HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

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Who We Are...
IJDH and BAI: Seeking Justice for Haiti’s Poor

- Fight for the rights of Haiti’s poor majority
- Represent victims of injustice
  - Earthquake victims
  - The unjustly imprisoned
  - Children without access to education
IJDH/BAI: Seeking Justice for Haiti’s Poor

Our Approach

- Victim-centered
- Rights-based
- Multi-faceted

Our Projects

- Heath and Human Rights in Prisons Project (HHRPP)
- Human Right to Education Project (HREP)
- Haiti Asylum Information Project (HAIP)
- Half Hour for Haiti
- Lawyers Earthquake Response Network (LERN)
Our Team: Seamless Advocacy Inside and Outside of Haiti

Bureau de Avocats Internationaux
- Litigation in Haiti
- Support for international litigation
- Information gathering
- Grassroots advocacy in Haiti
- Capacity building

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti
- Support for litigation in Haiti
- International litigation
- Information dissemination
- Grassroots advocacy in the U.S.
- Fundraising
Building Haiti Back More Justly

A Rights-Based Response to the Earthquake
The Haiti Earthquake

“In terms of its proportionate impact on one country, the Haitian earthquake may well be the worst natural disaster ever.”

-Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the International Federation of the Red Cross
Disproportionate Burden on Haiti’s Poor

National Palace:
- 2 people died in the collapse of the National Palace.

Urban Slums: Home to Haiti’s Poor Majority
- Tens of thousands of people died in the collapse of hillside slums.
Inadequate Housing

- 86% of the urban population in Haiti live in slums.
- Only 22% of the urban population in Latin America & Caribbean live in slums.

Typical Haitian housing: Many houses are made of anything that can provide the semblance of shelter, including rags, plastic bags, and banana leaves.

PHOTO CREDIT: Peter Hallward, 2007
Structural Causes of the Vulnerability of Haiti’s Poor

- Undermining of Haiti’s Agricultural System
- Degradation of the Environment
- Subsidized Rice
- Migration to the cities
  - Overcrowded, unsafe housing
  - Increased vulnerability to natural disaster

- Unjust Trade Laws
Comparing the Earthquakes in Chile and Haiti

Although the Chile earthquake was 500 times stronger than the Haiti earthquake, Haiti suffered 230 times more mortality.
Basic Health Indicators in Haiti

Source: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Health Situation in the Americas: Basic Indicators 2005.
1.3 million people were left homeless by the earthquake.

Today, only 300,000 (less than one third) of those have received “some form of emergency shelter materials” from the International Red Cross Federation.

Source: "More Quake Victims in Haiti Getting Shelter" by Lisa Schlein, 3/16/2010
The rainy season will bring with it increased disease burden and suffering for the hundreds of thousands of Haitians still without shelter.

“When the rainy season starts, it’s not that people will get wet, but that they will get washed away.” – Alberto Wilde, Cooperative Housing Foundation

Source: "Rain pours fresh misery on quake-struck Haiti," Rueters, February 11, 2010
Less than 1 Cent per Dollar

“The U.S. government money is part of close to $2 billion in relief aid flowing into Haiti - almost all of it managed by organizations other than the Haitian government”

Source: "Haiti govt gets 1 penny of US quake aid dollar" By Yesica Fisch and Martha Mendoza (AP) January 27, 2010
Earthquake Aid from the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has raised over $350 million dollars for Haiti earthquake relief, but less than one third of that has actually been spent or even allocated for relief efforts.

Source: American Red Cross Issues 2 Month Progress Report for Haiti, March 12, 2010
Connecting U.S. and Haitian lawyers to advance a rights-based response to the earthquake.

The Lawyers’ Earthquake Response Network (LERN)
What is LERN?

- Network of 329 lawyers in the U.S. working with Haitian lawyers and grassroots groups to implement a legal response to the earthquake.
- Employs a human rights-based approach
- Advocates for earthquake victims, especially displaced persons, women, and children.
- Works to enforce housing, labor, environmental, and immigration rights.
- Works to reduce Haiti’s vulnerability to future natural, political, and economic disasters.
Structure and Organization of LERN

IJDH and CCR

Oversight Committee

Network of 329 U.S. Lawyers, Law Students, and Law Professors

Project Leaders

Disability Rights
Earthquake Response
Environmental Rights
Gender Rights
Housing Rights
Immigration Opportunities

Haitian Lawyers

Haitian Grassroots Groups

BAI
LERN Across the Globe

7 Organizations
329 Lawyers, Law students, and Law Professors
69 Cities
10 Project Leaders
6 Projects

- U.S. Based Organization
- Haiti Based Organization
- Project Leader
- LERN Member
LERN: Connecting U.S. Lawyers with the Haitian Grassroots
Haitian students interview earthquake victims, collecting data on living conditions in the camps.
BAI Earthquake Response

- Empowering grassroots groups to advocate for themselves.
- Grassroots women attend training at the BAI to conduct needs assessment of their neighborhoods for advocacy.
The BAI and the Aristide Foundation organized a funeral ceremony at a mass grave site near Titanyen to honor the children lost in the January 12, 2010 earthquake.
Medical Clinic at the BAI

Following the earthquake, the BAI hosted a medical clinic in its courtyard and opened its doors to injured earthquake victims.
The New Media Advocacy Project (NMap) returns to Haiti to film after the earthquake.

The BAI’s Mario Joseph is interviewed by Democracy Now!

IJDH Director Brian Concannon, Jr.’s opinion piece on “The Help That Haiti Needs” is published in the New York Times blog “Room for Debate.”