

## Making Haiti Safe for Women

BAI continues to empower Haitian women to secure an equal role in Haitian society by obtaining fair access to Haitian courts and fighting for justice in sexual violence cases. BAI represents victims through trial and appeals, provides training to judges, lawyers, and medical professionals, promotes the use of expert testimony and Creole language in court, and helps women's organizations conduct public advocacy through press conferences, demonstrations and panel discussions. As convictions become common, potential perpetrators are deterred, which begins to lift the burden of risk that keeps too many women from full participation in society, in Haiti and around the world. This makes Haiti safer for democracy for all its citizens.



## Making Haiti Safe for Activists

BAI supports a community of pro-democracy and human rights activists in Haiti, by providing the legal representation in Haitian and international courts they need to keep fighting in the face of repression. Highlights over the past year include:

- Helping democracy activists in the town of Les Irois win a seven-year-long fight for justice against the town's mayor and his henchmen, for murder and aggravated assault committed during a string of political attacks in 2007;
- Securing the release of political prisoner Jean Robert Vincent after more than two years of detention.

We can't always tell you the names and the stories of those we serve, as the spotlight could put them back at risk. But knowing BAI and IJDH are there to help gives courage to those working for change and deters those apt to attack them.

We are honored to be part of this vital and promising work, and deeply privileged to have so many inspiring collaborators in our network. Please accept our gratitude for your role in making this progress possible, and please consider keeping this work going strong with a contribution this holiday season.



Haitians have been fighting to make their votes count and their voices heard since becoming the world's first Black republic and the Americas' second independent country in 1804. The BAI-IJDH partnership is moving this struggle forward by helping Haitians aggressively challenge limitations on their democracy in courts, academia, the press and public discussion in Haiti and abroad.

This fight is a team effort, and your financial contributions, solidarity and activism are a big part of why we are winning it. There are more victories to be had in 2016. Let's all do our best to win them.



[www.ijdh.org](http://www.ijdh.org)

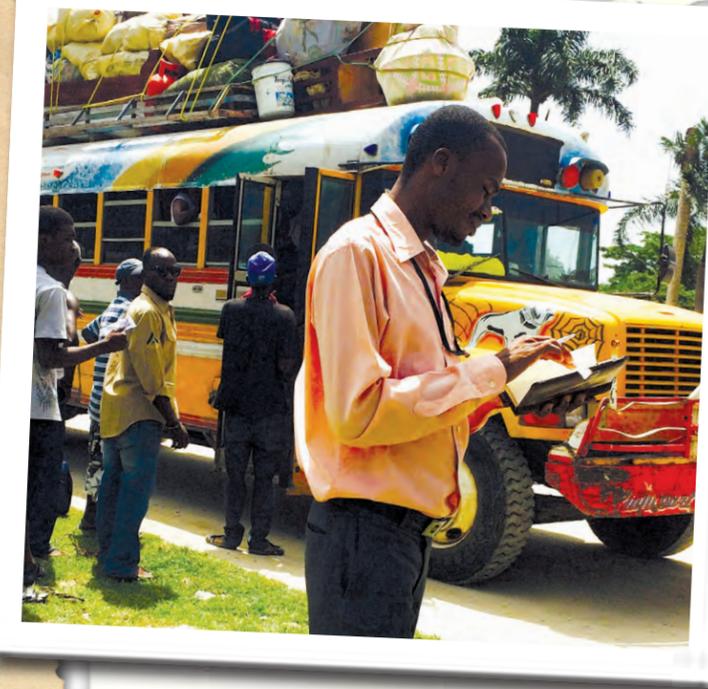
Making **HAITI** safe  
U.S.  
UN  
the world  
for Democracy in Haiti



The Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) and Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) help Haitians build stability and prosperity by fighting for democracy in Haiti and in other places where decisions about Haitian rights are made. By making Haitian votes count and protecting freedom of speech and assembly, we provide Haitians with the opportunity to vote and organize themselves out of poverty. A functioning democracy allows Haitians to choose leaders willing to support justice; to use government resources to provide education, healthcare, water and other essential services; and to manage the economy for the majority's benefit.

