

## **HAITI NEWS ROUNDUP: DECEMBER 6 – 10, 2005**

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### **Troubles in Haiti hit home with UofL student**

**By Erin McCoy**

**Chief Copy Editor & Special Sections Editor**

**The Louisville Cardinal, KY**

**December 10, 2005**

News of the war in Iraq has overshadowed reports of the massive danger and unrest that has stricken Haiti, the country that BBC world affairs correspondent Paul Reynolds has dubbed “Uncle Sam’s backyard.” But while the United States’ poverty-stricken neighbor seems plenty distant to the average American, for U of L exchange student and Haiti native Kéthane Bois, the unrest in her country is more in the foreground than ever.

Bois received a phone call at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, to hear that her boyfriend’s stepfather, school-bus driver Ernest Jean, had been kidnapped in Haiti along with the 16 children he was transporting. Most of Bois’ family lives in Haiti, and her boyfriend, Wallace Despeines, is an American of Haitian descent.

“[Jean] was picking up kids for his school bus when the kidnappers came and asked him to move back in the car because they were requesting the car and the children and everything inside,” Bois said.

According to Bois, kidnappers promptly contacted the families of the victims, asking U.S. \$50,000 each for their release. Bois said none of the families contacted the police for fear that members of the police force would report this communication back to the kidnappers.

“Sometimes even people from the police are part of it, too,” Bois said of the problems in Haiti. “It’s like a network — you don’t know who is part of it.” Human rights groups have also alleged corruption and brutality within the Haitian police force.

This is far from an isolated incident.

“You are talking on the phone and you say, ‘Who did they kidnap today?’ Everybody is expecting six or 10 people to be kidnapped,” Bois said. She speaks to her family on the phone often — she is a Northamerican Peacebuilders Program scholar attending the University of Louisville for the fall 2005 semester and a senior at the University of Montreal, so she keeps up with current events in Haiti through these phone conversations..

Violence and kidnappings erupted in Haiti after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in February 2004 by armed rebels and U.S. political pressure. Kidnappings were especially common when Bois was in Haiti this summer, she said.

Aristide is now exiled in South Africa.

Bois believes that supporters of Aristide are responsible for the kidnappings in Haiti. “I believe that [Aristide] is still in contact with some of them because the idea of kidnapping — it just happened,” she said. “They always say that he is still the president of Haiti. He wants to come back.”

Aristide, an ex-priest who took office in 1990, was Haiti’s first democratically elected president. Poor Haitians were hopeful that he would be their advocate, as he had risen from poverty himself. He was ousted in a coup d’état in 1991, but in 1994 the U.S. helped forcefully reinstate him.

But Bois said that while Aristide was in power he covertly armed the poor, especially residents of the Cité Soleil, an area of Port-au-Prince without water or electricity, and encouraged them to rise from poverty by force.

“He is so smart — he doesn’t do anything overtly,” Bois said. “You don’t have proof — it is not tangible.” But she said many Haitians, though they are afraid to speak, have witnessed this first-hand.

After Aristide’s exile in 2004, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said, “We all know the political history of Haiti is such that during President Aristide’s time, he created a lot of division within the society — the polarization grew, the violence grew. There were many armed gangs that were directly associated with him and his rule.”

Bois agrees. “Under Aristide it was not a democracy. It was supposed to be, in the papers and everything, but it was not and it is still not.”

At 9 p.m. Thursday Bois received another call. The release of Jean and all 16 children had been negotiated for \$40,000 total. For the moment, she was relieved, but she says now she worries for her family in Haiti more than ever.

“Haitians are not safe,” she said. “You send your kid to school, maybe she will arrive there, maybe she won’t. You go to work, maybe you will come back, maybe you won’t. ...

“I try to call [my family] every day to ask, ‘Did my niece come back from school? Is everyone okay?’, because you never know.”

Bois said she usually visits Haiti whenever she has a break from school, but this winter new democratic elections in Haiti are set to take place, and violent resistance from Aristide supporters has made the country dangerous. Bois’ mother told her she will not permit Bois to visit this December because of the danger.

“I love Haiti, but that’s what’s happening,” Bois said. She hopes to visit again in the summer months.

**Orphans From Haiti Meet New Families in Utah  
December 11th, 2005  
(KSL News), Utah**

Lots of smiles, tears and cheering at the airport this afternoon.

Nine orphans from Haiti arrived and met their new adoptive parents!

The Child's Hope Foundation organized this event today. Usually, parents who wish to adopt a child go to Haiti and stay at the Hope Foundation's adoption agency in order to get to know the child. But, because of political unrest in the country, the kids came here.

