

Good afternoon. My name is Alexandra Filippova, and I am a senior staff attorney with the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, BAI's sister organization based in the U.S.

To supplement my colleagues' powerful presentations, I want to emphasize that the questions of impunity that we bring before you today are not abstract. The victims of human rights abuses and the people of Haiti more generally consistently demand accountability and justice from their government. It is something that is so fundamental and important that Haitians have been taking to the streets in widespread demonstrations, in spite of sometimes violent suppression that has resulted in injuries and even deaths.

As is clear from my colleagues' presentations, the government of Haiti has not ensured accountability and a functional judicial system. Victims have been forced to live without justice, sometimes for decades. Yet they still seek it.

This has been powerfully exemplified by Raboteau massacre victims who joined my colleague Mario Joseph and other advocates in late July of this year for a press conference and a sit-in at the office of the Gonaives government commissioner to demand justice. We share links to several videos from those two events in our written submissions, which show victims for whom the massacre remains fresh. They rightfully demand justice and a judicial system that functions as it is intended and actively seeks that justice on their behalf. I hope that the Commission will watch those videos, because the testaments they capture are emblematic of a broader demand by Haitians for an end to impunity, and for meaningful accountability through an impartial and fair judicial system.

The government of Haiti has an obligation under the American Convention on Human Rights to end impunity and to ensure an independent and functional judiciary. It is failing in those obligations and is, instead, engaging in conduct contrary to established human rights standards, conduct that collectively clearly merits the Commission undertaking active steps to support the people of Haiti in their efforts to vindicate their fundamental rights.

Thank you.