

PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: April 9, 2009

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Andrew Marx, Partners In Health and Zanmi Lasante (617) 432-1976 (English)

Monika Kalra Varma, RFK Center, (202) 460-4681 (English)

Brian Concannon Jr., IJDH (541) 263-0029 (English, French, and Kreyol)

Groups Urge New Direction for International Assistance to Haiti

Panel Discussion to Follow Donor Conference

What:

The eruption of the international food crisis, a series of damaging hurricanes, and the impact of the current global financial crisis have aggravated conditions in Haiti, leaving the people of Haiti more vulnerable than ever. Donor states and the international financial institutions will convene in Washington on April 14th to renew their partnership with the Government of Haiti and to pledge financial support. On Wednesday **April 15th**, representatives from leading human rights and non-profit organizations will host “Aid Haiti Can Believe In: A Human Rights-Based Approach to Foreign Assistance”, a public panel to discuss international assistance to Haiti. The groups—Partners In Health, the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHR&GJ), the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights (RFK Center), and Zanmi Lasante—will demonstrate that future international assistance must be empowering the Haitian government to provide basic government services to its citizens—a goal expressed at the 2004 donor conference that has yet to be realized.

The panelists will focus on the need for engagement and accountability mechanisms to better plan, implement and track internationally-funded projects in Haiti. The panelists will present lessons learned from past donor conferences and field experience, and recommendations about how to make future assistance to Haiti more effective and sustainable.

Who:

- **Paul Farmer**, Founding Director, Partners In Health
- **Donna Barry**, Advocacy and Policy Director, Partners In Health
- **Margaret Satterthwaite**, Faculty Director, Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU School of Law
- **Monika Kalra Varma**, Director, Center for Human Rights, RFK Center for Justice and Human Rights
- **Brian Concannon Jr.**, Director, Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti

When:

10:00am - 12:00 noon

Where:

2105 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

For more information about these organizations, please see their websites: Center for Human Rights and Global Justice www.chrgj.org, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti www.ijdh.org, Partners In Health www.pih.org, Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights www.rfkcenter.org, Zanmi Lasante <http://www.pih.org/where/Haiti/Haiti.html>;

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