

## **Open Letter to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We, the undersigned, write to express our deep concern at the United Nations' refusal to recognize its proven responsibility for introducing cholera into Haiti. As Canada intends to re-engage with UN peacekeeping, your government now has a unique opportunity to create a more responsible peacekeeping structure with improved respect for sovereignty and human rights, notably in Haiti where an important UN mission, MINUSTAH, has been present since 2004.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is the source of a great tragedy: a deadly cholera epidemic. Cholera has already killed over 9 200 Haitians and sickened over 770 000 since UN peacekeepers introduced it to Haiti in October 2010. Between January and March 2016, more than 6 000 people have been hospitalized, and cholera deaths are up by 43% over the same period in 2015.

Overwhelming and conclusive scientific evidence, including a report from an Independent Panel of Experts commissioned by the UN itself, have concluded that MINUSTAH peacekeepers from Nepal introduced cholera into Haiti. Haiti had never had a reported cholera case until these UN peacekeepers discharged their waste from a UN base into Haiti's largest river system. Now, Haiti has the largest cholera epidemic in the world.

The cholera epidemic has had significant economic consequences. Haitian communities and families have had to carry heavy financial burdens as they take on the costs of medical care, relatives' funeral expenses, and education for children orphaned by the epidemic. Cholera contributes to impoverishing the Haitian population and to heightening the vulnerability of those who are poorest, and who have been hit hardest by the epidemic. Important financial resources that could have assisted in Haiti's reconstruction following the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, have had to be poured into the fight against cholera.

The results of five years of cholera have been catastrophic. Yet despite the overwhelming evidence, the UN has refused to even acknowledge its responsibility for the cholera tragedy and has persistently blocked efforts by victims to seek remedies by invoking its immunity. Numerous prominent Haitian and foreign actors, including former Canadian diplomats, have strongly called on the UN to honor its moral and legal obligations towards the families affected by the epidemic.

As former Canadian Ambassador to the UN Stephen Lewis stated on 12 November 2014 at the Raoul Wallenberg Lecture on Human Rights at McGill University Faculty of Law "[t]here are few things, in the last decade of the United Nations, more illegitimate, more

reprehensible, more despicable than the United Nations scurrying for cover behind the tattered, discredited banner of immunity when applied to the cholera tragedy in Haiti... The human rights of the dead and afflicted were dismembered from the outset; democracy and the quest for justice does not exist; and the rule of law...is flouted at every turn.”

Ambassador Lewis is not alone in calling for remedies for victims. He is joined by a growing number of world leaders and concerned citizens—including current and former UN officials such as then-High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, former Canadian Ambassador to the UN Allan Rock, human rights organizations like Amnesty International, and thousands of Haitian citizens.

In their letter of 23 October 2015 to Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, five UN-appointed human rights Special Rapporteurs, Philip Alston (extreme poverty) Dainus Puras (right to health), Leo Heller (right to water and sanitation), Gustavo Gallón (Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti), and Leilani Farha (right to housing), condemned the UN’s approach to victims of cholera, which “undermines the reputation of the United Nations, calls into question the ethical framework within which its peace-keeping forces operate, and challenges the credibility of the Organization as an entity that respects human rights.” Indeed, if the UN is to succeed in its mission of promoting rule of law and human rights in Haiti and around the world, it is imperative that it restores its credibility by accepting responsibility and providing remedies to those who have been affected by the devastating disease and to national institutions for the costs they have incurred.

Your government has made a pledge to “refocus Canada's development assistance on helping the poorest and most vulnerable.” We ask that your first step in fulfilling the pledge be to ensure a more principled, accountable response by the UN to the poor and vulnerable victims of the UN cholera in Haiti.

We urgently call on you to stand in solidarity with Haiti and the Haitian-Canadian community, and to demonstrate principled leadership in supporting cholera victims.

