



666 Dorchester Avenue
Boston, MA 02127

PAID

John Q Public
123 Anywhere St.
Anyplace, USA 12345

Helping Haiti... 10 million at a time



Dear PERSONALIZED SALUTATION,

Will you join me in helping Haitians, 10 million at a time? Your help is needed more than ever right now and if I tell you about Marie, I think you will understand why.

I first saw “Marie” at the entrance to the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) office in Port-au-Prince, in obvious pain, with a bandage from her elbow to her fingertips. Two nights before, her husband had intentionally ignited her sheets as she slept.

Marie had not come to BAI for sympathy—she had come to fight back. That day, BAI’s lawyers specializing in gender-based violence started working with Marie on criminal and civil cases against her husband.

Marie also had not come to BAI alone—her one-year-old daughter “Michelle” played on the floor next to her. In contrast to her mother, who looked as exhausted as one would expect, Michelle was miraculously bright-eyed and bright-smiled, well-dressed and about as cute as a human being can be (please don’t tell my 3-year-old Georgia I said that).

My first thought was that Marie must have used extraordinary strength and skill to insulate her daughter from her own trauma. My second thought was that we need to build a Haiti that will allow Michelle to keep the sparkle in her eye and the smile on her face. I’m sure you would agree that we need to force the justice system open for the thousands of victims of violence who do not reach the BAI office.

Marie will be invited to join BAI Women’s Saturdays, where, along with vocational training, she can connect with grassroots women activists who are changing the way that Haiti’s justice system and society treat women. This is done through organizing, media work, engagement with elected and judicial officials, and protests.

Marie’s lawyers at BAI will use her case, if she desires, as an opportunity to educate the courts and the public about the impact of gender-based violence, and to establish precedents that will make the justice system fairer for all 5 million Haitian women.

This approach is changing the unjust system that keeps Haitians vulnerable. BAI has won

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YES, I want to help. Please use my gift to help Haiti,
10 million people at a time.

\$50 \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

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My check payable to Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card. (see reverse)

convictions in 10 of its last 12 rape cases; and in January's criminal court sessions, half the scheduled cases were for rape, whereas in the past, violence against women was almost never prosecuted.

With the support of friends like you, BAI and its US affiliate, IJDH, are reducing the systemic tolerance for political corruption and violence in Haiti by prosecuting former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, and making progress towards installation of nationwide clean water and sanitation systems through our cholera accountability case.

We are keeping activists out of jail and training Haitian law graduates in human rights lawyering.

Please join all of us—Marie, Haitian grassroots activists, and their lawyers in Haiti and the U.S.—to build a more just, prosperous and stable Haiti.

Gratefully,



Brian Concannon Jr.
Director

P.S. Find out more about our work building justice in Haiti at www.ijdh.org. And please consider making your most generous year-end donation today because 10 million Haitians, like Marie, really need our help and we really need yours.



BAI Managing Attorney Mario Joseph spoke in Geneva in October 2013 at the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders. Mario was one of three finalists for this prestigious award, referred to as the “Nobel Prize of human rights.” Immediately following Mario’s passionate speech the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, was moved to depart from her prepared remarks to agree with Mario that Haitian cholera victims deserve compensation.

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Fighting for Clean Water and Justice for Cholera Victims. BAI and IJDH are leveraging a modest investment in legal work into comprehensive water and sanitation infrastructure in Haiti that will save thousands of lives every year. IJDH and BAI partner with a dedicated and talented network of cholera victims, concerned citizens, legislators, journalists, students, scientists, nonprofits, and government officials in Haiti and the US. Together we are compelling the United Nations (UN) to take responsibility for the cholera epidemic it created. We demand the UN provide infrastructure, compensation to victims and an apology to all Haitians.

BAI and IJDH lead the legal work on the campaign for UN accountability. In October, we filed an innovative class action in U.S. Federal Court, which the *New York Times* called “one of the most organized legal challenges to United Nations assertions that it is immune to such litigation.” This work has already borne fruit—the UN has agreed to lead efforts to raise \$2.2 billion for water and sanitation in Haiti (but has only raised 10% so far). The bandwagon keeps getting more crowded: in October, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called for victims’ compensation and in November, the conservative Heritage Foundation called for accountability.



Fighting Corruption and Political Violence. BAI and IJDH are seizing a historic opportunity to reduce corruption and political violence in Haiti by pursuing charges against former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier. The case, filed on behalf of survivors of “Baby Doc’s” notorious political prisons, seeks to punish Duvalier as well as send a message to current and future political leaders that they will not get away with murder and pillage of public resources.

In 2013, a Haitian appeals court held hearings where, for the first time, Duvalier’s victims told their stories and Duvalier answered questions under oath. The process encouraged substantial public discussion of both Duvalier’s crimes and the Haitian government’s obligation to prosecute him. Based on the weight of the evidence presented to the appeals court, we believe the political violence charges against Duvalier have a good chance of being reinstated. While the court’s decision is still pending, BAI and IJDH are busy preparing for the next round in the battle to hold a dictator accountable.

For 18 years, through tough times and times of hope, BAI has challenged and guided the Haitian justice system as it learns to work as part of a democracy instead of a dictatorship. It has trained Haitians to know their rights, to demand their rights, to use justice as a tool to create a just, stable and prosperous society. For almost 10 years, IJDH has been at BAI’s side, bringing the Haitian fight for justice to the American people and unleashing resources to support the fight.

