

## Responding to Haiti's Devastation

**Our network of grassroots organizations has permitted us to play a role in disaster response to the earthquake.** Every day we work with victims of persecution and other marginalized groups in Haiti. We confront the deficiencies in Haiti's law enforcement, prison and justice systems that force people to live in poverty and in shoddily constructed housing prone to devastation in the event of a disaster such as the calamity we are facing now.

In Haiti, the BAI has helped connect medical providers with equipment, supplies and facilities, and has distributed assistance directly to victims. The office also hosted a medical team from New York, which used the BAI office as a clinic and living quarters, and a legal/medical team from San Francisco, which used the office to assist earthquake victims fill out applications for temporary entry in to the U.S. to join their families or obtain necessary medical care.

In the U.S., IJDH launched the **Lawyers' Earthquake Response Network (LERN)**, a national network of lawyers in the U.S. working with Haitian lawyers to implement a legal response to the earthquake. LERN employs a human rights-based approach to advocate for the victims of the earthquake, especially displaced persons, women and children, and to reduce Haiti's vulnerability to future stresses. The network will work to enforce housing, labor and environmental rights and will advocate for immigration opportunities in the U.S. and for long-term, effective international assistance to Haiti.

## Half-Hour for Haiti Program

IJDH issues 1-2 educational action alerts each month that have a concrete impact on human rights conditions in Haiti. Past alerts have freed political prisoners, advanced legislation in the U.S. Congress, and helped cancel \$1.2 billion in Haiti's debt. Haitians often invoke the proverb "*men anpil, chay pa lou*": many hands make the load light. Please consider joining your hands with Haitian activists, to make their load lighter.



## Health and Human Rights in Prisons Project (HHRPP)

The HHRPP provides legal and medical relief for individuals suffering from some of the worst prison conditions in the Americas, while advancing systemic reform of Haiti's criminal justice and prison systems. HHRPP is a collaborative effort between IJDH, BAI, Partners in Health, Zanmi Lasante, and the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights. HHRPP combines the organizations' expertise in law and healthcare to protect the human rights of prisoners, over 80% of whom have not been convicted of any crime.



## Human Right to Education Project (HREP)

The HREP seeks to provide opportunities for Haitian children and to make Haiti better prepared to meet the demands of a modern economy by enforcing poor children's right to free primary education. Even before the January 2010 earthquake, only 55% of primary-school-aged children in Haiti were attending school. HREP employs a victim-centered, rights-based approach, combining grassroots advocacy with an innovative lawsuit on behalf of children excluded from primary school.



## Haiti Asylum Information Project (HAIP)

IJDH and the BAI provide assistance for Haitians fleeing political persecution in the poorest, most unstable country in the Americas through the HAIP. The Project helps to even the playing field for Haitian refugees by providing credible information about conditions in Haiti and expert advice in evaluating and preparing cases. The HAIP is part of IJDH's broader work to advocate for fair treatment of Haitians in the U.S. and just foreign policy toward Haiti.





The Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) and the *Bureau des Avocats Internationaux* (BAI) have 15 years of demonstrated success enforcing Haitians' human rights, in Haiti and abroad. IJDH and the BAI employ four program tools:

- 1) impact litigation
- 2) human rights documentation
- 3) transnational grassroots advocacy
- 4) capacity building

The organizations' successes include spearheading the Raboteau Massacre trial - considered Haiti's best complex litigation ever, and one of the most important human rights cases ever in the Americas - and *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*, the only Haiti case ever decided by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

The New York Times called the BAI's Mario Joseph "Haiti's most prominent human rights lawyer." He has won several human rights awards. IJDH's Director, Brian Concannon Jr., Esq., lived in Haiti for eight years and is a leading international expert on human rights in Haiti. IJDH's board of directors includes Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Partners in Health and the UN Deputy Special Envoy to Haiti, and Ira Kurzban, one of the top immigration lawyers in the U.S.

Keep us fighting on  
the front lines for  
justice in Haiti



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Institute for  
Justice & Democracy  
in Haiti

Bureau des Avocats  
Internationaux

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

We represent victims of injustice,  
including the unjustly imprisoned,  
earthquake victims and children  
who cannot go to school.