

Dear Friends of Haiti,

The international community is overseeing Haiti's compromised government, while average Haitian continues to linger deeper into poverty and risking their lives by boat in an attempt to reach the promised land of hope and opportunities (the United States). The climate of insecurity has subsided, however, maintaining security in Haiti remains the most formidable challenge encountered by the Preval/Alexis government. The question remains, who is actually behind the insecurity situation? The prison systems are filled with hundreds of detainees, and many have yet to see a judge. Criminals are walking the streets with impunity; the justice system is not equipped to handle all of its case loads, and there is a shortage of lawyers and judges. At the same time, widespread corruption within the administration threatens to sink the country further into despair. It is reported that the Haitian Diaspora sent \$1.6 billion in remittance to Haiti last year alone. The Haitian Diaspora yearns for dual citizenship, but the Preval/Alexis government and the new parliament are not demonstrating any sign of fulfilling such demand.

In order to discern the perspective of the Haitian people in this crucial moment, Fondasyon Mapou and Haitian Priorities Project will organize an Investigative Human Rights Fact Finding Delegation to Haiti August 5 – August 18, 2007. Please join us in this critical mission. Fondasyon Mapou's executive director, Eugenia Charles has co-coordinated several delegations to Haiti over the years, including an emergency fact-finding mission in March 2004.

This delegation will investigate whether the international community imported democracy has improved or made the Haitian people worse off, and assess the pros and cons of a compromise government in Haiti. Collect facts to demand better human rights conditions. Evaluate MINUSTHA's role in Haiti, as well as determining whether the UN force should stay or go at the end of its term in October 2007. Ascertain how the US and Canada benefit from their involvement in Haiti. This delegation will further examine whether the US is building a military base in Haiti. Explore through dialogue with the government and the parliament, concrete ways to bring the dual citizenship issue to the forefront. Discuss the role of the Haitian Diaspora in revamping Haiti's non-functioning public institutions and how. Tour different areas of Haiti to generate information in order to advocate for the Haitian cause; in addition, we will help establish direct partnership with Haitian organizations on the ground.

This delegation will investigate the current situation in at least 6 of Haiti's 10 geographical departments, where there are widespread challenges. Fondasyon Mapou and Haitian Priorities Project staffs will arrange meetings with members of Haiti's political stakeholders to better understand the entities involved, along with members of Haitian grassroots and popular organizations. Moreover, we will engage in dialogue with the Haitian government representatives, the US Embassy, USAID, CARICOM, the UN and MINUSTAH, the OAS, the Canadian Embassy and the French Embassy, as well as representatives of the International Financial Institutions (IFI) in Haiti. However, our most important priority is to hear the voices of average Haitian; hence, time will be

explicitly set aside whenever possible for participants to talk with people in casual settings.

The Delegation will give a press conference before returning to the US. We anticipate using the findings of this delegation to broaden international audience, lobby Congress and high-profile organizations in an attempt to monitor and/or seek achievable solutions for the people of Haiti.

We expect to spend twelve (12) days in Haiti, and **the cost per participant is \$1,400 (USD), plus international airfare.** The fee includes all in-country travel and lodging, breakfast and dinner each day, translation and coordination. Participants are responsible for their airfare to Port-au-Prince and lunch.

Please consider joining us for this critical Human Rights Fact Finding Delegation. We believe your voice can have an impact. Contact Eugenia Charles (eugenia@fondasyonmapou.org) or 301-537-8162, Jacob Francois (jacob@hpp4haiti.com) or 312-735-6071 for more information.

Working for a Peaceful Haiti,

Eugenia Charles, Executive Director of Fondasyon Mapou
Jacob François, Co-founder of Haitian Priorities Project