Jennie-Laure Sully

Member of Solidarité Québec Haïti

Greetings everyone, I'm here thanks to the Institute for justice and democracy in Haiti and I'm speaking on behalf of Solidarité Québec Haiti. I'm here to answer an important question that many in my country of adoption, Canada have been asking me for years about my country of origin: Haiti. The guestion is: "what can we do to help Haiti?" I'm here to say that this is the wrong question. What does help even mean when big countries keep impoverishing smaller countries? What help are we talking about when most of the money donated to impoverished countries end up going back to the donor countries? Who truly believes that former colonizers can help or organize the help that should be given to their former colonies? Haiti was being helped when foreign soldiers and NGO workers raped or sexually exploited women and girls after the earthquake. Haiti was being helped when the PHTK government squandered billions of dollars from the Petrocaribe funds. Haiti was being helped when terrorists federated themselves into organized armed gangs and started pretending to be revolutionaries. Haiti is being helped to death. Help is no substitute for restitution! So the real question is: What should we stop doing to truly help Haiti? No nation is safe when there is an arms race going on. Weapon manufacturing countries such as Canada, the United States and France must stop the flow of weapons that end up in the hands of the terrorists in Haiti or elsewhere. No nation can export or import democracy. Countries such as Canada, the United States and France must stop financing and interfering in Haitian elections. It just so happens that when some people ask "what can we do to help Haiti", what they mean to say is that Haiti has no right to be a nation but should settle for being a neocolony. Afrodescendants must be aware of the fact that what is being done to Haiti will be done to other predominantly black nations. This is nothing new. We must remember history. In the fight against racism, it is not enough to say that black lives matter. It is time for us to recognize that Black nationhood is worth fighting for. Haiti's nationhood matters! Black nationhood matters!