This is obviously more than two organizations can accomplish alone. BAI and IJDH achieve historic advances in democracy for Haiti by nurturing a vast network of people and organizations committed to a just Haiti. The network starts with our financial supporters, volunteers, interns and tens of thousands of grassroots collaborators in Haiti, and extends to a multitude of political leaders, activists, academics, Tweeps, organizations and human rights advocates on six continents.

Together over the past year we have accomplished so much.



## Democracy Beyond Elections: Government Accountability

BAI's Civic Engagement program is establishing a model for rural Haitians to persistently engage with their government through non-violent, democratic means for the first time in their history. The program combines training in government structures and advocacy skills with engagements in existing national and international advocacy campaigns. Highlights include:

- 15,000 participants meet weekly in small groups across rural Central Haiti for training, discussion and advocacy planning;
- Press conferences in Central Haiti and Port-au-Prince feature rural citizens with little formal training delivering articulate, sophisticated and rights-based analyses of their problems and presenting concrete, realistic solutions;
- Demonstrations bring citizens into the streets to fight for clean water and justice for cholera victims.



## Making Haitian Votes Count

IJDH and BAI are taking advantage of a historic opportunity to make every vote count in elections scheduled this year for every elected office in the country save ten Senate seats. This work relies on the experience, relationships and credibility BAI and IJDH have developed over 20 years, and includes:

### In Haiti:

- The pioneering Pak Elektoral (Electoral Pact), which elicits commitments from candidates to take concrete actions to promote human rights;
- Initiatives with urban and rural grassroots groups to denounce election problems and organize for improvements;
- An innovative "ground truthing" project that allows Haitian voters to report irregularities by phone directly to a website that generates reports on the problems.

### Outside Haiti:

- Driving discussions of the international community's role in the elections through Briefing Papers, Op-Eds, U.S. Congressional briefings and the Haiti Vote Blog, the most complete and influential source on Haiti's elections in English.
- Disseminating reports and analysis to international audiences from a broad spectrum of Haitian observers through social media, our website and translation of key documents.

## #HaitianLivesMatter in the Dominican Republic and U.S.

IJDH stepped up to challenge the Dominican Republic's initiative to illegally deport hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent and Haitian migrants. IJDH centralized information about the crisis and action alerts issued by a range of organizations on its website; sent a human rights delegation to the border; and collaborated with Haitian-American leaders, as well as local and national political leaders and activists in Haiti, the DR and the U.S. to run action campaigns. IJDH's network generated 3,258 likes on its Facebook page on the crisis in three weeks.

IJDH fought for Haitians in the U.S. by providing information and expert testimony on asylum claims through its Haiti Asylum Information Project, coordinating policy advocacy with legal and community advocates nationwide and working to expedite and monitor Haitian Family Reunification Parole.



## Demanding United Nations Respect for Haitian Rights

BAI and IJDH continued to pursue accountability for the victims of the cholera epidemic UN troops introduced to Haiti in 2010. The epidemic has not gone away: From January to July 2015, there were 19,949 new cases of cholera and 170 deaths — triple the number of cases and deaths recorded in the same period last year. But our Cholera Justice Network keeps fighting for the water and sanitation infrastructure necessary to control the epidemic, for compensation for the victims, and for an apology. Along the way, we are changing the way that the UN responds to harm it causes to the vulnerable populations of peacekeeping host countries. Highlights in 2015 include:

- Four UN experts filed a Letter of Allegation—the first ever filed against the organization—demanding that the UN respect the international human rights of cholera victims;
- 86 Haitian-American organizations, international law scholars, human rights groups and former high-level UN officials filed *amicus curiae* briefs in our U.S. lawsuit, explaining why justice for the cholera victims was a legal and moral imperative;
- 77 members of the U.S. Congress wrote UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, insisting that the UN respond justly to the cholera epidemic;
- 154 Haitian-American organizations wrote to Secretary of State John Kerry, insisting the U.S. government use its financial leverage with the UN to obtain a more just response.