



## Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti Bureau des Avocats Internationaux

### POU PIBLIKASYON IMEDYAT

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#### **Gwoup Jistis ak demokrasi ann Ayiti ap Ankouraje Asistan Sekretè jeneral Nasyonzini Pou Dwa Moun nan k ap vizite Ayiti Pou Egzaminen Enplikasyon Dirèk Nasyonzini nan Epidemi Kolera a**

#### *Avoka yo Souliye Responsabilite Nasyonzini kòm Premye Nesesite Pou Yon Eta de Dwa an Ayiti*

(**Pòtoprens, Ayiti, ak Boston, Etazini, Jedi, 23 out, 2012**) – Avoka dwa moun yo ann Ayiti ak Etazini ankouraje Asistan Sekretè jeneral Nasyonzini Pou Dwa Moun nan, Ivan Šimonoviæ, k ap vizite Ayiti semèn nan, egzaminen enplikasyon dwa moun nan epidemi kolera ke twoup Nasyonzini yo pote nan peyi a.

Epidemi Kolera touye plis pase 7,500 Ayisyen epi kontamine plis pase 580,000 lòt depi Sòlda Nasyonzini yo te fin entwodwi 1 nan mwa Oktòb 2010. Malgre prèv akablan yo montre klèman se Nasyonzini ki pote epidemi a, òganizasyon mondal la kontinye refize pran responsabilite li, epi derefize pran mezi nesesè pou epidemi kolera a sispann touye moun.

Mèt Mario Joseph, ki se prensipal avoka dwa moun ann Ayiti, di l " bat bravo pou Asistan Sekretè Jeneral Šimonoviæ poutèt li mete aksan sou Eta de Dwa kòm yon nesesite pou ankouraje respè dwa moun an Ayiti," Reprezantan viktim kolera yo pou reklame dedomajman nan men Nasyonzini li kontinye pou 1 di ke : "Pou w yon avoka kredib nan batay pou yon Eta de dwa ann Ayiti, Nasyonzini dwe bay egzanp, epi responsab epidemi kolera a ke li lakòz."

Nan mwa novanm 2011, plis pase 5,000 viktim kolera ki te depoze plent kont Nasyonzini, yo mande : a)envestisman nan dlo pwòp ak sanitasyon pou kontwole epidemi an ; b) konpansasyon endividiyèl epi ; c) yon ekskiz publik bay tout pèp ayisyen an . Yo wè ka sa a tankou yon tès desizif pou mezire angajman Nasyonzini pou zafè dwa moun nan pratik. Gen anpil presyon entènasyonal sou do òganizasyon an pou rann jistis. Nan rapò 2012 li a, Ekspè Endepandan Nasyonzini sou sitiyasyon dwa moun an Ayiti a, Michel Forst, rekonèt ke "silans oubyen refi" pa pwodiktif pou misyon Nasyonzini an nan peyi Dayiti.

Bakteri Kolera yo anvayi sous dlo moun bwè toupatou nan peyi Dayiti, epi epidemi an se pi move epidemi kolera, yon sèl peyi konnen nan tan modèn yo. Brian Concannon Jr., youn nan prensipal avoka viktim kolera yo, fè konnen ke " kolera Nasyonzini an se yon gwo vyolasyon dwa plizyè milyon Ayisyen genyen pou jwenn dlo ke yo rekonèt entènasyonalman ak dwa lavi pou anpil milye lòt." Brian : "li espere Asistan Sekretè jeneral Šimonoviæ wè ke Nasyonzini gen yon opòtinite istorik pou avanse ak ranfòseman dwa moun nan kesyon dlo ak sanitasyon globalman, epi sove plizyè milye lavi lòt moun, nan aji avèk koyerans tankou jan ideyal li yo mande sa."

Pou plis enfòmasyon, lòt dokiman ak materiel sou ka sa a, vizite : [www.IJDH.org](http://www.IJDH.org).

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**Justice Groups Urge UN Human Rights Official Visiting Haiti to Examine Rights Implications of the UN Cholera Epidemic**

*Advocates Stress that UN Accountability is Prerequisite to Rule of Law in Haiti*

**(Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Boston, USA, Thursday, August 23, 2012)** — Human rights advocates in Haiti and the United States urge United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonoviæ, visiting Haiti this week, to examine the human rights implications of the cholera epidemic brought to Haiti by UN troops.

Cholera has killed more than 7,500 Haitians and infected over 580,000 since it was introduced by UN peacekeepers in October 2010. Despite overwhelming evidence that the UN caused the epidemic, the world body continues to deny responsibility and has not adequately responded to stop cholera's killing.

"We applaud Assistant Secretary-General Šimonoviæ's emphasis on rule of law as a necessary for the enjoyment of human rights in Haiti," said Mario Joseph, Haiti's leading human rights lawyer, who represents cholera victims in their claims at the UN. "To be a credible advocate for rule of law, however, the UN must demonstrate by example and be accountable for the cholera epidemic it caused."

In November 2011, over 5,000 cholera victims filed [claims](#) with the UN, seeking a) investments in clean water and sanitation to control the epidemic, b) compensation and c) a public apology. The case is seen as a litmus test of the UN's commitment to human rights in practice, and [international pressure](#) is mounting on the organization to respond justly. In his [2012 report](#), UN Independent Expert on Human Rights in Haiti, Michel Forst, acknowledged that "silence or denial" is counter-productive to the UN's mission in Haiti.

Cholera bacteria have infiltrated drinking water sources throughout Haiti, and the epidemic is the worst single-country cholera epidemic in modern times. "The UN cholera is a massive violation of the internationally-recognized right to water for millions of Haitians, and of the right to life for thousands," said Brian Concannon Jr., who is co-counsel for the victims. "We hope that Assistant Secretary-General Šimonoviæ sees that the UN has a historic opportunity to advance the enforceability of water and sanitation rights globally, and save thousands of lives, by acting consistently with its professed ideals."

For more information, including case documents and background materials, see [www.IJDH.org](http://www.IJDH.org).  
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