



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES JURISTES DEMOCRATES
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE JURISTAS DEMOCRATAS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АССОЦИАЦИЯ ЮРИСТОВ ДЕМОКРАТОВ
國際民主法律家協會
رابطة الحقوقيين الديمقراطيين العالمية

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), along with its partner, the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), warmly welcomes the report presented by the Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation.

We commend her for the invaluable work she has done over the past six years to raise awareness of the importance of access to safe drinking water and sanitation and to promote respect for this fundamental human right. We also thank her for emphasizing the importance of access to justice for victims in case of violations.

We particularly appreciate the fact that the Special Rapporteur called attention to the cholera epidemic in Haiti and to the UN's involvement in the outbreak. As she stated in her report, non-state actors, including international organizations, have human rights responsibilities and should be held accountable for their failures, whether they are intentional or unintentional.

Since 2010 cholera has killed over 8,500 people in Haiti and infected more than 700,000 others. The epidemic is still ongoing. Overwhelming evidence shows that the epidemic was caused by the UN's reckless disposal of untreated human waste from Nepalese soldiers serving in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Through leaking pipes and overflowing disposal pits, the UN poisoned Haiti's principal river with cholera-laden bacteria, giving rise to a devastating public health crisis.

In spite of repeated calls by UN independent experts and officials to remedy the situation, the Organization still refuses to take responsibility and guarantee access to justice for victims. As a result, the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

of hundreds of thousands of Haitians is jeopardized.

For all these reasons, we strongly support the Special Rapporteur's call to investigate allegations, ensure the right to a remedy, and reinforce measures for adequate sanitation and prevention. We join her in urging the UN to provide sufficient resources to eradicate the disease in Haiti.

We request that the Special Rapporteur and the Human Rights Council call on the UN to comply with the Special Rapporteur's recommendation contained in paragraph 85 related to non-state actors, including international organizations, and consequently ensure that a standing claims commission is established to resolve the claims of Haitian cholera victims in fulfillment of their right to a remedy.

Finally, we urge the Special Rapporteur and the Human Rights Council to monitor the steps taken to comply with the Special Rapporteur's recommendation, and follow up to ensure that cholera victims have access to justice for the grave violations of their right to clean water.