We respectfully thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Montreal, April 30, 2016

cc: **The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada**

( Endorsement by )

	<b>NOM LAST NAME</b>	<b>Prénom First Name</b>	<b>Titre Title</b>	<b>Organisme Organization</b>	<b>Ville City</b>
1.	CONCERTATION POUR HAÏTI			(16 organizations)	Montreal
2.	AGNANT	Marie-Célie	Writer		Montreal
3.	AGNANT	Patrick			Montreal
4.	ALCINDOR	Christian			St-Laurent
5.	ALCINDOR	Micheline			Laval
6.	ALEXANDRE	Karl			Montreal
7.	ALTÉNOR	Jean			Montreal
8.	AMBROISE	Steeve			Sherbrooke
9.	ANDRÉ	Frantz			Montreal
10.	ANTOINE	Yves			Gatineau
11.	APPOLON	Fedner			Montreal
12.	AUDAIN	Stolan	Retired		Laval
13.	AUGUSTIN	Louis P.			Greenfield-Park
14.	BARAULT	Raynald			Montreal
15.	BARREAU	Junia			Montreal
16.	BARRY-SHAW	Nikolas	Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti		Montreal
17.	BARRY-SHAW	Jane			Montreal
18.	BASSETT	Nicolas			Montreal-Nord
19.	BEAULNE	Pascale			Longueuil
20.	BÉLANGER	Mélanie	Animatrice alphabétisation, CEDA		Montreal
21.	BENJAMIN	Frantz	Conseiller municipal, Ville de Montreal		Montreal
22.	BENOIT	Jean David			Ottawa

23.	BERROUËT-ORIOU	Robert	Linguist-terminologist	Montreal
24.	BIEN-AIMÉ	Petrus		Laval
25.	BIEN-AIMÈ	Juee		St-Laurent
26.	BISSAINTHE	Annick		Montreal
27.	BOISSON	Jean		Montreal
28.	BONIN	Pierre		Laval
29.	BOTI	Marie	Femmes de diverses origines Women of diverse origins	Montreal
30.	BOUCARD	Françoise		Montreal
31.	BOUCHEREAU	Serge	Spokesperson for CAPSS	Montreal
32.	BRUNEAU	Stéphanie	Master in environment	Montreal
33.	CASSEUS	Pascale	Student	Ottawa
34.	CEIDE	Orlando		Montreal
35.	CHARLES	M.	Artist (Defouko)	Montreal
36.	CHATEAUNEUF	Peggy	Student	Longueuil
37.	CHATEAUNEUF	Celine	Administrative Agent	Longueuil
38.	CHÂTEAUNEUF	Céline		
39.	CHÂTEAUNEUF	Lise		Laval
40.	CIMA	Jean Fritz		Longueuil
41.	CLAIRVIL	Frantz		Montreal
42.	COCULA	Micheline		Montreal
43.	COFFY	Févère		Laval
44.	CONSTANTIN	Louise		Montreal
45.	CORNET	Phil	<a href="http://kenscoffgroup.com">kenscoffgroup.com</a>	Lynbrook
46.	CORNETT	Sara		Verdun

47.	DALÉUS	Fritzberg	Writer, CUMAJ	Montreal
48.	DANIEL	Marie Florence		Montreal
49.	DANTICA	Valéry	Civil Engineer	Montreal
50.	DAVIAULT	Caroline		Montreal
51.	DÉJOIE	Careyelle		Montreal
52.	DELICE	Frantz	Foundeur, RICS	Montreal
53.	DÉPESTRE	Yvette		Ottawa
54.	DESANCE	Ismarck	University of Calgary	Calgary
55.	DESPEIGNES	Guy		St-Laurent
56.	DION	Yves	Tetra tech Qi inc.	Boucherville
57.	DOMOND	Marie Flore	Writer	Montreal
58.	DOUYON	Denise		Montreal
59.	DUBREUIL	J.C.		Dubville
60.	DUBUISSON	Raymond	Coordinator, Comité des Haïtiens de l'Outaouais pour la Reconstruction d'Haïti	GATINEAU
61.	DUMAY	Chardin	President, La Diaspora Haïtienne	Montreal
62.	DUVALSAINT	Steve		
63.	EMILE	Jeanna		Montreal
64.	EUSTACHE	Rosemay	Retired	Greenfield Park
65.	EXENTUS	Renel	Student	Montreal
66.	FLEURY	Bergman		Laval
67.	FONTECILLA	Andrés	President, Québec solidaire	Montreal
68.	GABRIEL-PIERRE	Raymonde		Anjou
69.	GAGNON-LAVOIE	Julie		Montreal
70.	GARNIER	André J	Lawyer	St-Hubert, Qc.

