

RECONSTRUCTING HAITI:

Current Conditions, Lessons Learned and the Future



Housing and Human Rights in Haiti Forum

featuring Haitian human rights lawyer, Patrice Florvilus and NIU Professor of Law, Elvia R. Arriola.

February 25, 2014 at 1:30 pm at the NIU Center for Black Studies

Patrice Florvilus is a human rights attorney working in Haiti, specializing in education, housing rights, squatters' rights, and other rights of Haiti's IDPs. Florvilus offered free legal services to over a dozen IDP camps facing the risk of forced eviction. He is the founder of *Defenseurs des Opprimés/Opprimées* (DOP), a group of human rights attorneys accompanying grassroots individuals, social movements, and organizations.

Elvia R. Arriola joined the law faculty at NIU in 1991. She teaches Family Law, Constitutional Law, Gender, Sexuality and the Law and a research seminar, Women, Law and the Global Economy. Her scholarship includes gender and sexuality and Latina feminist critiques of U.S. trade policy under the North American Free Trade Agreement for its role in contributing to gender violence at the U.S.-Mexico border.



MOZAYIK film screening

with a talk by human rights advocate and coordinator for Another Haiti is Possible, Alexis Erkert and Photojournalist, Ben Depp.

March 5, 2014 at 12 pm at the NIU Center for Black Studies

Mozayik is the story of Augustin Mona in his fight against a forced eviction of 126 families. A musician with dreadlocks down his back, he reluctantly fills the role of camp leader. Navigating the maze of international organizations, government agencies and businesses trying to reconstruct Haiti, Mona discovers an informal settlement called "Canaan" – the Promised Land. It will either be a new beginning, or a return to the same problems that continue to plague the country.



Combating Sexual Violence in Haiti: Lessons From the Field

with Malya Villard-Appollon, 2012 CNN Hero of the Year and co-founder of KOFAVIV in Haiti, an organization that supports survivors of sexual assault.

April 22, 2014 at 12 pm at NIU's Holmes Student Center, Main Floor, Regency Room

Malya Villard-Appollon was CNN's 2012 Hero of the Year and is the co-founder of KOFAVIV, a Haitian grassroots organization providing women with physical and legal support in an effort to combat sexual violence. Her work has taken her to the courtroom, IDP camps, police officers, the UN base, and around the world. Villard has testified before the UN Commission on Human Rights, the U.S. State Department, and the IAHR.

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