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Bureau des Avocats Internationaux



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**TRANSAFRICA**  
Justice for the African World

February 27, 2012

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights  
1889 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20006

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

This communication is filed on behalf of the Petitioners in the matter as an update on the situation of Petitioners' displacement camps. In addition to an update for the five camps in the original petition, we also include information about eight additional camps: the six camps under President Martelly's 16/6 plan - *Place Saint-Pierre*, *Place Boyer*, *Place Canape Vert*, *Mais Gaté*, and *Camp Bicentair* (formerly *Stade Sylvio Cator*), and two camps that recently faced eviction or violent threats of eviction – *Barbancourt 17* and *Grace Village*.

We ask that the Commission take measures to protect these camps from eviction and to assure that evicted residents are rehoused in locations that meet minimum living and security standards.

### **Procedural History**

On November 2, 2010, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux, the International Human Rights Law Clinic at American University's Washington College of Law, and the disaster law center You.Me.We. (collectively "Petitioners") filed a Request for Precautionary Measures ("Request") to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ("Commission" or "IACHR") against the Government of Haiti ("GOH") to stop the epidemic of illegal and violent evictions in displacement camps since the January 12, 2010 earthquake. The Request was filed on behalf of residents from five displacement camps. It described the destruction of entire settlements and the terrorization and brutality that accompany threats of forced evictions.

On November 16, 2010, the Commission granted Petitioners' Request and sent a letter to the GOH pursuant to Article 25 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure requesting the adoption of

precautionary measures.<sup>1</sup> The Commission further requested a response within 20 days, and on a periodic basis thereafter, with information on compliance with the measures. To our knowledge, the GOH has never responded to the Commission's request in writing. Nor has it made any effort to comply with the precautionary measures.

Petitioners sent updates to the Commission on June 15 and August 9, 2011, and requested a thematic hearing on August 20, 2011. The Commission scheduled a working meeting between Petitioners and the GOH, which was held on October 26, 2011. Representatives from the BAI, Bri Kouri Nouvèl Gaye, IJDH, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and TransAfrica Forum appeared at the meeting. The GOH did not attend.

### **Update on the Five Petitioner Camps**

The following facts came from interviews with residents of Petitioner camps conducted by the BAI within the last week.

#### **1. *Camp Toussaint Louverture***

Families evicted from *Camp Saint Louis de Gonzague*, a camp in Delmas 33, and families from various other camps created *Camp Toussaint Louverture* in April of 2010. *Toussaint Louverture* is one of six camps in Caradeux, a suburb northeast of Port-au-Prince. At one point camp leadership estimated that as many as 250 families lived there. Today they estimate that 100 families—approximately 600 people—remain.

In June of 2011, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided temporary (“T”) shelters for the families living adjacent to *Camp Toussaint Louverture*, in a camp that retained the name *Saint Louis*. CRS built a fence to separate *Toussaint Louverture* and *Saint Louis* residents. Although the T shelters do not provide adequate protection from the rain and other elements, *Toussaint Louverture* residents reported that the provision of higher quality housing to some and not others created animosity among the adjacent camps. Residents note, however, that the only difference between *Toussaint Louverture* and *Saint Louis* is the quality of physical shelter. None have functioning toilets. People must defecate in plastic bags. They throw the bags in a ravine that borders the camp.

Most children in *Toussaint Louverture* do not attend school. Families often cannot afford the cost of uniforms and transport. There is no secondary school close to the camp. Families would have to travel with their children for about an hour each way to escort their kids to school.

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<sup>1</sup> Precautionary Measures, Inter-Am. C.H.R., Report No. MC-367-10 (November 16, 2010). The measures requested were as follows: (1) adopt a moratorium on evictions of camps of internally displaced persons until a new government is in place; (2) ensure that persons who were illegally evicted from camps are rehoused in locations that meet minimum levels of salubrity and security; (3) guarantee internally displaced persons effective recourse before tribunals and other competent authorities; (4) implement effective security measures to safeguard the physical security of camp residents, guaranteeing special protection to women and children; (5) train law enforcement personnel on the rights of displaced persons, in particular the right to not be forcibly evicted; and (6) ensure international agents of cooperation access to camps of internally displaced persons.

During a BAI visit to the camp (on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>), camp residents reported that rape and violence against women are serious problems. There is no security presence.

