



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

## UN IN ACTION

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### HAITI: PARALYMPIC ATHLETE BRINGS HOPE TO A NATION

#### VIDEO

LEON GENSLY PREPARES TO  
TRAIN

LEON WITH A GROUP OF  
HANDICAP

LEON ON-CAMERA

2010 EARTHQUAKE FOOTAGE

MEDICAL TEAM ATTENDS TO  
INJURED

#### AUDIO

##### NARRATION

Leon Gensly lost the use of his legs during the January 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince.

But he did not lose hope. He is determined to show Haiti that its 10 percent handicapped population is worth the support and recognition (17.5)

GENSLY: (In Creole)

M

*"I am always moving my body. I am not the kind of person to stay home inactive."*

##### NARRATION

The massive disaster had left hundreds of thousands dead including Leon's wife and eight children. Many more were injured. Those who suffered severe spinal cord injury like Leon often faced tough times getting medical attention. (15.5)

Dr Paul Euclide Toussant, the Medical Director of the Pascale Toussaint Rehabilitation Center. (5.5)

TOUSSAINT ON-CAMERA	<p><u>TOUSSAINT:</u> (Creole) M</p> <p><i>“Before, for someone to have a spinal cord trauma, it meant lying down at home and waiting for an imminent death either because of complications due to having to stay in bed too long or not being able to stand up and go anywhere.”</i> 14.5</p>
LEON ADDRESSES THE CROWD	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>But now people like Leon are getting a second chance at life. 4</p>
INAUGURATION OF A REHABILITATION CENTRE	<p>A new Rehabilitation Center, located in the northern city of Cap Haitien, is specifically designed to provide rehabilitation for paraplegic patients from the 2010 earthquake. Supported by a charity group, Haiti Hospital Appeal and the UN Mission in Haiti, the goal is to integrate the disabled into society says CEO, Carwyll Hill. 24</p>
HILL TALKS ON CAMERA	<p><u>HILL:</u> (English) M</p> <p><i>“They can really prove and challenge this stereotype in Haiti that people with disabilities are worthless so they can prove that it is actually not the case. And that they need to be part of their culture, a part of the government structure, winning employment. And that persons with disabilities in Haiti need to have their voice to be heard.”</i></p>
GENSLY ON-CAMERA	<p><u>GENSLY:</u> (In Creole)</p> <p><i>“Since I started moving, I have always been trying to do some sports to get stronger.”</i> 4.5</p>
LEON TRAINING	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>Leon’s dream is finally coming true. In an effort to help</p>

patients rebuild confidence and get them back on their feet, the centre has developed new sports programs and machines like hand cyclers. 12.5

LEON PUT ON HIS HELMET

Leon works tirelessly everyday, fighting to get his strength back. With help from his trainer, Albert Marty, from the Swiss Foundation for Paraplegics, Leon is competing to qualify for the London 2012 Paralympics. His determination and efforts are giving hope to other patients at the centre.

LEON WENT OUT OF THE CLINIC  
ON A BIKE

LEON WEARING HELMET

His trainer, Albert Marty, is now using Leon's example to inspire others to build another sports centre for disabled persons in Quartier Morin, a nearby town. 29

MARTY ON-CAMERA

MARTY: (French)

M

*"He is really motivated and proud of representing Haiti, doing sports. He really is a good person to represent our idea for this project."*

SOT: LEON VOICE OVER HIM  
WHILE TRAINING

GENSLY: (In Creole)

*"I have to represent Haiti. Normally the president sitting in his palace is the one representing Haiti in front of the entire world. Now I feel the same, I am like the president representing a country."* 11.5

UN LOGO CLOSING

NARRATION

This report was produced by Alban Mendes De Leon for the United Nations. 5