entrance of *rue de l'enterrement*) - Wednesday, November 12th, 2014 at 8 am, and participate in a peaceful and symbolic act in honor of the memory of these brave young people.

It is important to shed light on the negative consequences of the Duvalier dictatorship on the political, economic, social and cultural life of Haiti.

ASIRE- Aksyon sitwayen responsab (Action for Responsible Citizens) – is a group of citizens that seeks to foster collective memory construction within the society.

« *Un peuple sans mémoire est un peuple sans avenir* » (A people without memory is a people without a future) *Aimé Césaire*.

Contact : Allenby Augustin / Christophe Denis

Email : asireayiti@gmail.com

Tel 44 43 98 23