Tiffany and Jay McCarthy of Orem, who have three children, have adopted a 3-year-old named Jimmy. They met him last summer.

Tiffany McCarthy: "While we were down there we met Jimmy. We had no intention of adopting, but when we met him we just came home and said we have to help one of these kids."

This was pretty overwhelming for the children-- long flight; they don't speak any English.

Tonight, the families are all staying in a hotel, to give everyone a chance to adjust to each other before heading home, to start a brand new life.

Carl MacKay/ VP-GM, Child's Hope Foundation: "He has no idea how his life has changed in the last 24 hours, going from a country with incredible poverty, with 97 percent unemployment, to the opportunities here. To have a loving family in the United States, eventually a job and family, his life has just totally changed."

The children range in age from 1 to 7 years.

**Fernandez is expected to take tranquility to Haiti  
Quell concerns resulting from latest incidents  
The Dominican Today  
December 11, 2005**

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti. - The Haitians expect to hear president Leonel Fernandez tell them when he visits tomorrow Monday, that Dominicans and Haitians are brothers, that there is no antagonism by his nation town towards their neighbors and that the reproachable events in the last few days in La Vega and Moca constitute isolated incidents.

Nothing here is especially announcing the arrival of the chief executive to this capital of 2.8 million, no street banners nor large poster to welcome the Dominican President, and the Dominican flag waves next to the Haitian only in the Toussaint Louverture airport.

Last night the Dominican embassy finished decorating its premises, where the ambassador Jose Serulle will host a cocktail for Fernandez with the attendance of personalities of Haiti's business, political, intellectual and social worlds.

However, the media have placed much importance to the Dominican leader's visit with questions on the problems of xenophobia, racism and anti-Haitianism.

The range of the media's views on Fernandez's visit -invited verbally and in writing by president Boniface Alexandre and prime minister Gerard Latortue- go from just mere courtesy towards his friend Latortue, to as a positive gesture for the bilateral relations.

## **Safe At Home, Missionary Recounts Kidnapping Ordeal In Haiti**

**By CHRIS ECHEGARAY**

**The Tampa Bay Tribune**

**Published: Dec 11, 2005**

TAMPA - Daniel Thelusmar stepped into the tap-tap, a Haitian taxi, with a friend who dropped off money for his ransom Tuesday.

He didn't look back.

But his heart knows he will return to help the people of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere - his people.

The 26-year-old Tampa man survived being kidnapped, but had he stayed in Haiti, he worried, a stray bullet - from the shootouts between gangs and peacekeeping and police forces - would claim his life.

"It was not my time, not my day to die," Thelusmar said Saturday. "I really thought it was the end of being a father, a husband, a preacher."

Thelusmar was kidnapped Dec. 3. Ed Hughes, a Canadian orphanage director, picked him up at the Port-au-Prince airport that morning. Thelusmar was taking food and clothing to an orphanage. The pair planned to pick up a propane tank.

There had been a shootout between thugs and U.N. peacekeepers that morning. The pair were driving in Cite Soleil, a slum known for its armed gangs and violence, when 10 to 15 men approached their pickup and opened fire. Hughes was struck in the right arm, which was later amputated.

"I didn't know what had happened," Thelusmar said. " 'This can't be real,' is what I thought."

The men, armed with M-16s and other powerful guns, took Thelusmar and left Hughes. Thelusmar said at first they took him to a fortified camp.

"They had kidnapped other people," he said. "They're at war with police. They see this as a war. It was very organized. They held meetings. They are targeting anyone they can get."

Initially, his captors asked for \$100,000 but settled for \$10,000. They threatened to kill Thelusmar.

Transported to six locations in three days with other captives, Thelusmar was released Tuesday after a friend delivered the money. His flight arrived in Tampa on Friday.

Every day, eight to 10 people are kidnapped for ransom in Haiti, according to FBI statistics. Haitian-Americans visiting family and Haitians with some money are targeted. The U.S. Department of State advises American citizens against traveling to Haiti.

But many missionaries go anyway. Thelusmar was born in Haiti and came to the United States in his early 20s on a visa sponsored by an U.S. resident involved with missionary work in the Caribbean.

Today, Thelusmar is going to talk to the congregation at his church about the ordeal. He wants to get help for relatives who live in Haiti.

"I want to get them out as soon as possible," he said.