*Toussaint Louverture* camp leadership reported that the Red Cross will soon present a “relocation plan.” They believe that the plan will require each family to find a place to rent with a stipend of approximately 20,000 gourdes (\$500 U.S.). Camp leadership believes that this is not a viable solution because many cannot find safe housing for that small amount. One camp committee member referred to this as a “dressed up forced eviction.” Four camp residents we spoke with agreed with the camp committee member. Until the Haitian State provides good quality housing that includes access to sanitation and other services, camp residents do not want to move. They fear, however, that if they resist they may be forced to leave without what little compensation is being offered.

Petitioners request that precautionary measures directed to the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide a moratorium on evictions and alternate housing that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity to residents of *Toussaint Louverture* in the event of an eviction from their current camp.

## **2. *Camp Barbancourt II***

In August of 2011, all 315 or so families of *Camp Barbancourt II* were evicted.<sup>2</sup> The purported landowner, Gilert Craan, had threatened to remove residents for over a year, but he had not proposed a date for the eviction. One Saturday in August, Mr. Craan arrived at the camp with national police, a Justice of the Peace, and private armed guards. The armed guards did not discharge their weapons, but residents feared for their safety.

Mr. Craan offered each family 5,000 goudes (US\$125) to leave. The families received the money and were kicked out the same day. Due in part to the lack of advance notice, the residents of *Barbancourt II* had no place to go. They slept in the street, in a school nearby, and in broken cars. Former camp residents are still spread out. Some went to another camp outside of Port-au-Prince. Others continue to live in the street.

Petitioners request that precautionary measures directed to the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide alternate housing to evicted residents of *Barbancourt II* that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity, and to hold law enforcement and the private landowner accountable under the law for the unlawful eviction that endangered the lives of the camp residents.

## **3. *Camp Palais de l'Art***

The purported landowner at *Camp Palais de l'Art*, Joseph Saint-Fort, continues to threaten and harass the 150 remaining families living in the parking lot of his property.

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<sup>2</sup> The threats of eviction in *Camp Barbancourt II* are featured in a segment on the news program Democracy Now! Sharif Abdel Kouddous, *Haitians Face Imminent Evictions from Displaced Persons Camps*, (March 30, 2011) at [http://www.democracynow.org/2011/3/30/haitians\\_face\\_imminent\\_eviction\\_displaced\\_persons](http://www.democracynow.org/2011/3/30/haitians_face_imminent_eviction_displaced_persons).

Mr. Saint-Fort lives on the land adjacent to the camp. Months ago, he started threatening the residents again, telling them that they must leave his property. On September 28, BAI attorney Mario Joseph represented the camp residents in court in an eviction action brought by Mr. Saint-Fort. Camp residents reported that later that day, Mr. Saint-Fort came to the camp with about 20 “bandits” (private thugs) and threatened the residents.

Although the camp residents have good contact with Attorney Joseph, they worry for their safety. The residents fear that the purported landowner will come one day and kick them out.

Currently 110 families live in *Palais de l’Art*. Every family who has an alternative place to live has already left. Camp residents said that no one has offered money for them to leave. The families who remain have no viable alternative. If they are evicted, they will be homeless.

Mr. Saint-Fort forbade distribution of services to camp residents, including water. He also prohibited the repair of camp toilets. Residents must relieve themselves in plastic bags, which they dispose in nearby dumpsters. The majority of children do not attend school.

Petitioners request that precautionary measures directed to the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide a moratorium on evictions until alternate housing can be provided to residents of *Palais de l’Art* that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity. This is critical, as residents are in imminent danger of being evicted from their current camp.

#### **4. *Camp Immaculée Déplacée***

*Camp Immaculée* was originally located in *Place Immaculee*, a public park in Cite Soleil. After months of threats, the residents moved about one kilometer away. Today approximately 100 families live in what is now called *Camp Immaculée Déplacée*. Some families have received T shelters from the International Organization of Migration (“IOM”). The T shelters are made of plastic and have tin roofs. They do not have doors. Security continues to be a concern in *Camp Immaculée Déplacée*. They have no water. They have two compost toilets built by a local grassroots organization.

*Camp Immaculée Déplacée* does not currently face threat of eviction. However, Petitioners request that precautionary measures directed to the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide a moratorium on evictions and alternate housing that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity to residents of *Camp Immaculée Déplacée* in the event of an eviction from their current camp.