Haiti’s problems are well known. But there is a solution too—the systemic change that Haitians are demanding and that BAI and IJDH are helping to achieve, in court, in the international media and on the streets. Join us—invest today in justice, stability, and prosperity in Haiti by making a contribution to keep BAI and IJDH on the front lines.



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www.ijdh.org

Helping Haiti

10
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Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) and Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) help individual Haitians enforce their basic rights—in the courts, in police stations, on the streets—in ways that force

the justice system to work better for all Haitians. This creates fundamental, sustainable change: People who can enforce their civil rights can organize and vote their way out of poverty and vulnerability. People who can enforce their employment, education, and rural property rights can learn, earn, and grow their way out.

Just as lawyers in the U.S. have worked with grassroots organizations to achieve large-scale social change—school desegregation; basic labor rights; voting rights for African-Americans, women, and other groups; anti-discrimination rights; etc.—BAI and IJDH provide the legal support for cases that help all 10 million Haitians build a more just, stable, and prosperous country.



Defending Human Rights Defenders. BAI and IJDH leverage their impact by helping human rights defenders who are threatened, harassed, and even arrested. We get activists and lawyers out of jail and increase their protection by fighting in Haitian and international courts and mobilizing support from the international community. This work allows the threatened defenders to get back to their own work enforcing rights. And it gives all those working for a better Haiti the comfort of knowing that BAI and IJDH will be there if they are threatened.

Unfortunately, 2013 has been a busy year for defending human rights defenders, with many activists and lawyers threatened, wrongfully arrested, and beaten. But with BAI's support, they are already back fighting for justice for all Haitians.



Increasing Safety for All Haitian Women. The BAI and IJDH Rape Accountability and Prevention Project (RAPP) helps rape victims push their cases through the justice system in ways that increase protection and court access for all women. RAPP collaborates closely with grassroots women's groups and employs a holistic approach, combining legal advocacy, public advocacy, grassroots organizing, and healthcare referrals. RAPP's three lawyers are the only Haitian lawyers specializing in rape cases.

Every RAPP rape case builds the capacity of the police, lawyers, judges, and grassroots communities to respond justly to rape, which in turn increases the safety women need to fully participate in their economic, educational, family and civic roles. At the end of the day, RAPP is about creating a Haiti where women and girls are treated fairly by the courts and society at large.



Training the Next Generation of Human Rights Lawyers. Each year, BAI mentors Haitian law school graduates over the two hurdles to bar admission—completion of a thesis and an apprenticeship—while providing them and other new lawyers with specialized training to become effective people's lawyers. BAI alumni make the Haitian justice system work more fairly as lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and ministry officials throughout the country.

One recent addition to the program is a leading Haitian gay rights activist, who originally came to the BAI as a client. After seeing how the Bureau empowered marginalized groups, he stayed on to learn more. Another is a nurse who provided healthcare to women victims of violence for years, and sees legal advocacy as a tool for helping all women.

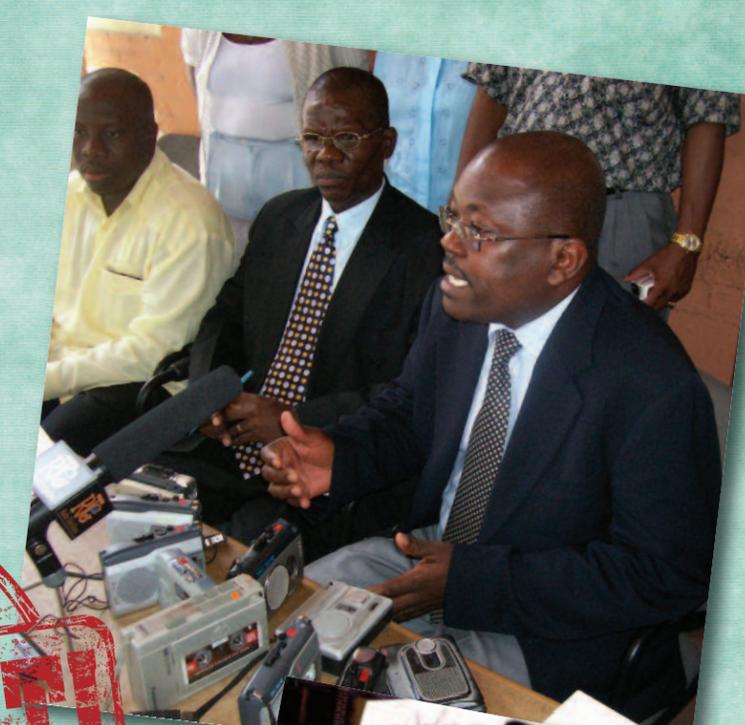
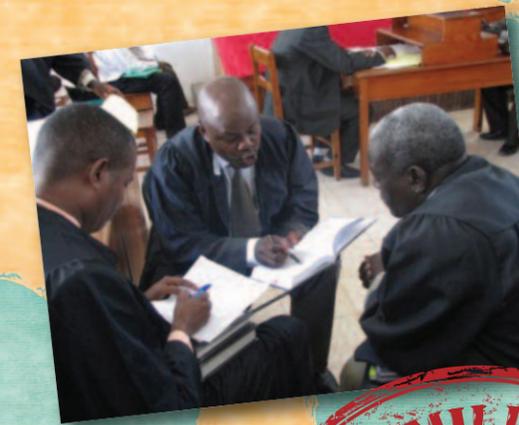
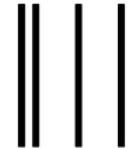


Photo: Ben Depp



Photo: Dan Ramirez





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