



# Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

## **Human rights attorney to speak in Vancouver on post-earthquake Haiti**

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Nicole Phillips, Staff Attorney of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), will speak at two public forums on October 5 in Vancouver on the theme, “Human Rights, Haiti's Earthquake, and the International Community.”

Attorney Phillips is the lead editor and coordinator of a just-released report by the IJDH on post-earthquake conditions in Haiti entitled, **“We’ve Been Forgotten”: Conditions in Haiti’s Displacement Camps Eight Months After the Earthquake**. It documents continuing desperation in Haiti’s survivor camps and recommends a rights-based approach to relief and reconstruction.

Despite the international community’s historic generosity following the January 12, 2010 earthquake, the support has not been translated into effective assistance for the approximately 1.3 million residents of 1,300 makeshift tent camps in and around Port au Prince. Conditions for many are getting worse, not better.

“While the Government of Haiti bears the primary duty to protect the economic and social rights of its citizens, donor states and relief agencies must also meet certain standards in carrying out assistance to Haiti. This obligation arises from international law but also from the significant role the international community assumed in providing relief services in Haiti,” said Nicole Phillips on September 20, the date of the release of the report.

The report was based on investigations in six survivor camps conducted by a team of researchers, including Ms. Phillips, in July. The full report can be found at <http://ijdh.org/archives/14633>. For more information, please visit IJDH’s Housing Rights Advocacy Project website at <http://ijdh.org/housing>.

In addition to her work at IJDH, Nicole Phillips is Director of the Haiti and Dominican Republic human rights programs at the Center for Law and Global Justice, University of San Francisco School of Law.

Nicole Phillips will speak at two public forums on October 5-- at the Liu Institute on Global Issues at the University of British Columbia at 3:30 pm , and at 7 pm at Harbour Center, 515 W. Hastings St. She is available for interviews in Vancouver on October 3 and 4, and by phone before then.

For more information, contact Roger Annis of Haiti Solidarity BC at 778 858 5179 or at [haitisolidaritybc\(at\)resist.ca](mailto:haitisolidaritybc(at)resist.ca).

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