Thelusmar's wife and 19-month-old daughter sat next to him as he recounted his story. Thelusmar's wife, who didn't want to give her name for fear of repercussions for relatives in Haiti, said the phone call from her husband after his abduction shook her.

"I answered the phone, and he asked me, 'How strong are you?' " she said. "I told him to tell me whatever it was. I knew it would be too much, too big."

## **Haiti sacks Supreme Court judges**

**By Claire Marshall**

**BBC News**

**December 10, 2005**

Gerard Latortue ordered the judges into early retirement

Five Supreme Court justices have been fired in Haiti, a day after the court ruled that a Haitian-born US millionaire could run for president.

No reason was given for the sudden sacking of around half of the Supreme Court bench.

They were fired on the direct orders of the interim Prime Minister, Gerard Latortue, and his justice minister.

The government criticised the decision to allow Dumarsais Simeus to run in January's presidential elections.

Despite not yet being on the official ballot, Mr Simeus, who lives in Texas, was shown by the first independent opinion poll conducted to be one of the favourite contenders.

However because of his joint US-Haitian nationality, which is against the constitution, a presidential commission barred him from standing.

The Supreme Court's decision, which confirms an earlier ruling, goes directly against this, saying that he should be allowed to run.

Now the judges said to be responsible for this decision have been sent into early retirement.

One Haitian commentator told the BBC that it clearly appears to be a punishment of these justices.

In a country ravished by insecurity, less than a month before Haitians are due to elect their first leader since the ousting of former President Jean Bertrand-Aristide, this is an unwelcome further sign of serious political instability.

## **Haitian Interim Government Fires Five Supreme Court Justices**

**By VOA News**

**10 December 2005**

Haiti's interim government has fired five Supreme Court justices, one day after the court's decision to allow a Haitian-born U.S. millionaire to run for president.

The government has selected five new justices to fill the posts.

In a ruling published Thursday the court rejected a petition from Haiti's Provisional Election Board that argued businessman Dumarsais Simeus should not be allowed to run for president because he holds U.S. citizenship.

Last week, Prime Minister Gerard Latortue told VOA that after the elections, he would support a constitutional amendment allowing Haitians with dual citizenship to vote and run for all offices.

The first presidential and legislative elections in Haiti since former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a revolt early last year are scheduled for January 8th.

An opinion poll released Friday showed former President Rene Preval and Mr. Simeus are the leading contenders for the presidency.

**Czech missionary Musil kidnapped in Haiti released**  
**Czech Happenings**  
**December 9, 2005**

PRAGUE/OLOMOUC- Czech missionary Roman Musil who was kidnapped from northwest Haiti a few days ago has been released, Foreign Minister Cyril Svoboda said, adding that the information was still being checked with the Czech embassy in Venezuela.

It is not known whether a \$50,000 ransom the kidnapers demanded has been paid.

The information on Musil's release was confirmed by Martin Sedlon from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) order. He said that he had received an SMS message from "his brothers."

The motives of the kidnapping were probable criminal and not political.

Musil, 34, cooperates with the Olomouc-based Agency for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

On Wednesday, Musil went along with a 15-year boy to the capital to fetch the parcels sent by the Charity from Zabreh or Olomouc. They were allegedly kidnapped shortly before they reached the place.

Kidnapping is commonplace in Haiti. For the first seven days of this month along, 30 people have been kidnapped for ransom.

**Czech missionary kidnapped in Haiti**  
**Czech Happenings**  
**Dec. 11, 2005**

PRAGUE/OLOMOUC- Czech missionary Roman Musil was kidnapped from northwest Haiti a few days ago, while the kidnapers are demanding a \$50,000 ransom, Martin Sedlon from Musil's order said.

The church dignitaries, who are negotiating with him, said that this was not political kidnapping, but a criminal act, Sedlon from the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) said.

Kidnapping is frequent in Haiti. Reuters has written that over 1000 people have been kidnapped there since March.

The Czech OMI received the information about the abduction by e-mail. The Haitian head of the OMI immediately started negotiations with the kidnapers and informed the Vatican.

Sedlon said that the Czech diplomatic office had been informed as well.

"No politics seems to be involved. Kidnapping is commonplace in Haiti. According to my information, some five to six people are abducted there for ransom on the weekly basis," said Sedlon, who considers the situation hopeful.

Musil cooperates with the Olomouc-based Agency for Development and Humanitarian Aid. "I have received the information from a colleague of mine who was sent by our agency to Haiti in order to help build a school," Pavel Novacek from the agency said.