#### **5. *Camp Lycée Jean Jacques***

After being harassed by police and community members as described in Petitioners’ Request, the residents of *Camp Lycée Jean Jacques* were forcibly evicted from the high school grounds. We have been unable to establish contact with the community since then.

## Update on President Martelly's 16-6 Relocation Plan

When he took office on May 14, 2011, President Michel Martelly pledged to close all of Haiti's displacement camps within six months, starting with six camps during his first 100 days. The President proposed his housing plan as a model to address immediate housing needs, close IDP camps and commence reconstruction. The plan proposes to relocate families from six camps on public land (*Place Saint-Pierre, Place Boyer, Place Canape Vert, Mais Gaté, and Stade Sylvio Cator*) to 16 neighborhoods surrounding Port-au-Prince. The plan offers the families three options: a \$500 U.S. stipend to rent a room for one year; the opportunity to rebuild their damaged home and to live in a temporary shelter during the reconstruction; or to rebuild and move into their damaged home.

One of the six camps was closed in July 2011 (*Stade Sylvio Cator*) without the protections or benefits promised in the Martelly plan. The families from *Stade Sylvio Cator* were unlawfully evicted by the Mayor of Port-au-Prince and Haitian police without a court order. Families without alternative housing were relocated to land that survey respondents described as having even less security, lighting or access to basic services such as toilets, water and food.

Martelly's administration outsourced the implementation of the 16-6 Plan to the IOM, which began in September with the registration and relocation process in two camps, *Place St. Pierre* and *Place Boyer*. By the end of December all of the families from *Place St. Pierre* and *Place Boyer* were relocated.

In January and early February, the IOM relocated the residents of *Mais Gate* and began relocating the families of *Place Canape Vert*, where approximately 100 families remain. Camp leadership in *Place Kanapevè* report that at least 50 families have searched for housing but have not found anything they can afford with the IOM stipend.

Residents in the camps included in the 16-6 plan state that the US \$500 offered under the plan to rent a place for a year, without access to any other services or job opportunities, is unsustainable. Many fear that they will be homeless in a year's time. Many families in the camps already relocated stated that they did not want to accept the IOM's offer, but felt forced to because the Mayor of Delmas and national police had told residents in the past that they had to leave the camps. Residents feared that if they did not accept the assistance, they would be evicted without any resources at all.

Over the coming month, the IOM will conduct follow up monitoring and evaluation of the families that have been relocated. IOM data shows that the vast majority of relocated families have not moved to one of the 16 neighborhoods that the plan targets, but to slum communities where rent is less expensive. Preliminary IOM follow up also confirms that over 90% of families have chosen the rental option. Most families living in the camps do not own land.

Given the rampant unlawful and violent evictions instigated by local mayors and police (see description of *Camp Stade Sylvio Cator* below and Petitioner's update letter of June 16, 2011, describing evictions by the Mayor of Delmas), residents of the six camps identified in President Martelly's 16/6 plan are fearful that they will be evicted from their camps without adequate

alternative housing. We request precautionary measures on their behalf to protect them from eviction and to assure that these residents are relocated to alternative housing that meets minimum standards of salubrity and security.

### ***1. Camp Stade Sylvio Cator***

*Camp Stade Sylvio Cator* was one of the six camps slated for closure under President Martelly's 16/6 Plan. In July 2011, after the 16/6 plan had been announced, the Mayor of Port-au-Prince, Muscadin Jean-Yves Jason, visited the camp with police officers and the Mayor's personal security.<sup>3</sup> Law enforcement destroyed tents and residents' belongings and threatened residents with violence. The stadium director disconnected the water lines, leaving the residents without potable water.

A survey of former residents of the stadium confirmed that violence and threats of violence were used by Haitian authorities during the eviction in July.<sup>4</sup> Thirty-five percent reported having been physically harmed or threatened with physical harm during the government's eviction, while 30 percent reported destruction of their shelter or belongings.<sup>5</sup> Residents reported even higher rates of violence in prior eviction attempts at the stadium.

