



Kermshlise Picard <kpicard15@gmail.com>

Haiti Justice Update

1 message

Kermshlise Picard IJDH <development@ijdh.org>

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To: Kermshlise Picard <kpicard15@gmail.com>



Haiti Justice Update

October 2013

Cholera Case

Slowly but surely, we're winning justice for Haiti's cholera victims.

Recent highlights include:

- Filing the [cholera suit](#) against the UN
- [Demonstration](#) at UN headquarters forces Haitian government to reverse position and support justice for cholera victims
- Letters from [US Congress](#) and a Haitian Senate [resolution](#)
- UN's own [panel of experts](#) acknowledge UN responsibility



The best part of this success is that it was a team effort! Thanks to everyone in the BAI/IJDH community who:

- Helped build the movement for cholera justice by distributing information through email, Facebook, and Twitter

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Thank You!

Your Generosity Keeps Us Fighting for Justice.

Thank you for being part of the team and helping us bring justice to Haiti's poor majority.

- Contacted their members of Congress and signed the petition
- Provided the financial support necessary to keep us fighting on the front lines!

For more on cholera, click [here](#).

Martin Ennals Award

BAI's Mario Joseph was honored Wednesday in Geneva, Switzerland as a finalist for the Martin Ennals Award, the most prestigious international human rights award. Mario's speech was eloquent enough to inspire Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to depart from her prepared remarks and [call for compensation](#) for Haiti's cholera victims. Click [here](#) to watch the Ennals Award's inspirational video about Mario. Click [here](#) to watch the entire ceremony.

Rape Accountability

Too often, Haitian victims of rape and sexual assault live with their trauma and don't get the justice they deserve. BAI has been working hard to change that.

The Rape Accountability and Prevention Project (RAPP)'s two lawyers are the only Haitian lawyers specializing in rape cases, playing an instrumental role in the prosecution of rape criminals. The team takes the case from the initial police report through the trial period, and has already led seven perpetrators to a guilty verdict.



20 more cases were prepared for trial for 2013, and BAI will continue having special events as well as support groups for rape survivors.

Duvalier Prosecution

We've moved ex-dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier several steps closer to justice. From January, an appeals court held a series of hearings where, for the first time, victims shared their testimonies and Duvalier answered questions under oath. We think enough evidence was presented to convince the appeals court to reinstate the political violence charges against Duvalier. We're now awaiting the court's decision.

For more on the case, click [here](#).

Housing Rights

3 years after the earthquake, people are *still* living in tents. Even worse, they face constant threats of illegal eviction from the land where they seek refuge.

Since 2 million people lost their homes due to the 2010 earthquake, IJDH and BAI have teamed up with several organizations to advocate for adequate housing and stop forced evictions. In March 2013, we won our second Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) order on behalf of 500 families in the Grace Village camp. IACHR ordered the Haitian government to provide potable water and protection from illegal evictions. The IACHR order has also ensured that more lights are installed and patrols are increased in the Grace Village Camp.



Defending Human Rights Defenders

Can you imagine living in constant fear and stress because of your job?

One of the major challenges of human rights work in Haiti is constant threats, harassment, and

We are excited about the changes you can help us make this year. Please consider [donating today](#) and continue your support for the critical work you help us do.

Take Action

Join us in working with Haitians to enforce basic rights necessary to escape poverty and vulnerability.

Consider [making a donation](#) to IJDH. IJDH and the BAI need your donations to continue our much needed work in Haiti. Please give what you can!

Checks should be made payable to IJDH and mailed to 666 Dorchester Avenue, Boston MA 02127.

To donate by credit card, click the "Donate" button and enter the amount you'd like to give.

Sign up for updates from IJDH so you can stay informed about what we're working on and how you can help.

[Volunteer](#) on a project, forward this to a friend, find us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#), [attend an event](#), or read more about [our work!](#)

intimidation. In the past few months, we have had to defend Attorney Patrice Florvilus; members of the LGBT organization, *Kouraj*; and two men who filed suits against the Martelly family, *Andre Michel* and *Newton St. Juste*. BAI and IJDH increase our impact by ensuring other human rights lawyers can work safely. Without our collaboration and fight for protection, these people wouldn't be able to do their jobs helping those who can't yet help themselves. Click [here](#) for another example of our work defending human rights defenders.

For more information about the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI), or human rights in Haiti, see our website, <http://www.ijd.org>.

666 Dorchester Avenue | Boston, MA 02127 |
(617) 652-0876 | info@ijdh.org | www.ijd.org

IJDH is an approved 501(c)(3) charitable organization and
all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



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Address postal inquiries to:
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
666 Dorchester Avenue
Boston, MA 02127
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