



NEW ENGLAND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

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René Préval
President
Republic of Haiti

His Excellency:

It has come to our attention that on May 6, 2008 the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) found that Haiti has violated the human rights of former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune. Among other findings, the IACHR found that the interim Government of Haiti, in power during the period of 2004-2006, had illegally imprisoned Mr. Neptune for 2 years. Until his release in 2006, Mr. Neptune had been imprisoned, without charges filed, at the notoriously inhumane National Penitentiary. The IACHR has also found that the current government of Haiti continues to violate Mr. Neptune's human rights by refusing to serve a 2007 appeals court decision.

The IACHR has ordered Haiti to resolve Mr. Neptune's legal status, pay him a total of \$95,000 in costs and damages and bring its prison conditions up to minimum international standards within two years. However, to date, the government of Haiti has done nothing. In fact, news of the IACHR decision has yet to be published in the Haitian press. This is an intolerable situation and must be corrected immediately.

We demand that the Haitian government immediately comply with the decision of the IACHR and provide Mr. Neptune with the justice that he deserves.

Sincerely,

Renan Hedouville
General Secretary, Lawyers Committee for the Respect of Individual Freedoms (CARLI)

Josue Renaud
President, New England Human Rights Organization

The Most Rev. Filipe C Teixeira, OFSJC
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JG