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Is Haiti Building Back Better?

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Biographies

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Prime Minister, Haiti, 2008-2009

In September 2008, Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis became Prime Minister of Haiti, only the second woman to hold this position. While Prime Minister, Pierre-Louis also served as Minister of Justice and Public Security. Upon leaving office in November 2009, Pierre-Louis resumed her activities at the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté – FOKAL (www.fokal.org), as President. She is now working on special projects related to Haiti's post earthquake reconstruction efforts.

Since her return to Haiti in 1976 after her studying abroad and obtaining a MA in Economics from Queens College of the City University of New York, she has devoted special attention to improving literacy and adult education, held training sessions for traditional midwives, opened libraries, and made education one of her core projects. She has also served in the private sector as Director of Credit at the Bank of Nova Scotia, Officer of Administration and Human Resources to the Haitian Development Finance Corporation, and Deputy Director of the National Airport Authority.

In 1986 she became a national trainer in the literacy campaign Mission Alpha. In 1991, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide entrusted Michèle Pierre-Louis, as a member of his private cabinet, with the task of redefining the mission of the state and coordination between the Presidency and the Ministers, taking into account the demands of rural organizations for agrarian reform. Since 1995 she has created and directed the Fondation Connaissance et Liberté – FOKAL (Knowledge and Freedom Foundation), a member of the Open Society Institute – Soros foundations' network, which defends the fundamental position that real change can only take place if those concerned become the main actors. The Foundation focuses on the areas of education, culture, community development, environment, gender equity, civil society, and training of young entrepreneurs.

From 1989 through 2006, Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis was a member of a Review “*Chemins Critiques*” in which she wrote several articles along with other Haitian and Caribbean writers, on politics, economics, arts and culture. Prior to becoming Prime Minister she was a University teacher and her courses focused on “Caribbean societies and culture” and the “History of the Great Civilizations”.

Pierre-Louis has received several awards and distinctions in her career. She holds a “*Doctorate Honoris Causa*” in Humanities from Saint Michael College in Vermont. From September through December 2010, she is a Resident Fellow at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government/Institute of Politics.

Robert Maguire

Robert Maguire is the Chair of the Haiti Working Group at the U.S. Institute of Peace and is a former Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow. He is an associate professor of International Affairs in the College of Arts and Sciences at Trinity University in Washington D.C. and director of the Trinity Haiti Program. Maguire has been involved with Haiti since the mid 1970s through affiliations with the Inter-American Foundation, the Department of State, and Johns Hopkins, Brown and Georgetown Universities. In December 2001, Maguire received Rockefeller Foundation support for his work on Haiti at Trinity, allowing him to extend his work into issues related to Haitian Diaspora populations. From 1994 to 2001, Maguire directed the Georgetown University Haiti Program, supported by the Ford Foundation to serve as a vehicle for the dissemination of information and analysis on issues linked to Haiti and to U.S.-Haiti policy. Since 1990, Dr. Maguire has served as the chair of Haiti Advanced Area Studies at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute.

Maguire has consulted various organizations on Haiti and Caribbean issues and regularly makes public presentations that address issues of development in Haiti, the role of the international community and U.S.-Haiti policy. Prior to joining academia, Maguire served in the federal government with the Inter-American Foundation, the Department of State and as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Caribbean island of Dominica.

Maguire holds an M.A. in Latin American studies from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in geography from McGill University.

Robert Perito

Robert M. Perito directs USIP's Center on Security Sector Governance under the Centers of Innovation. He is also a senior program officer in the Center for Post-Conflict Peace and Stability Operations, where he directs the Haiti and the Peacekeeping Lessons Learned Programs. Before joining the Institute, Perito was a Senior Foreign Service officer with the Department of State, retiring with the rank of minister-counselor. He was deputy executive secretary of the National Security Council (1988-1989). Perito received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award in 1990 for leading the U.S. delegation in the Angola peace talks and

two State Department superior honor awards. Perito led the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program at the Department of Justice, which trained police in peace operations (1995-2001). Perito was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nigeria (1965-1967).

Perito has taught at Princeton, American and George Mason Universities. He holds a B.A. in international relations from Denver University and an M.A. in peace operations policy from George Mason University.

He is the co-author of *The Police in War: Fighting Insurgency, Terrorism and Organized Crime* (Lynne Rienner, 2010) and *Where is the Lone Ranger When We Need Him: America's Search for a Post-conflict Stability Force* (USIP Press, 2004).