

ABOUT THE PRESIDENT

Alfred Reynolds was born in Port-au-Prince where he worked as a reporter. In September 1989, he almost got killed by a vigilante group. His life was spared after praying the Almighty God who used one of the leaders of that group to protect him and to bring him to the local police station under Alfred's own advice. Here, we can say it was a miracle! With his years of professional experience and his educational background, Alfred did some research on different countries that are located in the Caribbean, in Africa, in the Middle East and in Latin America that are experiencing firsthand democratic changes.

Haiti, for example – since February 1986 – is the scene of acts of violence that are well planned and executed by both sides of the political spectrum. However, what has changed from 1986 to 2006 was the focus of RIC President who published a researchⁱ on the complex problem of child soldiers that are real in Haiti considering the program of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Further, one can wonder where Haiti stands in terms of ratification of international instruments to protect the rights of the child. The president decided to focus on the topic of “child soldiers” because of the use of children in armed conflicts around the world, in countries such as Haiti, where the subject is still taboo.

Alfred's essay was based on his academic research at University Laval, School of Law, where he got his Master of Law (LL.M.) in International and Transnational Laws. In fact, in 2006, he landed a position in Montreal, Quebec (Canada) to work for the International Bureau for Children Rights (IBCR) where he acquired most of his expertise by targeting countries in North Africa while working on his law degree. Alfred has contributed to the publication of the annual IBCR's report in 2007 and has published several articles to online journal reviews and blogs concerning the Criminal Justice System and the necessity for a progressive reform of the Haitian legal system. Alfred is a former Adjunct Professor at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) in Saint Albans, Vermont (USA), where he specialized in Criminal Law, Criminology, and Juvenile Justice while working part time with the Vermont Department of Corrections. He is also a former member of the Vermont and Georgia Army National Guard as well as the U.S. Army Reserve. He worked as an in-house counselor for children at-risk in the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Once moving to Georgia, where he worked shortly for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice with the Metro Regional Youth Detention Center (RYDC), he decided to join Gwinnett County Police Department in the GCIC/NCIC Division (background unit) as a Technical Agency Coordinator (TAC) and for Gwinnett County Juvenile Court as an Intensive Probation Officer. Alfred graduated from Norwalk Community Technical College with an associate's degree in criminal justice; from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of

Science degree in Justice and Law Administration; and, finally, from different military schools with specialist certificates in Water Treatment, Supplies and Logistics, Disaster Planning, Mass Fatalities, Internment/Resettlement, Physical Security, Corrections, Civil Disturbance and Fatal Fire Investigation. Alfred is also a member of the Juvenile Court Association of Georgia (JCAG), the Gang Investigators Association of Georgia (GIAG), the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), the International Law Association, the Lawyers Without Borders, the Interdisciplinary Research Center on Family Violence and Violence on Women, and the Research Center on the Rehabilitation of Youth and Family at-risk (Quebec).

Alfred benefited from several opportunities from his law professors to hold conferences at the Cercle Europe and at the Peace Program and International Security, both are branches of the Institut Québécois des Hautes Études Internationales as well as the Summer University for Feminists (University Laval). Alfred is a Juris Doctor (J.D.) candidate. He has a graduate certificate (Ed.S.) in Education and Leadership from the University of Georgia. Further, aside from his experiences in the legal and investigative fields, Alfred also graduated from Liberty University with a master's degree in Pastoral Ministry and Chaplaincy. He is the founder of the Haitian-American Institute for Justice and Law (HAIJL), a “think tank” and a human rights organization, which has its headquarters in Winter Haven, Florida (USA), where he is currently working as its Executive Director.

ⁱ Reynolds, Alfred, *Child Soldiers: Victims and Aggressors – A Problematic for Public Safety in Haiti*. Bloomington: Trafford Publishing, 2022.