

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

“Cholera and the Human Right to Health In Post-Earthquake Haiti”

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 • 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM EST (GMT-05:00)

**Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2226
45 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20515**

Sponsored by:

O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown Law Center
Center for Economic and Policy Research

Introductory remarks: **U.S. Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI)**

Tentatively confirmed: **U.S. Representative Yvette Clarke (D-NY),
U.S. Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA), U.S. Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA),
& U.S. Representative Frederica Wilson (D-FL)**

Participants:

Dr. Luiz Augusto Galvão
*Manager, Sustainable Development & Environmental Health Area
Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization*

Donna Barry
Director of Policy and Advocacy, Partners In Health

Brian Concannon, Jr.
Director, Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti

Mario López-Garelli
Senior Human Rights Specialist, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

Mark Weisbrot
Co-Director, Center for Economic and Policy Research

Moderator: J.P. Shuster
O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law

In October of 2010, less than ten months after being hit by a devastating earthquake, Haiti experienced a cholera epidemic that quickly spread throughout the small nation. The waterborne disease has now killed at least 7,050 Haitians and sickened over 531,000 others. Meanwhile, nearly half a million earthquake victims remain without adequate housing, and Haitians continue to face one of the most challenging clean water and sanitation situations in the world. As the rainy season sets in, the country is experiencing a new spike in the number of cholera cases, according to the U.S. This Congressional Briefing will examine U.S. and international efforts to address what has become the world's worst active cholera epidemic. Panelists will discuss what urgent measures are needed to contain the spread of the disease, as well as longer-term proposals for preventing cholera from becoming endemic to Haiti. Finally, panelists will consider the role of international legal mechanisms for protecting health and human rights violations in Haiti's greater post-earthquake context.