The residents were not offered any of the services under President Martelly's 16/6 plan. Instead, Mayor Jason offered US\$250 and relocation to another site facilitated by Mayor's office available to a portion of the residents. A member of the Martelly administration working on the housing plan said that at least part of the relocation money came from the national treasury.<sup>6</sup> In a survey of the families who relocated to the new camp ("*Bicentair*" or "*Parc Pele*"), 36 percent reported that they did not receive any relocation money.<sup>7</sup> Of the 64 percent who received the US\$250, 82 percent said that they still could not afford housing. The money was not enough to build a 12x10 foot shack with a concrete floor, plywood walls and corrugated metal roof, which costs an average of US\$300 – leaving many residents without shelter.<sup>8</sup>

Out of 514 families living at Sylvio Cator, 150 families relocated to a small patch of land designated by the government for the resettlement in Martissant, a slum neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. Eighty-eight percent of respondents described the new government camp as having worse access to security, lighting, clean toilets, water and food compared with the stadium.<sup>9</sup> Residents at the government camp reported less access to basic services than at the other five camps. Ninety-six percent of residents reported not having access to clean and safe drinking

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<sup>3</sup> *Friday, the displaced of camp Sylvio Cator will be evacuated*, HAITI LIBRE (July 13, 2011) at <http://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-3370-haiti-social-friday-the-displaced-of-camp-sylvio-cator-will-be-evacuated.html>.

<sup>4</sup> See, *HAITI'S HOUSING CRISIS: Results of a Household Survey on the Progress of President Michel Martelly's 100-Day Plan to Close Six IDP Camps*, report by the University of San Francisco School of Law and the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (Oct. 3 2011), available at <http://ijdh.org/archives/22383>.

<sup>5</sup> Id.

<sup>6</sup> Interview with Clément Bélizaire in Pétienville, Haiti (Aug.16, 2011).

<sup>7</sup> *Supra* note 4, *HAITI'S HOUSING CRISIS*.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> Id.

water, compared with 51 percent in the other five camps.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, 100 percent of residents reported not having access to clean toilets, compared with 69 percent at the other camps.<sup>11</sup>

IOM has begun registering families living at *Camp Bicentair* to include them in President Martelly's 16/6 plan. A senior advisor with IOM told a BAI attorney that he was uncertain that the families evicted from *Camp Sylvio Cator* who do not live at *Bicentaire* will benefit from the relocation plan because it will be difficult to find them. We request that all residents of former *Camp Sylvio Cator* be provided with alternative housing that meets basic standards of security and salubrity.

## 2. *Place St. Pierre*

In September, the IOM began to register residents in *Camp Place St. Pierre*. IOM representatives went tent to tent to inform families that they had to move out and to let them know their three options: 1) Find a room to rent; 2) Rebuild their yellow (architecture code for damaged home) home; or 3) Rebuild their red (structural code for inhabitable house) home. Residents reported that they understood their options, but felt that the quantity of money offered was insufficient to find decent housing.

The 16/6 Plan offers families US \$500 to find a place to rent for one year. The plan offers a greater sum to help families rebuild their damaged or destroyed homes. According to the IOM, very few families elected to rebuild. The families living in *Place St. Pierre* who chose to rebuild have not received the assistance they need and continue to live in the camp.

The vast majority of families elected to find a new home to rent. All of those families have left *Place St. Pierre*. Nine families continue to live on *Place St. Pierre* property under tarps. The IOM reports that three of these families are waiting to rebuild yellow homes. Three wait to rebuild red homes. The remaining families reported that they want to leave the camp; they do not feel safe staying there. The IOM reported that they have offered the families a temporary shelter to place on the property to where they will return while they wait for reconstruction.

The majority of families from *Place St. Pierre* relocated to *Jalousie*, a slum neighborhood on a hill that faces Petionville. *Jalousie* is not one of the 16 neighborhoods in Martelly's plan. Residents suggested that *Jalousie* is a popular place of return because families could find a cheap room to rent for the sum they received.

Relocated residents often do not have access to potable water or to quality sanitation services. The relocated families lost the community fabric that they had built in the camp community. In the absence of job opportunities, the relocated continue to struggle to get by. Some residents fear that since moving more girls and women have entered prostitution.

Those relocated also complain that the 16-6 Plan is not sustainable. The families received money for rent for one year. They do not know what will happen in 366 days. The families also did not receive any financial support to ensure that their kids will go to school or to pay for clean

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<sup>10</sup> Id.

<sup>11</sup> Id.

water. A camp committee member from *Place St. Pierre* said that it's clear that the relocation plan was not well thought out. The plan does not present a sustainable solution.

We request that precautionary measures directed to the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide a moratorium on evictions and to provide alternate housing that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity to residents of *Place St. Pierre* in the event of an eviction from their current camp.

### **3. *Place Boyer***

All *Place Boyer* residents have relocated.

During the relocation process, residents stated that they want to move out but disagreed with Martelly's Plan. Families agreed to the plan, however, because they had no alternative. Residents reported that they know of other camps where residents were evicted without receiving anything. The \$500 U.S. to find a home to rent is not sufficient and is not sustainable. Families ask what will happen after one year. They ask how they will be able to afford a bed. They agree, too, however, that some money is better than nothing.

### **4. *Place Canape Vert***

The majority of the approximately 350 families in *Place Canape Vert* have relocated. In an early February visit to *Place Canape Vert* camp leadership reports, however, that at least 50 families are not able to find a place to rent for the \$500 stipend. Camp leadership also reports that they worry about what will happen to the relocated families after one year. They do not know of residents who have access to work opportunities that would enable them to pay rent.

### **5. *Mais Gate***

The families of *Mais Gate* were relocated in January of 2012. Like the families from *Place Boyer*, *Place St. Pierre*, and *Place Canape Vert*, the overwhelming majority took the \$500 rental stipend.

Residents of *Place St. Pierre*, *Place Boyer* and *Place Canape Vert* agreed that \$1,000 U.S. is a more reasonable sum for a family to find adequate housing. Residents also agreed that they need access to sanitation and water services and access to jobs. Without work, people fear that they will not be able to send their kids to school or to rent their home one year from now, when no stipend is provided.

We request that precautionary measures directed to the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide a moratorium on evictions and alternate housing that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity to residents in the other camps included in the 16-6 plan. We further request that the GOH investigates the living conditions in communities where families have relocated. We are concerned that families have relocated to communities that do not meet minimum standards of security and salubrity.



## **Update on Recent Eviction and Threat of Eviction in Port-au-Prince**

### ***1. Camp Barbancourt 17***

Facing threats of eviction, the residents of *Barbancourt 17* relied on a promise from the IOM that if they packed their belongings and loaded their families into vans, the IOM would relocate them to another camp, where the threat of eviction was not imminent.

On September 28, residents of *Barbancourt 17* left their camp. There are different stories of what happened that day. *Barbancourt 17* residents said that when they arrived at *Camp Refugee*, where the IOM planned to erect tents for the residents to stay, *Camp Refugee* leadership refused to receive them. *Camp Refugee* residents report that they were not willing to receive new residents because they did not know who they were or where they came from. IOM representatives said that when they began to relocate *Barbancourt 17* families at *Camp Refuge*, residents from the two camps began to argue. The Refugee camp committee decided that they would not accept the newcomers.

With nowhere to take the approximately 150 people of *Barbancourt 17*, the IOM tried to find a different plot of land for resettlement. The IOM contacted the Mayor of Delmas and asked for help to identify a relocation site. They could not find anything. By the end of the day, the IOM left the vans and the families outside of the Delmas 33 Police Station. They spent the following two weeks sleeping in the street in broken cars and in crumbled cement homes. Residents did not hear from the IOM until the middle of October. The IOM had found another plot of land in Delmas for the residents of *Barbancourt 17* to temporarily settle. After four days, however, the purported landowner and the Mayor of Delmas decided that the land was not in fact available.

Two months later, the majority of residents of *Barbancourt 17* are still homeless. The IOM provided families with tents, but most families had nowhere to place them. Most families continue to live in the street outside of the plot of land that they once called home, with no security or access to services such as water or toilets. A few of the families relocated to *Toussaint Louverture* and a neighboring camp in Carradeux.

We request that precautionary measures directed to the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide alternate housing to evicted residents of *Barbancourt 17* that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity, and to hold law enforcement and private actors (including the IOM) accountable under the law for the unlawful eviction that endangered the lives of the camp residents.

### ***2. Grace Village***

On Wednesday, November 16, the BAI responded to a call from residents of *Grace Village*, a camp located in the Carrefour suburb of Port-au-Prince. Michael James, the son of the purported landowner, arrived at the camp early in the morning, accompanied by armed national police officers. The landowner yelled at residents to get off of his land. The officers tore down two tents and burned one to the ground. Camp residents feared for their safety.

