

Fighting for the human rights of Haiti's poor in court, on the streets, and wherever decisions about Haitians' rights are made.

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

The Haitian proverb *Deye mon gen mon*, "behind mountains there are mountains," illustrates the challenges to progress in Haiti; there is always another obstacle. But it also demonstrates the solution—overcoming the obstacles in turn through **patient persistence**. At the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) and the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), we have based our work—and years of our lives—on the belief that Haiti is not a "basket case", but a society with complicated problems that can be resolved through flexible, well-designed programs that harness Haitians' considerable talents, energy and persistence.

The past year has brought many exciting successes in our fight for human rights in Haiti, all the result of years of steadily climbing one mountain after another. We are particularly excited about our Cholera Accountability Project, which filed 5,000 complaints against the United Nations for introducing the cholera epidemic that has killed over 7,000 Haitians. Within four months of filing the complaints, the case received media attention from all over the world, support from influential UN member states and members of the U.S. Congress, and a concession from UN Special Envoy for Haiti Bill Clinton that UN soldiers were the proximate cause of the epidemic. The cholera case is complicated, and winning it will require much time and work, but victory would mean the installation of clean water and sanitation infrastructure that could save 4,000 lives a year.

All of our work at BAI and IJDH is designed to make systematic changes in the unjust structures that keep Haitians poor and Haiti unstable. Our rape cases win justice for our clients, but also force open the doors of the justice system for all poor women, allowing them to enforce the rights they need to live safely and maximize their contributions to society as economic actors, caregivers and citizens. Our pursuit of Jean-Claude Duvalier establishes the precedent that Haitian leaders cannot get away with murder and massive theft of state resources.

We are deeply grateful for all our partners who share our commitment to this vision: our friends who write letters, watch our videos, and sign petitions; our valued collaborators at NGOs, universities and in public service, in Haiti, the U.S. and throughout the world; and most of all, our generous financial supporters who keep us fighting on the front lines for justice in Haiti.

Sincerely,

Brion Concomm gr.

Brian Concannon Jr., Esq. Director

Our Mission

We work with the people of Haiti in their non-violent struggle for the consolidation of constitutional democracy, justice and human rights, by pursuing legal cases, distributing objective and accurate information on human rights conditions in Haiti, and cooperating with human rights and solidarity groups in Haiti and abroad.

IJDH draws on its founders' internationally acclaimed success accompanying Haiti's poor majority in the fields of law, medicine and social justice activism. We seek the consolidation of the rule of law and democracy in the short term, and work for the long-term sustainable change necessary to avert Haiti's next crisis.













Our Work

Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti and Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (IJDH/BAI) uses a comprehensive approach that closely integrates four components: legal advocacy, grassroots organizing, capacity building, and public advocacy.

Legal Advocacy combines traditional lawyering with organizing and public advocacy to empower poor people to enforce their own rights. Grassroots organizations participate as equal partners throughout the entire process, taking a leading role in developing advocacy strategies for the courts, the streets, and the press. This process strengthens the rule of law in Haiti by providing citizens with access to the legal system and demonstrating that the system can be forced to respond to their needs;

Grassroots Organizing ensures both the success of individual cases, by preparing our partners to participate effectively in initiatives, and sustained civic engagement, as our partners deploy their enhanced advocacy abilities in other contexts. We support a range of non-violent grassroots activities, including demonstrations, vigils, media work, training, report writing, cultural activities, and direct engagement with public officials. BAI is arguably the most important center for non-violent progressive grassroots organizing in Haiti;

Capacity Building involves empowering Haitian lawyers, activists, and organizers in every project BAI/IJDH works on. This strategy includes helping grassroots groups with training, organizing and establishing connections with organizations outside of Haiti, and training Haitian lawyers to become competent, motivated activists who are committed to pursuing social justice through legal mechanisms;

Public Advocacy includes shaping the debate in Haiti and abroad by hosting press conferences in Haiti, connecting foreign journalists with grassroots groups' leadership, bringing grassroots leaders to the UN, the IACHR and the U.S. Congress, and engaging with the international earthquake response system.



The Cholera Accountability Project

With your support, BAI and IJDH filed claims on behalf of over 5,000 victims of Haiti's cholera epidemic.

The cholera epidemic was brought to Haiti in October 2010 by UN troops who were deployed from a cholera-epidemic zone in their home country and stationed at a base where human waste leaked directly into Haiti's largest river system. It quickly became the worst single-country cholera epidemic in modern history, killing over 7,400 Haitians and sickening over 586,600 to date, with an expected 2,000-4,000 deaths by the end of 2012.

Your support allowed BAI and IJDH to file claims with the UN in November 2011 on behalf of over 5,000 victims of the cholera epidemic. The legal case is based on extensive evidence that UN peacekeepers caused the outbreak through reckless waste disposal practices on one of its bases.

The Cholera
Accountability Project (CAP)
challenges the UN to provide
justice in the form of clean
water and sanitation
infrastructure, compensation
for victims and an apology.

Our clients in this case are individuals who are filing a claim for their own injuries from cholera, as parents on behalf of their minor children who contracted cholera, or as next-of-kin on behalf of family members who died from cholera.

Their injuries and deaths occurred beginning October 21, 2010, and since that time, cholera has infected about one in twenty Haitians. Our clients represent only a small segment of those affected by cholera, but include farmers, teachers, and caretakers whose injuries or death have left families without means to meet their basic needs. They include people like Claudine*, who lost her father and the family's main breadwinner to cholera and spent her life savings to retrieve his body from a mass grave and provide him a proper burial.



Thanks to your support, we have made substantial steps towards our goal of holding the UN accountable and obtaining installation of the necessary water and sanitation infrastructure in Haiti.

Since filing the victims' claims, BAI and IJDH have persuaded UN member states, national legislators, and human rights advocates to join our calls for a just UN response. BAI also collaborates with a grassroots collective of 14 local groups to

mobilize advocacy actions by cholera victims, and together they organized five peaceful demonstrations.

In January 2012, several UN Agencies and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control announced an initiative to raise the funds necessary to install water infrastructure that will eradicate cholera, and in March, three Security Council members answered our lobbying by calling for a better UN response to the cholera crisis.

^{*} Name changed to protect client's identity.

However, despite overwhelming evidence of its wrongdoing and mounting public pressure for accountability and action, the UN continues to deny responsibility for introducing the cholera epidemic in Haiti.

Furthermore, the UN has yet to establish a concrete plan or financing mechanism for the installation of water and sanitation infrastructure that alone would save an estimated 4,000 lives each year.

Our cholera case is a historic opportunity to break the wall of impunity, because the case is so strong and the harm is so great.

With your support, BAI and IJDH continue to build the legal case for our individual cholera clients by collecting and preserving evidence of the UN's malfeasance. We will keep fighting for the rights of cholera victims until they receive the justice they deserve.





The Rape Accountability and Prevention Project

The Rape Accountability and Prevention Project (RAPP) combines legal advocacy, public advocacy, grassroots organizing, and healthcare referrals for rape victims, to develop evidence for lawsuits, expand the litigation program, and improve access to justice.

BAI provided individual representation to victims of rape, while systematically addressing the policies that make rape easy to commit and hard to prosecute. The RAPP project filed and pursued legal complaints and accompanied dozens of victims to hospitals and clinics for post-rape medical care and services, and provided legal intake for over 150 victims of sexual assault. BAI worked with its grassroots partners to establish a collective advocacy network, self-named *Rezo Fanm BAI* (BAI Women's Network) and helped create a Community Security and Sensitization Project in one camp.

RAPP also supports weekly Saturday victimclient workshops ("Samdi Fanm BAI Yo"), both to serve as a support group and to provide the victim-clients with practical skills to reduce their economic and social vulnerability. In these sessions, BAI teaches practical skills to victimclients to expand the sphere of economic opportunities available to them. The sessions also help the women build self-esteem and social bonds with other women and girl survivors of sexual violence.

With your help, BAI has hired and trained the only Haitian lawyers specializing in rape cases. The lawyers receive significant training in handling cases of sexual assault and gender-based violence, in addition to the "victim-centered" human rights approach. The legal team handles legal cases, works with clients and their families, engages with police, prosecutors, judges, and health professionals (who provide input for cases of sexual violence), and works with grassroots partners to strengthen their ability to engage with the justice system and influence public debate. BAI plans to hire two new RAPP lawyers in the coming months.

We provided capacity building and a physical space for organizing for the *Rezo Fanm BAI* to coordinate and enhance grassroots advocacy on violence against women.

We kept violence against women on the radar of the international community through reports, press work, and the media in Haiti and abroad.



Immigration Advocacy

With your support, IJDH continued to coordinate nationwide advocacy for the creation of a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program (FRPP) that would allow the 112,000 Haitians currently waiting in Haiti to be reunited with their families in the United States.

Despite their approved family immigration visas, 112,000 Haitians are currently stuck on 2 ½- to 11-year waiting lists in Haiti, where many may not survive.

IJDH is working hard to secure the creation of a Haitian FRPP, a program that would save lives, reunite families, ensure more orderly migration from devastated Haiti, and provide critical support for Haiti's post-earthquake recovery by speeding the flow of remittances to hundreds of thousands in Haiti. With your help, IJDH has generated increasing support and momentum as a leader in this important effort.

This past year we coordinated volunteers to advocate for Haitian family reunification, and increased pressure on the Obama administration by encouraging congressional leaders to pass resolutions and write and sign on to letters in support of family reunification.

In June 2012, Massachusetts State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry submitted a petition to President Obama advocating for Haitian family reunification, for which IJDH coordination and publicity helped secure over 6,000 signatures.

Thank you to all our supporters who signed and helped to disseminate the petition!

IJDH also built momentum for Haitian family reunification by securing strong editorials reaching a national audience; helping coordinate Haitian-American leaders' press conferences on the issue which generated substantial media attention; and doing English and Creole language radio interviews on the issue in New York, Florida and Boston.

With your generous support, we will continue to advocate until a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program is established.

Thank you for helping this vital work continue.



In May 2011, IJDH and our allies succeeded in securing the redesignation and extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

TPS protects the vast majority of previously unprotected Haitians from the threat of deportation and permits them to work in the United States. As TPS is set to expire on January 23, 2013, IJDH needs your continued support. We will work to ensure the extension of TPS for at least another eighteen months, an extension that is warranted given conditions in Haiti, including remaining post-quake devastation and a cholera epidemic, which continue to make it unsafe for the United States to deport anyone there.

Jean-Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc) Prosecution

Thanks to your generous support, BAI and IJDH continued to fight for a fair and effective prosecution of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier and filed an appeal of the dismissal of political violence charges.

Shortly after Duvalier's return to Haiti in January 2011, BAI and IJDH successfully filed complaints on behalf of eight victims of Duvalier's repression and submitted over 90 pieces of evidence to the judge proving Duvalier's crimes against humanity and corruption.

However, in February 2012, the investigating judge dismissed the political violence charges against Duvalier, despite overwhelming evidence of his guilt. The charges were dismissed on statute of

limitations grounds. But international law is clear that there is no statute of limitations for crimes against humanity.

With the support of donors like you, we filed an appeal of the dismissal of political violence charges against Duvalier.

If Haitian courts deny the appeal, we will keep fighting through the Inter-American Court of Human Rights until Duvalier's victims obtain justice.



Health and Human Rights in Prisons Project

BAI, IJDH, Partners in Health (PIH) and Zanmi Lasante (ZL), launched the Health and Human Rights in Prisons Project (HHRPP) to improve conditions in Haiti's notoriously miserable prisons.



The HHRPP combines the organizations' recognized expertise in law and healthcare, in both delivery of services and advocacy, to holistically address the violations of prisoners' civil, political, social and economic human rights.

The project addresses prolonged pretrial detention and horrific prison conditions by systematizing the delivery of health and legal services to individual prisoners and advocating for broader, systemic reforms.

Together we are developing a model, integrated human rights approach to prisons that ensures that prisoners receive the medicine and treatment they need to remain healthy and the legal services they need to ensure that their cases are handled promptly and justly.

