

***Labor Lawyers United  
for the Release of Political Prisoners in Haiti***

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April 26, 2006

His Excellency Boniface Alexandre  
Interim President of the Republic of Haiti  
Palais National  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Your Excellency:

We write to you as American labor lawyers who have been witnessing the plight of Haiti's workers – those who have fled economic and political oppression and have come to the United States, and those currently living in Haiti and hoping that the new regime will bring change. We appeal to you on behalf of those workers, and in our own names, to ask for the immediate release of the political prisoners of Haiti, many of whom have been striving to help the country's working poor: elected leaders including Yvon Neptune, Jocelerme Privert and Amanus Mayette, and grassroots activists such as Annette Auguste, Paul Raymond and Yvon Antoine, all of whom are being detained illegally and unjustly.

We write to you because those incarcerated cannot wait for the inauguration of President Elect Rene Preval for their freedom: several are in poor health, and some may not survive without urgent medical care. We remember that you, as human rights lawyer and judge, insisted on the Haitian state's lawful and just treatment of dissenters, challenged the exploitation of workers, and had compassion for the dispossessed and the poor. We urge you to end your term as Interim President as the Maitre Alexandre we remember: a clear voice for human rights in Haiti.

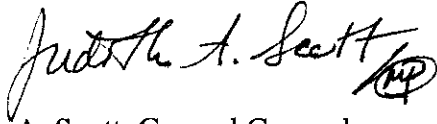
This letter is copied to President Elect Rene Preval, for we believe that the release of the prisoners is an essential, but only preliminary step. We urge him to move quickly to put in place an amended judicial system in Haiti that will never again permit arbitrary and prolonged detention without charges. We also copy this letter to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, repeating the request of Rep. Maxine Waters and 30 other members of the United States Congress in October 2004 that the US administration publicly support the release of the political prisoners.

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Thank you for your attention to our appeal.

Sincerely,



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cc:     M. Rene Garcia Preval  
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