



Media Advisory: the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) and the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) to present at the 178th period of sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)

December 7, 2020 (Port-au-Prince / New York)

Human Rights Body of the Organization of American States to Livestream Public Hearing on Impunity for Human Rights Violations and Lack of Judicial Independence in Haiti

When: Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 2h00pm Eastern

How: The hearing will be public, broadcast on the Zoom platform for those who register [through IACHR](#). A livestream will be available on the IACHR [website](#) at the time of the hearing, and a recording of the hearing will be made available on the website at a later date.

What: BAI and IJDH, along with two experienced Haitian legal practitioners, will present evidence on pervasive impunity for serious human rights violations and the lack of judicial independence in Haiti. The Commission has also invited representatives of the Government of Haiti to participate in the hearing. They, too, will have the opportunity to present evidence and participate in a dialogue with the Commission and the advocates, who are expected to argue that pervasive impunity and the lack of judicial independence in Haiti, both violations of the American Convention on Human Rights, can also be directly linked to [rising violence and insecurity](#).

The Commission called this public hearing in response to a request submitted by BAI and IJDH and in accordance with its mandate within the Inter-American Human Rights System, the regional system created to monitor and ensure implementation of human rights within the thirty-five member states of the Organization of American States.

Who: Participants in the hearing are scheduled to include:

- The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ([IACHR/CIDH](#))
- Advocates
 - Mario Joseph, Managing Director of BAI
 - Sonel Jean-Francois, Director of Judicial Inspection for the *Conseil Supérieur du Pouvoir Judiciaire*, former Director of *Unité Centrale de Renseignements Financiers* (Central Financial Intelligence Unit)



- Lionel Constant Bourgoïn, Former prosecutor and former Director General for *Unité de Lutte Contre la Corruption* (Haiti's Anti-Corruption Unit)
- Alexandra V. Filippova, Senior Staff Attorney for IJDH
- Representatives of the Government of Haiti (unknown)

For more information and to view the full program of hearings please see the Commission calendar available [here](#) (in English). IJDH will provide updates and related materials [here](#).

About the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, a U.S.-based, human rights non-profit, is a partnership of human rights practitioners in the U.S. and Haiti dedicated to advancing justice for Haitian communities in Haiti and abroad through litigation, advocacy, and grassroots solidarity

About the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux*

Founded in 1995, BAI has worked for over two decades in constitutional and international human rights law, grassroots solidarity, and building networks and coalitions to advance justice and protection of human rights in Haiti.

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