

Press Release  
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## **“SLAVES IN PARADISE” A Special Event Coming to Montreal**

**Montreal, August 13, 2007-** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Montreal International Haitian Film Festival (MIHFF), to be held from September 19 to 23, 2007, will host the North American premiere of the international “*Slaves in Paradise*” exhibition.

This exhibition about the present-day slavery of Haitians in the *bateys* in the Dominican Republic enjoyed unprecedented success in Paris last May. Its goal is to raise public awareness about human trafficking and how sugar cane cutters are kept as slaves on Dominican plantations.

This event, organized by the Fabienne Colas Foundation, is sponsored by **Rights & Democracy** and supported by Réseau Liberté, Oxfam Québec, Amnesty International Canada, Alternatives, the Haitian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIHC) and Café Sélecto.

The vernissage of this exhibition created by French-Peruvian photographer **Céline Anaya Gauthier** will be held on September 18, 2007. It will be followed on September 19 by an international symposium entitled “*Blood, Sugar and Sweat*” at the CBC in Montreal.

While encouraging quality independent cinema, the MIHFF wants to help raise public awareness by tackling important social issues that provoke debate. This year, therefore, the MIHFF is featuring films about the *batey* issue in the Dominican Republic, including the following films:

- ***The Price of Sugar***, by American director Bill Haney,
- ***The Sugar Babies***, by Cuban-American director Amy Serrano
- ***Big Sugar***, by Canadian director Brian McKenna
- ***Batey Zero***, by French director Gérard Maximin
- ***Sucre Noir***, by Canadian director Michel Régnier

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