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Dear Friends,

I am returning to the SF Bay Area on July 2. My body is still mending from a beating I received at the hands of an off-duty member of Haiti's SWAT team. I was pistol whipped, splitting my chin open, and then kicked in the rib cage several times. I have been recuperating at a friend's house afraid to go to the hospital. I have not mentioned it because he threatened to kill me and my family if I did. God has gifted me courage but my experiences here have also taught me when to be prudent.

As you know, I have continued my job editing HIP throughout and coordinating news gathering here in Haiti (despite the haze of painkillers). I do not wish to leave but my friends and family have convinced me it is the best decision. I made the choice of challenging the Haitian police and the UN in the media here with video evidence I have of violations of human rights. I took that decision consciously but never expected it would force me to consider leaving Haiti. Call me naive, if you wish, but I still consider it an accident of fate that this particular policeman recognized me and harmed my person.

Upon my return, I need to plan for public presentations and media work.

Any help you can offer or suggestions in this regard is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to forward this to folks you trust who may have ideas for my upcoming work in the US.

I wish to thank Paul and Sharon Miller in Minnesota for paying for my plane ticket to leave. I hope that my work in the future will allow me to reimburse them for their kindness and all those who have never lost faith in the poor in Haiti.

In Solidarity,

Kevin Pina
Port au Prince, Haiti