Continued Statelessness in the Dominican Republic: A Life Examined

The Three-Year Anniversary of Constitutional Court Judgement 168-13

The Dominican Constitutional Court’s new interpretation on the acquisition of nationality through Judgement 168-13 retroactively deprived tens of thousands of people who had been considered Dominican all of their lives of their right to that nationality. On September 23, 2013, the Dominican Republic’s Constitutional Court handed down Judgment 168-13, which redefined, retroactively, the criteria for acquiring citizenship by application of the principle of *jus soli* by giving a new interpretation to the concept of foreigners in transit, equating this concept with that of a foreigner in an irregular migratory situation. Judgment 168-13 exacerbated the already existing problem of statelessness by retroactively stripping tens of thousands of Dominicans – primarily of Haitian descent – of their nationality.

Three years after the Constitutional Court issued Judgment 168-13, statelessness in the Dominican Republic continues to be a pressing issue. On the third anniversary of Judgement 168-13, we will showcase a new documentary entitled ‘*Our Lives in Transit*’, which sheds light on harsh realities faced by ‘legal ghosts’ in the Dominican Republic. After the presentation of this documentary, a panel of experts will take stock of the impact the citizenship and migration policies of the Dominican government have on people’s lives and the solutions to resolve issues regarding the right to nationality moving forward.

The panel discussion will include Rosa Iris Diendomi, whose fight for the civil rights association Reconoci.do is featured in the documentary and Jenny Moron, Legal and Human Rights Coordinator of MUDHA, who was involved in the making of the documentary. It will also be informed by a 2016 legal update of Georgetown Law Human Rights Institute’s report, "Left Behind: How Statelessness in the Dominican Republic Limits Children’s Access to Education” presented by Raimy Reyes (LL.M’16); and Francisco Quintana, from the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL). Angelita Baeyens, Program Director of RFK Partners for Human Rights at Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, will provide introductory remarks and lead the panel discussion. Lunch will be provided following the panel discussion.

**Mark your calendar to join us**

**Friday, September 23, 2016**

**11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Hart Auditorium

Georgetown University Law Center

You may RSVP online [here](#)

More information on registration, agenda, and speakers to follow soon.

Email [pwg7@georgetown.edu](mailto:pwg7@georgetown.edu) with any questions.