



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

Fighting for the human rights of Haiti's poor

December 2010

An appeal to those who make our work possible.

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Law in the time of Cholera

While we can't treat patients, we are fighting the conditions that make cholera possible in Haiti.

Cholera is a disease of the disempowered: it can only thrive where people cannot enforce their right to basic social services, including clean water and healthcare. It will likely persist in Haiti for years - as long as the conditions that make it thrive do. Those conditions also spawn other crises - extreme vulnerability to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural stresses, and diarrheal diseases killing children more slowly but just as surely.

We've fought these conditions for a decade: we opposed the development assistance embargo (2000-2004) that cancelled clean water project loans. We helped win over \$2 billion in debt cancellation, which freed up over \$1 million per week for the Haitian government to provide social services.

Your support will keep these cholera-fighting projects going:

- Our fight for better conditions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp residents - ending evictions and ensuring clean water, healthcare and sanitation - will stop the spread of the bacteria causing cholera.
- Discrimination and violence against women makes them more vulnerable to cholera, so protecting and empowering women reduces the risk for half of all Haitians.
- Promoting fair immigration treatment keeps tens of thousands of Haitians safe in the U.S., from where they send support to hundreds of thousands back home.
- Enforcing voting rights allows voters to elect leaders who prioritize basic social services.



You can prevent rapes in Haiti ...

Haitian Police Officer and Accomplice Arrested and Awaiting Trial for Rape of 15 Year-Old Girl.

In October, a mother and her fifteen year-old daughter came to our grassroots partner, KOFAVIV, to report that the girl was raped by two men, including a Haitian National Police officer. This was yet one more rape in an epidemic of rapes since Haiti's earthquake. Almost all of these rapes had gone unpunished. But thanks to our supporters, we were able to mount a response through our Rape Accountability and Protection Project (RAPP).

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For most rape victims in Haiti, the BAI is the only place they can go for free legal services and organizing help.

Lawyers help communities organize and stop evictions of people already displaced by the earthquake

IJDH Halts Forced Eviction of 310 Families at Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp

It seems that life could not get worse than living in an IDP camp - until even that is taken away. Imagine you are evicted and don't have anywhere else to bring your family, in a city overrun with cholera. Tens of thousands of people - who had already lost almost everything in the earthquake - have suffered this fate.

But not the families of the Barbancoeur II camp. The purported owner of the land under their camp came with police in June, and ordered residents to leave by July 16. The residents contacted the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), which provided "know your rights" training and organizing support, and informed the purported landowner and police that the planned summary eviction was illegal. Four months later, the Barbancoeur II community is still intact, as are the 20 other IDP communities that the BAI is working with.

IJDH is leading the fight against evictions in international courts. The Institute is lead counsel representing those at risk of eviction in a case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. On November 16, the Commission issued "Precautionary Measures" declaring the evictions illegal.



Children in Barbancoeur II IDP Camp where IJDH and the BAI have partnered with residents to prevent unlawful forced evictions.

Your donation keeps our lawyers stopping evictions on the streets, and in Haitian and international courts.

JUSTICE CLOSE TO HOME...

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has approved 55,000 Haitians to join their families in the U.S., but they are on a waiting list that could take 4 to 11 years.

IJDH is leading the effort to convince DHS to bring them in promptly.

Here, they'd be out of harm's way and, importantly, part of the recovery solution: their remittances would support hundreds of thousands of families and friends back home.

We led the effort which won a 6-month extension of the Temporary Protected Status filing period, and we're leading this fight, which we're determined to win.

You can help by giving today.

Help us reunite the 55,000 with their families so they can help Haiti recover!

For more information email us at info@ijdh.org, or donate on our website, www.ijdh.org.

You can help us reduce rape and open the doors of police stations and courts to women

Haitian Police Officer and Accomplice Arrested and Awaiting Trial for Rape of 15 Year-Old Girl

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Fabiola, a paralegal with the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), took the child to the hospital, to get treatment but to also obtain a medical certificate that can be used in court.

Esther, a Haitian woman attorney at the BAI, helped her file a complaint, and pushed the police to pursue the suspects. Both were arrested and are now awaiting trial.

These cases are not just providing justice for individual victims, they are making the courts accessible to all poor women.

