

Center for Justice and Accountability

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://cja.org/what-we-do/litigation/jean-v-dorelien/>

Campaign and Advocacy

In 1997, a man named Carl Dorlien won \$3.2 million in the Florida lottery. This man, known in Haiti as Colonel Carl Dorlien, was a prominent leader of Haiti's brutal military dictatorship that led a campaign of terror in the early 1990s. In 2003, CJA brought a civil case against Dorlien. For masterminding a massacre and other atrocities, a Miami federal jury found Dorlien liable for human rights abuses and ordered him to pay \$4.3 million in damages. CJA recovered \$580,000 of Dorlien's remaining lottery winnings, and distributed them to our clients.

In 1991, when a violent coup ousted Haiti's elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the new leaders launched a campaign of terror. Over the next three years, their armed forces and paramilitary units murdered an estimated 3,000-4,000 Aristide supporters.

One of the most prominent coup leaders was Colonel Carl Dorlien. As chief of personnel for the armed forces, he had command responsibility for widespread atrocities, including the 1994 massacre of pro-democracy activists in the seaside town of Raboteau. At least 26 unarmed men, women and children were killed during the two-day rampage.

When Aristide returned to power in 1994, Dorlien fled to the United States.

In 2003, CJA filed a federal lawsuit in Florida against Dorlien on behalf of two survivors: Marie Jeanne Jean, whose husband, Michel Pierre, was killed in the Raboteau massacre, and Lexius Cajuste, who was brutally detained and tortured by Haitian armed forces.

The U.S. government deported Dorlien back to Haiti, where he was detained upon arrival. However, one year later, a coup ousted Aristide for the second time and Dorlien was released from prison. CJA's quest to bring him to justice continued.

In 2006, CJA secured the recognition by a Florida state court of a 2000 Haitian judgment convicting Dorlien in absentia for the Raboteau massacre and awarding damages to our client, Marie Jeanne Jean.

In 2007, CJA and pro bono co-counsel won a \$4.3 million judgment against Dorlien for torture, extrajudicial killing, arbitrary detention and crimes against humanity.

We successfully recovered \$580,000 of Dorlien's lottery winnings for our clients. They have since distributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to fellow survivors of the Raboteau massacre and to support social services to Haitian refugees.



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GERALD GRAY LEGACY CIRCLE

GERALD GRAY FOUNDED CJA IN 1998 AND CONTINUES
WORKING TO HELP TORTURE SURVIVORS TODAY.

Join the Gerald Gray Legacy Circle

To join, please let us know that you have included CJA in your estate plans, insurance policy, or planned giving instrument by contacting us at center4justice@cja.org. We will ensure your gift supports CJA's mission and welcome you to the Gerald Gray Legacy Circle.

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***"We will never catch all the torturers—but we will always catch some,
and none of them will ever know who is next."***