"Probably on Wednesday, Musil went along with a 15-year boy to the capital to fetch the parcels sent by the Charity from Zabreh or Olomouc. They were allegedly kidnapped shortly before they reached the place," Novacek said. His words were confirmed by Sedlon.

"We are considering launching a petition, but we do not want to enter the affair too soon," Novacek said. The agency wanted to send a specialist on tropical diseases to Haiti in January. Now it is reconsidering the decision.

**South Africans may attempt to infiltrate Haiti from Dominican Republic to sabotage elections**  
**by Daisy Matos**  
**For Caribbean Net News**  
**Saturday, December 10, 2005**

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic. Immigration authorities in the Dominican Republic are carefully inspecting the travel documents and personal identification of all arriving passengers of South African and European origin, following intelligence reports that South Africans are planning to enter the country by air and then cross the border with Haiti, in order to sabotage the elections in that country.

According to intelligence reports, South African citizens have been requesting visas through Dominican Republic consulates in Europe and it is suspected that these groups may be linked to Jean Bertrand Aristide, the ousted former president of Haiti who is currently exiled in South Africa.

The Dominican Republic's Secretary of Defense, General Sigfrido Pared Perez, has instructed all military personnel assigned to the border with Haiti to be more vigilant. Security has been increased at check points in the border cities of Elias Pina, Jimani, Dajabon and others.

The elections in Haiti, recently postponed for a third time to January 8, continue to be under threat from the violence that has plagued the country since Aristide fled into exile in South Africa.

Since then Haiti has been led by an interim government, supported by a 7,000-strong UN peacekeeping force that has struggled to maintain order as the country moves toward re-establishing a constitutionally elected government.

**Haiti has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), bringing the total number of ratifications to 126, the Vienna-based organization that administers the accord said on Friday.**

**VIENNA, Dec. 9 (Xinhuanet)**

**China View**

**Dec. 9, 2005**

The Caribbean nation became the 22nd nation in the region to ratify the treaty, which bans all test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization(CTBTO) said.

The CTBT, which opened for signature in 1996, still has not entered into force since it must be signed and ratified by 44 states listed in an annex to the treaty. To date, only 33 of them have done so, the CTBTO said.

These 44 states formally participated in the 1996 disarmament conference and possessed nuclear power or research reactors at the time. They include the United States, which has signed but not ratified the treaty.

**Missionary won over captors**  
**Saturday, December 10, 2005**  
**By Shandra Martinez**  
**The Grand Rapids Press**

ZEELAND -- After his Haitian kidnappers took him deep into the heart of Port-au-Prince's violent slums, missionary Phillip Snyder said they repeatedly threatened to kill him and told his oldest son they would "send him home in little pieces."

But during his 36 hours in captivity last week, Snyder convinced his kidnappers that by allowing him to continue to help their impoverished country, he was more valuable than the \$300,000 ransom they had placed on his head.

In the end, they accepted a small ransom negotiated by his son, Chad, 29, and paid by an unnamed supporter.

And when his abductors released him, Snyder left with their apologies, cell phone numbers and an invitation to return.

"I walked out a brother," said Snyder, 48. "They knew what I was about."

Snyder, a father of nine, returned home this week, and now wants to make good on his promise to return Cite Soleil, a sprawling seaside slum that serves as a base for street gangs blamed for a wave of crime and abductions.

Kidnappings are how the gangs raise capital to buy weapons to fight UN Peacekeepers, sent to the country in June 2004 to restore political stability and security after the ouster of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Violence has increased with national elections set for Jan. 8.

"They told me they were revolutionaries. I told them I was a revolutionary fighting the war on poverty," said Snyder, whose family ministry has brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical care, food programs and schools to Haiti over the past 35 years.

GLOW Ministries International works primarily with Haitian pastors and leaders in a hub of communities 40 miles north of the capital.

Shot three times, Snyder said he came out of this dangerous episode more committed to Haiti, which is the Western Hemisphere's leader in per-capita poverty, illiteracy and kidnapping.

The Zeeland resident is spending a few days recuperating in a friend's home in the Port Sheldon dunes overlooking Lake Michigan. He is expected to recover from injuries suffered in the Dec. 1 abduction, which included two bullets that passed through his shoulder, and a spray of buckshot across his shoulder, arm and chest.

But Snyder worries about the psychological impact the ordeal had on Shelton, the 6-year-old Haitian boy who was kidnapped with him. On the day of the attack, he was taking the boy to the U.S. Consulate in Port-Au-Prince to obtain a visa so the boy could travel to West Michigan for eye surgery. Their truck came under fire.