Housing Rights Advocacy Project

BAI, IJDH and allies fought to defend the rights of families displaced by the earthquake and advocate for a comprehensive solution to Haiti's housing crisis

HRAP provided legal training (Know-Your-Rights training) to 30 IDP camps. Under this project, lawyers from the BAI filed a lawsuit against a mayor who led illegal IDP camp evictions. BAI hosted at least 15 press conferences directed by IDP camp residents and leaders, and published several pieces, on the internet, in magazines and in academic journals, explaining how illegal evictions are a human rights issue.

The government and private landowners moved aggressively during this period to illegally evict camp residents, often with the support of the international community. Organizing within camps was often difficult, because of undemocratic leadership structures and the ability of government and camp management personnel to discourage collective action through threats and control of resources. Many residents "self-evicted" by accepting relocation payments that were too low for effective housing, because they feared that was the best they could do.

Although tens of thousands of IDP camp residents were evicted during this period, tens of thousands more successfully resisted evictions with our help.

We kept the illegal evictions on the radar both inside Haiti and abroad. UN experts and member states, journalists and others discussing the issue repeated our declarations that the evictions were illegal and unconscionable. We raised the level of relocation payments to those who accepted them.

Mèsi, and Thank You to All of Our Supporters | April 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012

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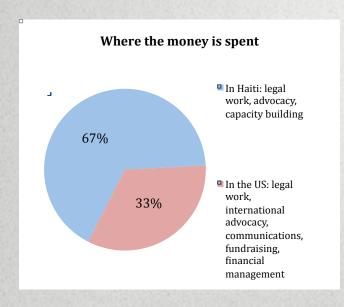
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Financial Review – Year Ended March 31, 2012

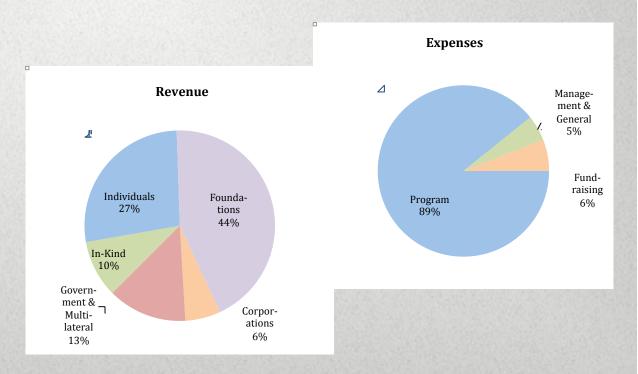
Statement of Financial Position

Assets:	
Current Assets	147,773
Long Term Assets	2,698
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 150,471
Liabilities:	
Current Liabilities	61,721
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 61,721
Net Assets:	
Net Assets, Unrestricted	44,862
Net Assets, Temporarily Restricted	43,888
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 88,750
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 150,471



Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Changes in Unrestricted Assets:	
Unrestricted Support and Revenue	446,363
Net assets released from restrictions	322,610
TOTAL REVENUES, SUPPORT	
AND RECLASSIFICATIONS	\$ 768,973
TOTAL EXPENSES AND LOSSES	\$ 973,301
DECREASE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$ (204,328)
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Assets:	
Grants and contributions from donors	366,498
Net assets released from restrictions	(322,610)
INCREASE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	
NET ASSETS	\$ 43,888
DECREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (160,440)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 261,435
Prior period adjustments	(12,245)
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 88,750



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Judy Prosper to the
Board of Directors



Judy is a Haitian-American attorney and advocate for justice for the disenfranchised both in the U.S. and in Haiti. Judy was a volunteer attorney at BAI in early 2001, and remained in Haiti to serve the second Aristide administration as Legal Counsel through 2004. She was a founding board member of IJDH, and we are happy to welcome her back to the Board.

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Irwin Stotzky, Esq., Professor of Law and Director of the Center for the Study of Human Rights at the University of Miami.

IJDH and BAI need your donations to continue our much-needed work in Haiti. Thank you for your support!

