



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

March 2013

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Secretary of State
Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Haitian and Haitian-American community in Massachusetts, I write to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Secretary of State for the United States. We are thrilled that you have joined President Barack Obama's cabinet as his closest advisor regarding foreign policy.

Today, we ask you to once again take the lead in establishing accountability and transparency in our nation's relations with Haiti. I write specifically to express the deep concern of all Massachusetts' Haitians, Haitian Americans and friends of Haiti at the failure of the United Nations (UN) to respond justly to the cholera epidemic introduced to the country by UN troops in 2010.

The UN's responsibility for the epidemic is clear. Cholera has killed over 8,000 Haitians so far and sickened more than 640,000 since the epidemic started in October 2010. A host of reports from experts in genetics, biology and epidemiology have traced the cholera in Haiti to UN peacekeepers at a base where sewage was allowed to discharge into Haiti's largest river system.

The UN promised to support the "Cholera Free Hispaniola" Initiative; however, it is only 10% funded today, almost two and a half years after the epidemic began. Moreover, the UN refuses to apologize to the Haitian people and last month declared the complaints filed on behalf of 5,000 cholera victims to be "not receivable" by invoking diplomatic immunity.

Our government has shown important leadership in responding to the cholera crisis. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has played a central role in treatment and prevention efforts. In July 2012, 104 members of the U.S. Congress, including eight Representatives from Massachusetts, called on Ambassador Susan Rice to encourage swift UN action, stressing that "[a]s cholera was brought to Haiti due to the actions of the UN, it is imperative for the UN to now act decisively to control the epidemic."

Again, we commend you for your past and continuous leadership in support of the people of Haiti. We request that you continue this leadership now, when Haiti desperately needs it, by ensuring that the UN acts decisively to stop the senseless and devastating deaths of Haitians.

Sincerely,
Linda Dorcena Forry
Linda Dorcena Forry
State Representative

Cosigned Name (Printed): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____