When their assailants discovered \$1,400 in U.S. and Haitian money and GLOW's financial documents -- required for Shelton's travel visa -- they apparently figured they had hit the jackpot.

While the kidnapers had little interest in Shelton, Snyder insisted they were a package deal.

"He would lay there and stare the whole time as these guys were threatening to kill me," Snyder said.

Despite their tactics, the kidnapers provided the two bottled water, food and cigarettes. Snyder said he smoked to keep the mosquitoes from swarming him and Shelton.

While negotiating with the kidnapers, Chad Snyder said he kept talking about his father's work in Haiti, which seemed to rattle them.

"In their minds, they wanted to believe he was a rich white man because in a lot of Haitians' view, if you are a white American, you are a millionaire," said the younger Snyder, who works for Mercy and Sharing, a Colorado-based organization that does work similar to GLOW's.

While Phillip Snyder and the boy waited to learn their fate, they laid or sat on a dirty piece of foam mattress in a small, windowless room.

As the group's leader, "Gato," got to know Snyder, he spent more time talking to him.

"I promised Gato if I left there, he would hear my voice again, and I would speak out eventually (for those living in the slums)," Snyder said.

**Tampa man kidnapped in Haiti is back home**  
**WTSP, Tampa Bay's 10 News**  
**December 10, 2005**

TAMPA, Florida (AP) -- The Tampa man kidnapped in Haiti is expected back home Thursday night.

Daniel Thelusmar's family says the men who kidnapped him demanded \$100,000 for his release. But the family talked them down to \$10,000.

The Christian missionary was taking supplies to an orphanage in a small village north of Port-au-Prince on Saturday when armed men surrounded his car.

After nearly four days of threatening phone calls, Thelusmar's kidnappers released him.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Its political and economic situation has deteriorated in the past year.

The US Department of State tells travelers not to go there, warning of random violence and kidnapping for ransom.

## **'Why would I trust this fake election?'**

### **Haitians sound off on elections, rescheduled for January**

**by Lyn Duff**

**San Francisco Bay View**

Presidential elections in Haiti were postponed for the fifth time this week and have been rescheduled for January. Some on Haiti's left have called for an election boycott until the thousands of political prisoners are released and there is an end to the extensive human rights violations against Haiti's poor majority by the national police.

Observers predict that elections will take place and that René Preval, a former member of Fanmi Lavalas and past president, will win in a landslide. Bay View reporter Lyn Duff was on the ground in Port-au-Prince speaking to ordinary Haitians about whether they plan to vote and why.

Samson, a 62-year-old carpenter: "No one could persuade me to vote in this election. It's a farce. The last time I voted, the person I voted for was removed by a coup. Why would I trust this fake election by the people who did the coup against democracy? No, I will not vote."

Emil, 19, high school student: "I would vote if I could, but I was not able to register to vote. I went to register, but I did not have the papers I needed. If I could vote, I would vote for René Preval because he will make a good change in Haiti."

Wendelly, 31, merchant: "I am tired of politics here. The elections have no meaning for me. No matter who becomes president, things will not change here. When people try to make change, they make a coup against him. I am tired of elections. I have better things to do than vote for someone who will just make my life more miserable in the end."

Wootrood, 22, vocational student: "I plan to vote for Preval. He is the best of the choices. We don't have very good choices. There are many people running for president, but none of them are as good as Aristide. Even when Aristide had problems, he was the best for the Haitian people."

Sarah, 37, merchant: "I support Aristide, and I will not rest until he comes back. I will not vote in these elections. They are a sham election. If I voted, that would support the elections and the coup!"

Markenson, 45, welder: "On the television there is a spot about Marc Bazin that says, 'If you support Aristide, vote for Marc Bazin.' Are they crazy? Do they think we're going to believe this shit? If you support Aristide, don't vote!"

Viola, 27, cashier: "I don't get involved in politics. Voting in the elections, I don't want to get involved in that. It's too dangerous to have an opinion today."

Phillip, 51, driver: "They say that Charlito can make a real difference in Haiti because he has discipline. I haven't made a decision yet about who to vote for. My wife is voting for Preval because she thinks he is the best of the bad options we have."

"Whoever becomes president will have to make a change about the high cost of living. We have so many problems, economic problems, and I can't pay for my children to go to high school because the cost of living is so high. If a president could change this, I would support him."

Lyn Duff (LynDuff@aol.com) is a reporter currently based in Port-au-Prince. She first traveled to Haiti in 1995 to help establish a children's radio station and has since covered Haiti extensively for Pacifica Radio's Flashpoints, heard on KPFA weekdays at 5 p.m., and other local and national media.

