



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

Half-Hour for Haiti Action Alert: Stop Forced Evictions of Haiti's Earthquake Victims May 25, 2010



Be Part of the Solution for Haiti: Make a Difference in Half an Hour a Week

Update

Helping Women Organize to Protect Themselves

Thank you to everyone who signed our [last petition](#) helping Haitian women fight against rape in the displacement camps. Through the [Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network](#), we organized a [delegation](#) of prominent U.S. attorneys to investigate the rapes and begin implementing our legal response. We submitted a [joint statement](#) to the UN Human Rights Council and will accompany a leader of the grassroots group, [KOFIVIV](#), to testify before the Council early next month where the petition will be circulated. **In light of the government and UN's failure to protect women vulnerable to rape, our partners at the BAI are working to support women's groups [organize](#) and [protect](#) themselves. You can support this work financially through tax-deductible [donations](#) to IJDH.**

Violations of housing rights make women more vulnerable to gender-based violence. IJDH is working to address this problem too. We led another [delegation](#) investigating the [right to housing](#) and reports of forced evictions in the camps. Our delegation teamed up with other organizations that agree that Haiti's earthquake victims have suffered enough without being forcibly evicted from tent camps. **[Please take a minute to sign this petition](#): you could keep a family of earthquake victims from being forced onto the streets.**

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Last weekend, BAI's Grassroots Women's Coordinator, Jocie Philsten, worked with group leaders to develop a rape prevention program using whistles and other forms of self-defense.

Take Action: Stop Forced Evictions of Haiti's Earthquake Victims

[Click Here to Sign Petition Calling for Adherence to the Rights Guaranteed to the Internally Displaced](#)

ActionAid Haiti, Bagay Dwol Haiti Relief Fund, Centre Medical, Social Port au Prince, Konbit pou Ayiti (KONPAY), Haitian American Organization for Social & Economic Development (HAOSSED), Health Empowering Humanity, Honor and Respect Foundation, Human Rights Accompaniment In Haiti, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, International Action Ties, Lambi Fund, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office, People's Health Movement-USA, Quixote Center, Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods (SOIL), TransAfrica Forum, World Service of Mercy, You. Me. We.

Petition Text

As signers of this petition, we are urgently concerned about the treatment of Internally Displaced Persons who are being forcibly evicted and involuntarily relocated from camps in Haiti without habitable alternatives. We call on the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, especially the relevant security and human rights authorities and OCHA, to affirm the rights of IDPs and rapidly implement a policy upholding these rights.

We call for an immediate stop to forced evictions and the development of a human rights monitoring system to ensure that further violence and violations do not take place. A transparent process to relocate camp inhabitants that is rights-based and protects earthquake victims is essential for national recovery to occur in a manner that promotes dignity and is sensitive to the needs expressed by the communities. Specifically, we call for those responsible, accountable and empowered to put into place:

1. An expansion of coverage and time extension for the moratorium on forced removals: Evictions and/or involuntary removals from all camp settlements must be officially suspended for an additional 90 days to allow alternative options to be explored and agreed upon.

2. An independent monitoring system: The OCHA Protection Cluster, MINUSTAH Human Rights Section and all other stakeholders for human rights, including Haitian civil society, must immediately develop a collaborative system of independent monitors in locations where IDPs face removal from their communities, both voluntary and forced, to address complaints from displaced persons.

3. Genuine community consultation: Community representatives and civil society, especially women and the youth, must be included in all planning processes, promoting culturally-relevant solutions with respect and support for self-determination. No viable or just solutions to the complex issue of resettlement can be determined without dialogue between those most affected and those upon whom it is



A bulldozer is pictured here clearing the Carredeux camp that had been home to the displaced.



A delegation of U.S. lawyers interviewed victims of rape at the BAI office as part of a fact-finding investigation on gender-based violence in the displacement camps. Students with the [Haitian Education and Leadership Program](#) provided translation.



Grassroots groups participated in protests on May 1, International Workers Day, expressing their discontent with the Government of Haiti's economic policies.

incumbent to protect the rights of the Internally Displaced Person.

[Click here for more information and to sign the petition.](#)

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