



Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate

5 August 2020

Dear Mr Joseph and Ms Wisner,

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2020 relating to assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel in Haiti. Thank you also for recognizing the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

I am pleased to reassure you that the Senior Victims' Rights Advocate, with my full support, is continuing to engage with and support victims in Haiti. I am grateful that the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux has maintained close contact with her. In this regard, I note that the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux has already received, through her, the information requested in your letter. You may wish to seek confirmation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Haiti that it received a communication from MINUJUSTH in February 2018 stating that the proceedings against the former United Nations uniformed personnel involved were not related to their official duties and that such proceedings may continue.

As you point out, United Nations policies and procedures relating to paternity and child support claims are based on facilitation of the realization of parental responsibility of fathers with the Member States where jurisdiction to resolve these claims lies. This is my priority, and I am pleased to inform you that there are very positive developments in Member States' cooperation.

At the same time, support to victims and children born of sexual exploitation and abuse, initiated through a project established in 2018, has continued. The children have been able to go to school and their mothers have participated in livelihood support and other activities. Unfortunately, these activities have been affected by COVID-19 mitigation measures and the security situation on the ground.

Mario Joseph, Av.  
Managing Attorney  
Bureau des Avocats Internationaux

Sandra C. Wisner  
Senior Staff Attorney  
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

Cc: Carla Pessanha Loque  
BINUH, Port au Prince  
Haiti



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Finally, I call on the fathers of these children to comply with their individual parental responsibility. As you will know, enforcement of individual parental responsibility lies with their State of nationality. United Nations policies provide that relevant information, including results of tests, are provided to the victims concerned, and they have been provided with all material relating to their cases. Supported by the Senior Victims' Rights Advocate, I am pursuing resolution of these cases, informing the victims of the steps that are being taken.

I am very grateful for the Bureau des Avocats Internationaux's support to the victims and encourage it to work with legal advocates in the States of jurisdiction so that their claims can be satisfied.

With kind regards.

Jane Connors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Connors', written in a cursive style.

Victims' Rights Advocate