**Ransom abductions soar in Haiti**  
**BY JOE MOZINGO**  
**Knight Ridder Newspapers**  
**Bradenton Herald**  
**December 8, 2005**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - On a cool morning in October, an American missionary named Wes Morgan was riding in his church's Toyota 4-Runner when three gunmen stormed up to the vehicle. One put a pistol to his face.

Another shoved his Haitian driver into the backseat and took the wheel. Within 10 minutes, the 53-year-old from North Carolina said, he was driven into the Haitian capital's Cite Soleil slum as two of the kidnapers hung out the back windows and shot into the air to celebrate his capture.

Among Haiti's litany of woes, kidnapping has surged into an epidemic in recent months, with an estimated eight to 10 people abducted for ransom every day - including 25 U.S. citizens just since April - according to the FBI. The 25 were later released, the FBI added, but three other Americans were killed trying to resist apparent kidnapping attempts.

Security experts say the number of kidnappings in this country of 8.1 million people now dwarfs the notoriously high levels in Colombia, a nation of 43 million people where some 2,200 abductions were reported in 2003.

In just one day last week, U.S. missionary Phillip Snyder and 11 children in a schoolbus were kidnapped in separate incidents. The students were freed hours later under unclear circumstances, and Snyder was released the following day. Haitian media reports said he paid an unknown ransom.

"He's out, he's safe," said Alejandro Barbeito, an FBI supervisory special agent in Miami who heads one of the three bureau squads that deploy for foreign cases like Snyder's. FBI agents routinely help when U.S. citizens are kidnapped abroad.

While the FBI said there's no indication that Americans are specifically targeted in Haiti, kidnappings have become such a common method for criminals to get money in this abjectly poor nation that anyone with even scant wealth is at risk.

"As far as numbers, it is worse now in Haiti than we ever saw in Colombia," Barbeito said.

The U.S. citizens taken hostage are mostly Haitian Americans living here or visiting family, including a New York State Trooper who was abducted in August and later freed, the FBI says. Often, the victims are children snatched to extort their parents.

More and more, they report being taken to Cite Soleil, a slum neighborhood so dominated by armed gangs that Haitian police almost never go there. U.N. peacekeepers have tried to seal off the area but kidnapers can still move in and out. Morgan says that when he was abducted, his vehicle didn't pass a single U.N. checkpoint on the way into the slum. Snyder was also held captive there.

The Haitian Red Cross appears to be is one of the few groups that can move about the slum freely. After Snyder was shot in the arm, a Red Cross medic treated his wound, his family said.

The abductions are just one prong of the violence that has dogged Port-au-Prince since an armed rebellion ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide last year. While the security situation has improved in recent months, the chaos in Cite Soleil continues despite the presence in Haiti of nearly 8,000 U.N. peacekeepers.

"Cite Soleil is the deepest wound in Haiti's belly," said Juan Gabriel Valdes, the U.N. Special Envoy to Haiti, in an interview with The Miami Herald last week. He called it the most "complicated problem of all" facing the U.N. mission here.

The rash of abducted Americans, meanwhile, has made Haiti the No. 1 destination for FBI kidnap investigators like Barbeito's squad. Its members advise families on negotiating with captors, help the local authorities and arrange for FBI evidence teams that can build cases against the kidnappers.

On Oct. 7, they flew two kidnapping defendants to Washington, where they were indicted for holding a 9-year-old Haitian-American girl for a week, Barbeito said. Yves Jean Louis, 24, and Ernsou Louis, 19, allegedly took the girl from her bed while she was sleeping at her family home and demanded \$200,000. She was rescued after a tip to police.

Both the FBI and U.S. State Department praise the new Haitian National Police chief, Mario Andresol, for working closely with U.S. agents and going after some officers allegedly involved in the kidnappings. Andresol has ordered the arrests of more than 20 officers for kidnapping, drug trafficking and murder, according to news reports.

But Haiti provides unique difficulties for the FBI agents. In many countries, they can zero in on the captors by tracking the location of their cellphones. Such analysis is difficult in Haiti because of its poor cellular system and telephone company record-keeping, agents said.

The nature of kidnapping in Haiti also is different.

In Colombia, for example, most abductions are carried out by highly organized guerilla and paramilitary groups that carefully select their victims and demand large sums of money or political concessions, such as the release of government prisoners. Negotiations can go on for months.

