

TESTIMONY OF ERAMITHE DELVA

Delivered to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

During a Hearing on Precautionary Measure 340-10
Women and Girls in Camps for Forcibly Displaced Persons in Haiti

March 25, 2011

Dear Honorable Members of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights:

My name is Eramithe Delva. I am the executive director of KOFAVIV. I was also a victim of rape in 1992.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the Members of the Commission and all who have organized this hearing. My testimony is on security in the camps and the justice system in Haiti. KOFAVIV has born witness to the following:

1. There is no electricity in the camps;
2. Even the layout for toilets in and outside of the camps are a risk factor in the violence against women. For example, in one of the camps located in Champs de Mars the toilets are located on the main road in public view.
3. The majority of the camps do not have sufficient shower facilities as a result many of the women and girls shower outside. This is a violation of our rights and our dignity.
4. Lastly, There are no permanent and consistent police patrols in most of the camps.
 - a. In 2010, since the earthquake, we have documented hundreds of rapes.
 - b. In 2011, KOFAVIV has already documented 96 cases of rape during the months of January and February alone.
 - c. During the past year, we have worked with victims ranging in age from 12 months to 60 years old.

In addition to the lack of security in the camps, women face rampant discrimination in all stages of the justice system. One extreme example is the policy of requiring a medical certificate, which is not mandated under Haitian law, before the officials even investigate or prosecute a case. This allows judges to continue to manipulate the administration of justice.

To conclude, I respectfully ask, the Members of the Commission to visit Haiti and evaluate obstacles that make it difficult to effectively implement the recommendations of the Commission. These challenges include but are not limited to the lack of collaboration and coordination among the Haitian government, the UN agencies in working with grassroots organizations.

Thank you.