“With every arrest of a perpetrator and every case we bring before Haitian courts, we educate law enforcement and the courts about their duties and create a better-functioning system that respects and enforces the most basic rights of women and girls,” says Annie Gell, Columbia Law School graduate and Lawyers Earthquake Response Network (LERN) Fellow at the BAI.



IJDH and the BAI need your donations to continue our much needed work in Haiti. Please give what you can!

Checks (preferred) can be made payable to IJDH and returned to us in the enclosed envelope.

To pay by credit card you can either:

- Fill in your information on the enclosed envelope and mail it back to us; or,
- Go to www.ijdh.org. Click the “Donate” button and enter the amount you’d like to give.

IJDH and the BAI Keep Elections’ Unfairness on World’s Radar Screen

• **Haiti’s Presidential and Parliamentary elections on November 28 were a well-documented failure, complete with widespread voter exclusion and fraud. IJDH and BAI saw these problems a year ago, and worked hard to call attention to them, including:**

- We testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and conducted several Congressional briefings;
- IJDH worked with Representative Maxine Waters on a Congressional sign-on letter to Secretary Clinton, expressing concerns about U.S. financial support for the elections;
- The BAI helped grassroots groups in Haiti organize demonstrations and press conferences;
- IJDH prepared two influential legal memorandums explaining the election’s flaws, and published several commentaries in print and online media;
- The BAI and IJDH were leading voices on the elections, in media from over ten countries, including the BBC, NPR, CBC, Newsweek and Democracy Now!

IJDH and BAI continue to fight for the fair elections that Haitian voters deserve. We’ll keep speaking and writing, and are investigating filing a legal complaint.



Your Donations Give Patrice Florvilus Training and a Chance to Stop Injustices He Battled His Entire Life...and Gives Haiti's Poor Hope for the Future

• You can pay for Haitian lawyers to educate, mobilize, and organize Haiti's poor for food, water, and security... and force the government to take action

In 1987, nine year-old Patrice Florvilus witnessed the murder

of eight of his friends in Haiti's notorious Jean Rabel Massacre. His friends were some of over 100 people killed by thugs supported by local landowners and the government who feared peasants organizing for land reform and their rights.

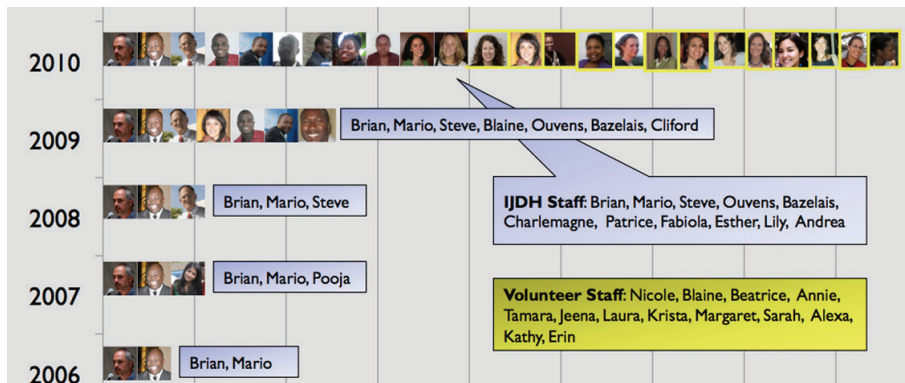
Patrice and his friends tried to hide. But the thugs found them, and killed everyone except Patrice. "After that day, I have put all of my energy into fighting for the rights of the poor," Patrice says.

Patrice is one of seven children. All of them, except for his parents, slept on the floor in a small two-room house in Goyave. They sometimes went days without eating.

Patrice's family somehow scraped the money together to send him to school. He is now a lawyer for the BAI, using his education, talent and energy to change the unjust system that killed his friends and kept his family hungry. He is starting by defending the most vulnerable - residents of IDP camps facing evictions.

IJDH raises almost all of the BAI's financial support, giving a home to Patrice and other Haitian public interest lawyers.

IJDH staff has more than doubled in the last year — including 5 full-time lawyers who are volunteers or fellows! We stretch every dollar as far as it will go, but need your support to keep our programs running.



"Every time I think about where I came from and how I am now working as a lawyer, I have more strength to continue to fight for the poor people of Haiti, and for everyone in the world who has their human rights violated."

- Patrice Florvilus

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