



330 FULLER STREET, DORCHESTER, MA 02124 P: 617-287-0096 F: 617-287-0170

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carline Desire- 617-947-4279, cdesire@afab-kafanm.org

We, members of the Association of Haitian Women in Boston (AFAB), protest in the strongest terms to the Dominican Republic Government's decision to revoke the citizenship of Activist Sonia Pierre.

Sonia Pierre is the Executive Director of the Movement for Dominican Women of Haitian Descent (MUDHA), based in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. MUDHA, a grassroots organization, has been fighting for years to protect the rights of the ethnic Haitian minority living in the Dominican Republic, who have been subjected to violent mass expulsions and denied citizenship, basic education, adequate housing, access to water, and other fundamental human rights.

Since a relatively long period of time, Dominicans of Haitian descent, such as Sonia Pierre, have been facing racial discrimination. The Dominican Republic Government, rather than promoting human rights among their citizens, uses discriminatory policies against Dominicans of Haitian descent and discards their constitutional birth right as Dominican nationals. Despite the International Court's ruling in favor of Ms. Pierre and others facing similar situations, the Dominican Republic Government violated its agreement to the ruling by attempting to strip off her Dominican citizenship.

We urge the Dominican Government to take appropriate actions to protect the rights of Sonia Pierre as a citizen of the Dominican Republic and demand that the Dominican Republic Government ends all arbitrary expulsions of Haitians and discriminatory policies that exclude them from the mainstream of the Dominican society.

The Association of Haitian Women in Boston / Asosiyasyon Fanm Ayisyen nan Boston (AFAB) is a community-based grassroots organization dedicated to empowering low-income Haitian women and their children.

#####