









MEDIA ADVISORY Thursday, March 18, 2010

Contact:

Veerle Opgenhaffen, CHRGJ 212-992-8186/917-526-1972 (cell)

Groups Call for Respect for Human Rights, Accountability at Haiti Donors' Conference

More than 300 NGOs Urge that Human Rights Drive Haiti Aid Efforts

(Boston, New York, Port-au-Prince, Washington DC, March 18, 2010)—The human rights and dignity of all Haitians should be the driving force behind international assistance in rebuilding Haiti, said more than 300 non-governmental organizations in a letter sent to donors today. A coalition working for human rights in Haiti—the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ) at NYU School of Law, Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), Partners In Health (PIH)/Zanmi Lasante (ZL), and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (RFK Center)—joined colleagues from every region of the world in calling for a rights-based approach to international assistance, in advance of the Haiti Donors' Conference, to be held at UN headquarters in New York on March 31st.

The much-anticipated Conference will bring together an array of major donors to discuss the future of aid to Haiti. The six rights groups that spearheaded the letter drive also issued a list of concrete recommendations outlining a rights-based approach to aid delivery in advance of the conference, and have a long history of working on aid and human rights issues in Haiti. Both the letter and the recommendations highlight the need to empower the Haitian people; strengthen the Haitian government's capacity to guarantee human rights; and make assistance transparent and accountable to the Haitian people.

For more information about these organizations, please visit their websites: www.chrgj.org, www.pih.org, www.pih.org, www.rfkcenter.org