"In Colombia, you're snatched and you're going to the jungle for 'an ecological tour' for two years," said Barbeito. "The infrastructure is in place to hold hostages for a long time."

The largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, even has doctors for its hostages, he said.

But Haiti's kidnappers usually just want quick cash and don't have the means to feed a hostage for months, the FBI agent added.

Morgan, who said he has cancer and has had his stomach removed, needs to eat small doses every two hours. He was kidnapped Oct. 14, less than a week after getting out of chemotherapy.

The gunmen who captured him and his driver took them to a bare concrete shack in Cite Soleil where a gang leader waited with an M-16 assault rifle, Morgan recounted in an interview. The man leveled the gun between Morgan's eyes and said he'd kill him if someone didn't pay \$300,000.

The leader then left the pair under the guard of another man, armed with a pistol. Morgan said he called his church group, New Directions International, on his cell to tell them what happened. He described his captivity as loose - he was allowed to step outside to urinate. He thought of trying to escape, he added, but figured he would never get out of the slum.

The church contacted the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, and the FBI began helping with the ransom negotiations, Morgan said. The same night as the kidnapping, Morgan and the driver were released after the church paid \$10,000.

Morgan said his Haitian driver knew exactly where they were held in Cite Soleil. But because police cannot enter the slum without heavy U.N. military backing, the kidnappers remain free.

"You'd have to take over the whole neighborhood," said Barbeito.

## **Peacekeepers likely tied to Haiti shooting**

**By ALFRED DE MONTESQUIOU**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER**

**Seattle Post Intelligencer**

**December 8, 2005**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- The United Nations acknowledged Thursday that its peacekeepers likely opened fire on a car full of Haitian police officers this week, wounding two.

According to a preliminary investigation, five uniformed officers were driving toward a U.N. checkpoint on Monday when the peacekeepers opened fire, said U.N. spokesman Damian Onses-Cardona. He showed reporters photographs of the blue car, which had official license plates but no other markings.

"The first elements of the investigation tend to show that U.N. peacekeepers could have done the shooting," Onses-Cardona said.

Peacekeepers may have confused the police with armed gang members whom they are fighting to gain control of the seaside slum of Cite Soleil, Onses-Cardona said.

Cite Soleil, where gunbattles between peacekeepers and gangs take place almost daily, remains the most insecure place in Haiti ahead of national elections scheduled for Jan. 8.

Haitian police do not enter the slum, which a battalion of 1,500 Jordanian peacekeepers in armored vehicles has pledged to reclaim from the gangs.

One of the two wounded Haitian police officers remained hospitalized in stable condition Thursday.

"Even though this incident is appalling, the tight collaboration between U.N. peacekeepers and Haitian police will continue," Onses-Cardona said. The two forces currently are studying a joint plan to combat kidnappings, which have surged in areas near Cite Soleil, he said.

Meanwhile, representatives of Haiti and the European Union Thursday signed an \$88 million deal for road-building and repair grants.

The aid will go to building about 60 miles of new roads, mainly in Haiti's north and near the neighboring Dominican Republic.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said he hopes the improvements will help reduce the hundreds of deadly accidents each year on Haiti's crumbling roads.

## **Kidnappers Free Haitian Political Leader**

**Thursday December 8, 2005**

**By ALFRED de MONTESQUIOU**

**Associated Press Writer**

**Guardian Unlimited, UK**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - A senior member of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide's party said he was released four days after he was kidnapped - one of 30 people abducted during the last week in the increasingly violent country.

Emmanuel Cantave, leader of the Lavalas Family party, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he was held by armed gangs in the Cite Soleil slum on the northern outskirts of the capital.

Cantave said his party and his family pooled a ransom of more than \$25,000 to set him free on Tuesday.

His release came as abductions surged in the capital, a month before national elections scheduled for Jan. 8.

"We registered 30 cases of kidnappings for the whole of November and 30 cases just for the first week of December," police spokesman Frantz Lerebours told reporters Wednesday.

Observers believe the real figures could be up to 10 times higher, since many families prefer not to report cases and instead negotiate directly with kidnappers.

Last week, 14 schoolchildren, a U.S. missionary and a Haitian journalist were among about two dozen people who were taken hostage and then released for ransom in the area.

Cite Soleil - the country's largest slum, where about 200,000 people live in squalid conditions - remains a hub for violence plaguing the capital.

Well-armed gangs allegedly close to Aristide clash nearly daily with U.N. peacekeepers in armored vehicles.

The freshly released Cantave said gang members beat him and at one point threatened to kill him, criticizing the Lavalas party leadership's choice for the presidential elections.

