![Birkbeck University of London]

London, United Kingdon, 3 October 2012.

Statement of Concern for the Safety of Haitian Lawyer Mario Joseph

The Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers condemns the acts of intimidation targeted at Haitian human rights lawyer Mario Joseph.

Over the past 2 months, Mario Joseph has been subjected to various threats in connection with his representation of political dissidents in Haiti, and his more recent efforts to bring a case against the UN for its alleged role in negligently causing the outbreak of cholera following the earthquake in 2010.

The intimidation has included multiple death threats from anonymous callers and the use of graffiti outside his office. It has also involved the harassment of staff at Mario Joseph's offices by police officers.
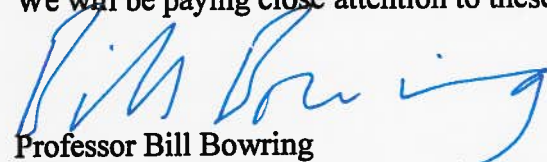
Worryingly, there appears to be elements of state collusion in this intimidation. On 27 September 2012 Former Chief Prosecutor for Port-au-Prince Jean Renel Senatus stated that he had been dismissed for refusing to execute warrants to arrest various activists in Haiti, including Mr Joseph. Mr Senatus said that he had no case against Mr Joseph and that that these warrants, requested by Justice Minister Jean Renel Sanon, were 'illegal'.

The Haldane Society, along with other national and international lawyers groups and human rights bodies, demand that the intimidation against Mario Joseph by the Haitian authorities cease.

If the Haitian Government believes these allegations to be unfounded, we demand that it issue a formal denial that there has been any state involvement in these matters and condemning the acts of intimidation Mr Joseph is currently being subjected to.

The Haldane Society requests that the relevant international bodies take suitable measures for the protection of Mario Joseph during this time.

We will be paying close attention to these matters as they develop over the coming days.

Professor Bill Bowring
International Secretary, Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers