

URGENT ACTION

LGBTI ACTIVISTS AT RISK IN HAITI

Activists of *Kouraj* a group working for the rights of the Haitian lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people, have been receiving threats related to their work. The threats seem to be related to a march against “homosexuality in Haiti”, scheduled for 26 July.

The *Haitian coalition of religious and moral organizations (Coalition haïtienne des organisations religieuses et morales)* publicly called a march to protest against homosexuality and the threat of the expansion of the rights of the LGBTI people in the country. Since the call for a march was announced on 26 June, *Kouraj*, a Haitian organization working to raise awareness about LGBTI rights and create public debate about the stigma surrounding homosexuality in Haiti, started to receive threats. They have received leaflets at their premises in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, warning the organization to stop their activities with messages like “we don’t need groups like *Kouraj* in Haiti” (“pas besoin de groupes comme *Kouraj* en Haïti”).

Charlot Jeudy, president of *Kouraj*, has been targeted in some of the threats. One of the leaflets left at *Kouraj*'s premises stated “If Charlot doesn’t shut his mouth, we’ll shut it for him” (“si Charlot ne ferme pas sa gueule, on va lui fermer” [sic]). He also received anonymous calls accusing homosexuals of being the source of the country’s problems, including the 2010 earthquake which struck Haiti and killed 200,000 people. He has also received threats on his Facebook page.

Fearing for their safety *Kouraj*'s activists have decided to close their office. They feel particularly unsafe as the date for the planned march, 26 July is approaching.

Please write immediately in French, Haitian Creole or your own language:

- Calling for an independent, thorough and impartial investigation into the threat made against Charlot Jeudy and other activists of *Kouraj*, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Urging the authorities to take immediate steps to fully provide appropriate protection to Charlot Jeudy and other activists of *Kouraj* in accordance with their wishes;
- Reminding them that human rights defenders have a right to carry out their activities without any unfair restrictions or fear of reprisals, as set out in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 AUGUST 2013 TO:

General Director of the Haitian Police

Godson Orélus
Directeur Général de la PNH
Police Nationale d’Haïti
Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Email: godore68@hotmail.com

**Salutation: Monsieur le directeur/
Dear Director**

Minister of Justice and Public security

Jean Renel Sanon
Ministre de la Justice et de la Sécurité
publique
18, avenue Charles Summer
Port-au-Prince, Haïti
Email: secretariat.mjsp@yahoo.com
**Salutation: Monsieur le Ministre/ Dear
Minister**

And solidarity copies to *Kouraj*:
info@kouraj.org

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Kouraj (Haitian creole for “courage”) formed in 2009 as “Amis-Amis” (Friends-Friends) and became Kouraj in December 2011. They are activists working for the promotion of the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) in Haiti and aim to raise public awareness about the situation of discrimination and stigma towards their community. Activists of Kouraj told Amnesty International how the situation of LGBTI people has worsened since the 12 January 2010 earthquake, especially with the substantial arrival of religious groups from North America, many of whom have accused homosexuality in Haiti to be one of the reasons for the earthquake and the source of the country’s problems.

Following the 2010 earthquake, 2.3 millions of Haitians were left homeless with no alternative but to make their own shelters wherever they could. According to *Kouraj* LGBTI persons or those perceived as being LGBTI were often victims of discrimination in the displacement camps and many had to flee for even more precarious living conditions.

Name: Charlot Jeudy (m) and activists of Kouraj
Gender m/f: both

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