71.	GELIN	Wilfrid		Laval
72.	GILL	Louis		Montreal
73.	GOLDFARB	Sylvia		Montreal
74.	GUSTAVE	Ricardo		Montreal
75.	HENRI	France	Honorary Professor, Télé-université, Université du Québec	Montreal
76.	HENRY	Jean Vernet	Agronomist, Chancellor Université d'État d'Haïti	Pétion Ville (Haïti)
77.	ICART	Jean-Claude	Independant researcher	Montreal
78.	JEAN	Elias		Laval
79.	JEAN MILUS	Rocheman		Montreal
80.	JEGU	Cyrille		Laval
81.	JENKINS	Brian		Montreal
82.	JOSEPH	Natalie		Montreal
83.	JOSEPH	Gertrude		Longueuil
84.	JOSEPH	Marie-Line		Laval
85.	JOSEPH	Fritz		St-Michel
86.	JOUTHE	Ernst	Retired teacher	Longueuil
87.	JUAN	Isabelle		Longueuil
88.	JUMELLE	Marie-Claire		Montreal
89.	KAVANAGH	Yardly	Communication Specialist Les Productions Kaya	Brossard
90.	KLANG	Gary	Writer	Montreal
91.	LABORDE	Ronald		Montreal
92.	LAGRANDEUR	Fred		Montreal
93.	LEMOINE	Eddy		Laval

94.	LONGUEFOSSE	Firmose Mozart	Teacher	Montreal-Nord
95.	LOUIS-JEUNE	Fritz		Greenfield-Park
96.	MANGA	Marie-Claude	Pastor – Social worker The United Church of Canada	Montreal
97.	MELUS	Medicoeur	President, International coalition of Family For Education	Fort Lauderdale
98.	MENUAU	Roland		Laval
99.	MERCIER	Louis V		Montreal
100.	MÉTELLUS	Maguy	Radio Host	Montreal
101.	MÉUS	Jean -Carlo Junior		Longueuil
102.	MOÏSE	Fritz		Longueuil
103.	NOËL	Denise		Laval
104.	PATOUT	Renée-Louise	Member of CAPSS	Montreal
105.	PETIT	Abner		Longueuil
106.	PHELPS	Anthony	Writer	Montreal
107.	PHILOCTÈTE	Alexandra	Radio host and producer	Montreal
108.	PHILOCTÈTE	Alain		Montreal
109.	PIERRE	Samuel		Montreal
110.	PIERRE	Sony		St-Léonard
111.	PIERRE	Andros		Montreal
112.	RACINE	Ronald		Saint-Hubert
113.	RENAUD	Alix	Writer	Québec
114.	REYES	Pino Mabel		Montreal
115.	RICHARD	Mario		Montreal
116.	ROBERT	Claude		Laval
117.	ROCHER	Éloi	Real estate Broker, Groupe Élite Canada	Laval

118.	RODRIGUEZ	Alicia	Retired	St-Hubert
119.	ROYER	Geneviève		Montreal
120.	SAINT LOUIS	Karine		Montreal
121.	SAINT VICTOR	Alain	Teacher	Laval
122.	SAINT-LÉGER	Jocelyne		Outremont
123.	SAINT-LOT	Émile	Retired	Delray-Beach, FL
124.	SÉRANT	Ghisi		Montreal
125.	SEYDI	Amara		Montreal
126.	SHAW	Dorothy		Montreal
127.	SIMARD	Andrée		Verdun
128.	SIMON	Pierre		Longueuil
129.	SIMON	Daphney		Montreal
130.	SIMON	Jean-Robert		Montreal
131.	SOUKA	Adjoavi Virginie		Montreal
132.	ST-AMAND	Jean-Robert		Montreal
133.	STEVENSON	Wendy		
134.	STOTT	Mira	Designer	Montreal
135.	STOTT	Maria		Laval
136.	ST-PAUL	Rose-Anne		Montreal
137.	ST-PAUL	Maxon		Montreal
138.	SULLY	Jennie-Laure		Montreal
139.	SUPRICE	Lenous		Montreal
140.	TARDIF-BERNIER	Isabelle	Student	Montreal
141.	VERJIN	Jilbert		
142.	VILLEFRANCHE	Marjorie	Manager, Maison d'Haïti	Montreal

