Closing Statement by Marie Kattia Dorestant Lefruy on behalf of the BAI & the Rezo Fanm BAI

Pre-Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Haiti
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Excellencies:

I thank you again for being here today to hear from Haiti's civil society about Haiti's human rights situation.

I'd like to close by emphasizing that women's rights cannot be considered as low priorities in a difficult situation or as ancillary to security responses in this moment of crisis. As set out by Security Council Resolution 1325 and its progeny, known as the "Women, Peace, and Security Agenda," empowering women as decision-makers and centering gender-specific considerations is in fact central to an effective crisis response and to securing a stable peace and long-term prosperity in Haiti. It is a question of our rights and dignity as Haitian women and girls, yes. But it is equally a question of overall social stability.

Haiti's women and girls have a great deal to offer to our country and to the world. And securing our distinct needs, including by addressing gender-based violence and helping us have an equal part in responding to the present situation, is not just a matter of respecting our rights. It is indispensable to Haiti's future.

To that end, I ask that you center our recommendations in your review of the human rights situation in Haiti.