



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
Bureau des Avocats Internationaux

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Haiti: Groups to Press Array of Concerns

*From Education to Gender Violence
Lineup to Address Gaps in Reconstruction*

WASHINGTON, DC -- As Haiti passes the six month mark of its attempts to recover from a massive earthquake, Haiti Civil Society and Diaspora members covering different aspects of the recovery will press their cases Tuesday, July 27 on Capitol Hill. Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) board members Ira Kurzban, Esq. and Dr. Paul Farmer will both testify.

Haiti's recovery has been viewed as halting and in disarray by a growing variety of observers. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have been alarmed at the conditions for displaced persons, violence against women, forced displacement of camps, lack of Haitians in the decision making process and more.

Civil Society is calling for a place in reconstruction planning, implementation and assessment. CSOs say every aspect of Haiti's recovery is threatened by factors that include a trickle of aid pledged by nations worldwide, Haiti's social gaps prior to the disaster and bureaucratic shortcomings in the coordination of aid.

Tuesday's event will present CSO leaders speaking to all major aspects of Haiti's recovery, offering prescriptions for both immediate needs and systemic corrections they say are vital for a sustainable and comprehensive recovery.

WHAT: Event: "Focus on Haiti: The Road to Recovery - A Six Month Review"

Sponsors: Congressional Black Caucus & Haiti Advocacy Working Group

WHEN: Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

WHERE: 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

WHO: Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus
Congressman Donald Payne, Chairman, CBC Taskforce on Foreign Policy & International Relations

Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

Dr. Paul Farmer, Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti, United Nations

Marie St. Fleur, Former Massachusetts State Representative

Loune Viaud, Director of Strategic Planning and Operations, Zanmi Lasante / Partners in Health, Haiti

Camille Chalmers, Director, Haitian Platform to Advocate for Alternative Development

Ira Kurzban, Esq., Board Chair, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

About the Organizations:

The Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG) formed shortly after the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake to coordinate advocacy efforts for effective and just disaster relief, reconstruction and long-term U.S. development policy toward Haiti. Composed of more than 30 diverse groups representing a wide cross-section of the NGO community, the HAWG has focused on the following priority areas:

- Promoting Haitian civil society inclusion and leadership in relief and reconstruction
- Prioritizing rural and agricultural development needs
- Encouraging local procurement and decentralization of aid
- Supporting fair immigration policy for Haitians
- Raising awareness on gender and women's issues
- Ensuring support through U.S. and multilateral aid commitments and full debt relief
- Promoting safe, sanitary and adequate shelter

Who is the Haiti Advocacy Working Group?

ActionAid USA

American Friends' Service Committee

American Jewish World Service

Bread for the World

Center for Economic and Policy Research

Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at

New York University School of Law

Church World Service

Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti

Foreign Policy in Focus

Gender Action

Grassroots International

Groundswell International

Habitat for Humanity

Haiti Reborn/Quixote Center

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

Jubilee USA Network

Lambi Fund of Haiti

Latin America Working Group

Lutheran World Relief

Mennonite Central Committee U.S. -

Washington Office

National Lawyers Guild – Environmental

Justice Center

Outreach International

Oxfam America

The Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) fights for human rights and justice in Haiti and for fair and just treatment of Haitians in the United States.