143.	VINCENT	Marc			Montreal
144.	VOLTAIRE	Frantz	Manager, CIDIHCA		Montreal
145.	WHALLEY	Rose Marie	ms	CKUT 90.3	Montreal

Noms et Prénoms Names	Signature	Noms et Prénoms Names	Signature	Noms et Prénoms Names	Signature
FRANTZ ANDRÉ	<i>[Signature]</i>	KARL ALEXANDRE	KARL	EDDY LEMOINE	<i>[Signature]</i>
JENNIE-LAURE SULLY	<i>[Signature]</i>	JEAN ELIAS	<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>[Signature]</i>
Jean Fritz CIMA	<i>[Signature]</i>	GRETHER JOSEPH	<i>[Signature]</i>	Gabriel-Pierre, Rasponde	<i>[Signature]</i>
JANE BARRY-SHAW	<i>[Signature]</i>	Roland Mennan	<i>[Signature]</i>	Sara Cornetti	<i>[Signature]</i>
Dorothy Shaw	<i>[Signature]</i>	Fritz Moise	<i>[Signature]</i>	DESPEIGNES, Guy	<i>[Signature]</i>
W. Jensen (Wendy)	<i>[Signature]</i>	KAYNARD BARAVIT	<i>[Signature]</i>	Févere Coffy	<i>[Signature]</i>
REYES PINO MABEL.	Mabel Reyes.	Cecile Orlando	<i>[Signature]</i>	Temara Zucchi	<i>[Signature]</i>
Rose-Anne St-Paul	<i>[Signature]</i>	Frank R. Costa	<i>[Signature]</i>	Michelle Coculla	<i>[Signature]</i>
Marie Florence Daniel	<i>[Signature]</i>	Jean BOISSON	<i>[Signature]</i>	Francis Clairvil	<i>[Signature]</i>
Genevieve Royer	<i>[Signature]</i>	EDDY LEMOINE	<i>[Signature]</i>	Joseph Marie-line	<i>[Signature]</i>
Gelin Wilfrid	<i>[Signature]</i>	Ronald Laborde	<i>[Signature]</i>	TILBERT UERTIN	<i>[Signature]</i>
Denise Noël	<i>[Signature]</i>	Marie Careyille	<i>[Signature]</i>	Fritz Louis-Jeanne	<i>[Signature]</i>
Josephine Fred	<i>[Signature]</i>	CONSTANTIN LOUISE	<i>[Signature]</i>	JOSEPH FRITZ	<i>[Signature]</i>
Blain Philatèle	<i>[Signature]</i>	CHARLES M.	<i>[Signature]</i>	STEVE DUMASARDI	<i>[Signature]</i>
FEDNER APOLON	<i>[Signature]</i>	CETINE CHATEAUFORT	<i>[Signature]</i>	Chaire Claire Dumelle	<i>[Signature]</i>
ANDROS PIERRE	<i>[Signature]</i>	NICOLAI BASSETA	<i>[Signature]</i>	Louis P. Augustin	<i>[Signature]</i>
Louis V. Merlier		PETRUS BIEN-AMÉ	<i>[Signature]</i>	Yvan H. Genet	<i>[Signature]</i>
514-378-8241		CHARLES T. J. J. J.	<i>[Signature]</i>	STAMANS JEAN-ROBERT	<i>[Signature]</i>
Abner Petit	<i>[Signature]</i>	DONNY PIERRE	9207		