

BUREAU DES AVOCATS INTERNATIONAUX

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PRESS RELEASE

In its primary mission to defend the rights of the most deprived and those human rights which are inalienable, imprescriptible and inherent to all people – in particular those of the victims of cholera imported by MINUSTAH, the women and girls victimized by rape and sexual assault, as well as the citizens who are victims of State terrorism and other abuses of rights – the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) has learned that Magistrates of the Judiciary have ceased work for the last two (2) weeks throughout the entire nation.

BAI believes that the grievances raised for this work stoppage are fair and legitimate. The magistrates are demanding, among other things, better working conditions and the appointment of judges supported by the High Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ), and are protesting against the interference of the Executive Power in the Judiciary, most notably in the appointment of judges which have not been proposed by the CSPJ.

Consequently, the BAI, in solidarity with this work stoppage, has made the decision through its lawyers to wait for the strike to lift in order to expedite and ensure the follow-up of the cases before the Courts and Tribunals of the Republic. In the same vein, the BAI encourages lawyers from all of the Bars in the country to follow suit in support of the Rule of Law and Democracy.

However, the BAI, concerned about the proper functioning of the judicial system and the need to respect human rights and civil liberties, remains concerned about the Executive Power's contemptuous attitude towards the judiciary. The BAI recognizes that when it comes to arbitrarily dismissing Magistrates from the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Executive quickly turns a blind eye or is completely in denial with regards to responding to the legitimate claims of the Judges.

The BAI is not surprised by the cynical behavior of the Executive Power in relation to the grievances of the Magistrates, since this power is undoubtedly fueled by the logic of the "legal bandi" who, themselves, are and remain predators of the Law, Justice and Democracy.

Finally, with the goal of promoting the independence of the Haitian Judiciary within the framework of a socially just Democratic Society, the BAI urges the Magistrates to be vigilant and show solidarity in order to counter the totalitarian abuses of the Executive.

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