

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 2016

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
The United Nations UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

We write to urge the UN fulfill its obligation to help the people of Haiti by eradicating cholera and providing justice to the victims of the disease. This includes the material resources necessary to end the threat of cholera and financial assistance to the victims and their families who have needlessly suffered as a result of this outbreak.

Haiti has struggled in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, and the cholera epidemic that has swept through the nation has only amplified the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Broad scientific consensus has identified the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) as having introduced the cholera bacteria that resulted in the epidemic.<sup>1</sup> The UN has a responsibility to those suffering as a result of the organization's involvement in Haiti.

More than 779,212 cholera cases and 9,145 deaths<sup>2</sup> are a direct result of the UN's presence in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti's population continues to be vulnerable as Haitians face a strained health system combined with food insecurity, natural hazards, and migration issues. A dedicated, timely effort to rid the country of cholera, led by the UN, will allow Haiti to recover and more effectively address many of these other systemic challenges.

We appreciate your statement last month which recognized, after six years of refutation, that the presence of cholera in Haiti requires a significant UN response. We hope the UN will soon issue a public apology that acknowledges its role in the cholera crisis. Further, it is imperative that the UN develops a transparent and comprehensive plan, consistent with the requirements for settlement of disputes of a private law nature enshrined in Section 29 of Article VIII of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. Such a plan should include financial assistance to the victims and their families and an engagement strategy for member

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/haiti/UN-cholera-report-final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/haiti/CholeraFactsheetAug2016.pdf>

states and the Haitian government, which reflects consultations with the victims and communities impacted by cholera.

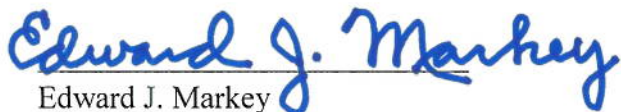
Addressing cholera's impact will also require Haiti to strengthen and improve its clean water and sanitation infrastructure to eliminate disease transmission, enhance access to medical facilities with an increased number of skilled health care workers, accelerate the distribution of hygiene interventions and vaccines, and grow the technological capacity to monitor these efforts to ensure their sustainability.

Under the guidance and leadership of the UN, along with other global partners, we can mobilize a public health strategy for Haiti that eliminates the spread of cholera. We urge the UN to apply a comprehensive and transparent approach when considering how best to assist and compensate current and former victims of the disease and their families. In the coming weeks, we hope you will publicly elaborate on the UN's plan to remedy Haiti's cholera crisis.

Haitians have waited far too long for the UN to take responsibility for this crisis and to compensate those affected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



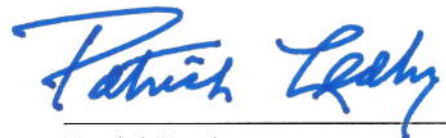
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator