



Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti  
Bureau des Avocats Internationaux

**For Immediate Release**

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**Haiti: Groups to Press Array of Concerns**

*From Education to Gender Violence  
Lineup to Address Gaps in Reconstruction*

WASHINGTON, DC -- As Haiti passes the six month mark of its attempts to recover from a massive earthquake, Haiti Civil Society and Diaspora members covering different aspects of the recovery will press their cases Tuesday, July 27 on Capitol Hill. Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) board members Ira Kurzban, Esq. and Dr. Paul Farmer will both testify.

Haiti's recovery has been viewed as halting and in disarray by a growing variety of observers. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have been alarmed at the conditions for displaced persons, violence against women, forced displacement of camps, lack of Haitians in the decision making process and more.

Civil Society is calling for a place in reconstruction planning, implementation and assessment. CSOs say every aspect of Haiti's recovery is threatened by factors that include a trickle of aid pledged by nations worldwide, Haiti's social gaps prior to the disaster and bureaucratic shortcomings in the coordination of aid.

Tuesday's event will present CSO leaders speaking to all major aspects of Haiti's recovery, offering prescriptions for both immediate needs and systemic corrections they say are vital for a sustainable and comprehensive recovery.

**WHAT: Event: "Focus on Haiti: The Road to Recovery - A Six Month Review"**

**Sponsors: Congressional Black Caucus & Haiti Advocacy Working Group**

**WHEN: Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 2:00pm to 4:00pm**

**WHERE: 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC**

**WHO: Congresswoman Barbara Lee**, Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus  
**Congressman Donald Payne**, Chairman, CBC Taskforce on Foreign Policy & International Relations

**Dr. Rajiv Shah**, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development

**Dr. Paul Farmer**, Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti, United Nations

**Marie St. Fleur**, Former Massachusetts State Representative

**Loune Viaud**, Director of Strategic Planning and Operations, Zanmi Lasante / Partners in Health, Haiti

**Camille Chalmers**, Director, Haitian Platform to Advocate for Alternative Development

**Ira Kurzban**, Esq., Board Chair, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

**About the Organizations:**

**The Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG)** formed shortly after the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake to coordinate advocacy efforts for effective and just disaster relief, reconstruction and long-term U.S. development policy toward Haiti. Composed of more than 30 diverse groups representing a wide cross-section of the NGO community, the HAWG has focused on the following priority areas:

- Promoting Haitian civil society inclusion and leadership in relief and reconstruction
- Prioritizing rural and agricultural development needs
- Encouraging local procurement and decentralization of aid
- Supporting fair immigration policy for Haitians
- Raising awareness on gender and women's issues
- Ensuring support through U.S. and multilateral aid commitments and full debt relief
- Promoting safe, sanitary and adequate shelter

Who is the Haiti Advocacy Working Group?

*ActionAid USA*

*American Friends' Service Committee*

*American Jewish World Service*

*Bread for the World*

*Center for Economic and Policy Research*

*Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at*

*New York University School of Law*

*Church World Service*

*Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti*

*Foreign Policy in Focus*

*Gender Action*

*Grassroots International*

*Groundswell International*

*Habitat for Humanity*

*Haiti Reborn/Quixote Center*

*Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society*

*Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti*

*Jesuit Refugee Service/USA*

*Jubilee USA Network*

*Lambi Fund of Haiti*

*Latin America Working Group*

*Lutheran World Relief*

*Mennonite Central Committee U.S. -*

*Washington Office*

*National Lawyers Guild – Environmental*

*Justice Center*

*Outreach International*

*Oxfam America*

**The Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)** fights for human rights and justice in Haiti and for fair and just treatment of Haitians in the United States.