BAI attorneys arrived at the camp and asked Mr. James if a Justice of the Peace was present or if he had proof of land title or a judicial declaration. Mr. James did not. He continued to shout at camp residents to leave his land. BAI attorneys noted the badge numbers of the police officers. The police arrested seven residents, all of whom have since been released. Residents of *Grace Village* held a press conference on November 22nd to explain what happened.

In December, one block—defined as one geographic section of the camp—was evicted. The residents of this block erected tents in the alleys and side streets of their Carrefour community. Also in December, the purported landowner removed all of the lighting in the camp. The families of Grace Village not only lament the deteriorated security and sanitation conditions in their camp, but report that they fear they could face eviction at any moment.

The BAI and DOP, *Defenseurs des Oprimés*, are continuing to work with *Grace Village* to prevent the eviction of more residents. We request that precautionary measures against the GOH include provisions that require the GOH to provide a moratorium on evictions until alternate housing can be provided to residents of *Grace Village* that meets minimum standards to security and salubrity. This is critical, as residents are in imminent danger of being evicted from their current camp.

## **Conclusion**

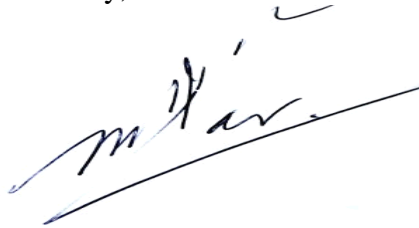
For the aforementioned reasons, we respectfully request that the Commission take urgent action to protect Haiti's IDP population from forced evictions by denouncing the Government of Haiti's participation in and acquiescence of forced evictions of IDP camps, by extending the November 2010 precautionary measures and issuing the follow recommendations:

- (1) adopt and publicize a moratorium on evictions from camps of internally displaced persons until a comprehensive return and resettlement plan is adopted and implemented that protects the human rights of Haitians displaced following the earthquake, especially in Petitioner camps, *Camp Grace Village*, and the six camps under President Martelly's 16/6 plan - *Place Saint-Pierre*, *Place Boyer*, *Place Canape Vert*, *Mais Gaté*, and *Camp Bicentair* (formerly *Stade Sylvio Cator*);
- (2) ensure that persons who were evicted from camps are re-housed at locations that meet minimum health and security standards, especially in Petition camps, *Barbancourt II*, *Camp Grace* and the six camps under President Martelly's 16/6 plan - *Place Saint-Pierre*, *Place Boyer*, *Place Canape Vert*, *Mais Gaté*, and *Camp Bicentair* (formerly *Stade Sylvio Cator*);
- (3) guarantee internally displaced persons effective recourse before tribunals and other competent authorities;
- (4) implement effective security measures to safeguard the physical security of camp residents, guaranteeing special protection to women and children;

- (4bis) implement effective measures to safeguard the physical health and well-being of camp residents, in particular through ensuring access to safe and potable water and sanitation;
- (5) train law enforcement personnel on the rights of displaced persons, in particular the right to not be forcibly evicted;
- (6) take efforts to penalize and hold law enforcement, and other public and private agencies and individuals, accountable when they circumvent or violate the law by participating in an unlawful eviction of an IDP camp or community, especially when the eviction puts the IDP camp or community in jeopardy for the physical safety;
- (7) educate government ministry officials, mayors, judges, and the police on the meaning of a forced eviction as defined in General Comment 7 by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, why they are illegal, to not carry out evictions until displaced persons can be returned and resettled in adequate housing, and to follow the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, particularly Principle 7 concerning the secondary displacement of IDPs;
- (8) work with the international community to build the capacity of the government to protect internally displaced persons, including seeking resources and technical expertise as needed;
- (9) encourage government and international agencies responsible for rubble removal and housing repair and creation to work expeditiously to resolve the housing crisis and build the capacity of the EPPLS to ensure the housing needs of IDPs are met; and
- (10) identify an agency responsible for implementation of the precautionary measures and recommendations, including the responsibility to educate government actors at the local and national level on the precautionary measures.

We thank you for considering this communication.

Sincerely,



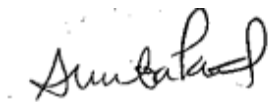
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