**MEETING WITH HAITIAN POLITICAL PARTIES, UN ENVOY URGES TOLERANCE**  
**Press Release - U.N. News Center**  
**Harold Doan and Associates**  
**December 9, 2005**

The senior United Nations envoy to Haiti has urged the country's major political parties to act with moderation during the electoral process and to honour the final result of the polls.

Juan Gabriel Valdes made his comments on Tuesday as the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), working with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the country's Transitional Government, presented a strategy document for sustainable development to leading political parties.

During their meeting, Mr. Valdes asked the candidates to show tolerance and moderation during the electoral process and to respect the final decision of the Haitian people. Among those attending were leading political figures, including those standing for the presidential elections.

"The coming elections mark a decisive step for Haiti's future," said Mr. Valdes, who added that MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police are working together, along with electoral observers, to minimize the possibility of electoral fraud.

The senior UNDP official in Haiti, Adama Guindo, reiterated the international community's full support for the country during the polling process and in the post-electoral period.

## **Group to push for U.S.-Haiti trade pact**

**A Washington-based group ended its three-day conference in Miami agreeing to lobby U.S. lawmakers on Haiti's behalf, and urge Haitian business leaders to agree on common goals.**

**BY JACQUELINE CHARLES**

**Miami Herald**

**December 8, 2005**

A powerful Washington lobbying group that promotes economic development in the Caribbean basin has agreed to go to bat for a preferential trade agreement for Haiti with expectations that a deal ahead of the island-nation's presidential elections would provide Haitians with much hope.

Haitian business leaders and others attending the Caribbean-Central American Action's conference in Miami say in an incredibly poor nation like Haiti, the hope of jobs could be the key to ending the spate of violence gripping the volatile nation, and motivating Haitians to vote on election day, now scheduled for Jan. 8. Thirty-five candidates are running for the presidency.

"It's not going to solve all of our problems," Maryse Kedar, president of Haiti's manufacturer's association, said of the Haiti aid bill, called HOPE.

``But it's going to take people off the streets by putting them to work. This will create some hope."

### **DIM CHANCES**

But the prospects of the U.S. Congress passing the bill before lawmakers recess for Christmas break and before Jan. 8 appear dim, said Chandri Navarro-Bowman, who has been trying unsuccessfully to get lawmakers to agree to the textile trade legislation. Navarro-Bowman, who brought her pleas to a Wednesday afternoon workshop on the role of Haiti's private sector on the last day of CCAA's Miami conference, said Washington lawmakers are apathetic toward Haiti.

"It is only when Haiti gets a trade preference program that sets Haiti's imports into the U.S. apart that true investments incentives will be there for U.S. companies and others to establish operations in Haiti," Navarro-Bowman said before session moderator and CCAA Executive Committee Member Peter Johnson agreed to have CCAA write a letter to the House Republican leadership supporting the Haiti aid legislation.

### **HOPE LEGISLATURE**

Haitian manufacturers estimate that the bill, aptly called HOPE, would create about 40,000 textile jobs over the next two years in the country. It would be more than twice the number the country currently has.

"Haiti needs help," Johnson said.

``But Haiti is not doing enough to help itself."

Johnson said Haiti's private sector needs to use the next few weeks to come up with a common agenda to present to all of the presidential candidates and the new Haitian government after election on what its needs are.

At the top of that list said some non-Haitian business leaders needs to be security, a properly working justice system and an end to corruption.

"No matter what best efforts come from Washington as long as those conditions are not there, you will not see the kind of quality investments pouring into Haiti that are required to create jobs," said Pat Minicucci, an executive with Scotiabank which this year opened its fourth branch in Haiti.

``There is so much money poised and waiting for Haiti."

Adolfo Franco, assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the U.S. Agency for International Development, agreed Haiti is a good investment.

"The private sector should look at Haiti not as a charity case but as a place for enormous growth and potential," said Franco, who gave the final keynote luncheon address. ``Haiti is a good investment for the future, a good bet for the future."

## **Haiti leader praises local efforts at preschool**

**12/09/05**

**Calhoun Times, GA**

This document is addressed to all those who support and will support Deacon Balliew and his group in their wonderful work in favor of the poorest of the poor kids living in Roi, Ranquitte, Haiti. All our children are poor.

The ones he is helping are very poor and hungry. Ranquitte, a county in northern Haiti, is singularly poor considering its geographical situation. It is the county of unlimited impossibilities. Most people living in that part of the country are unfortunate. They are in a deep misery. Thanks to the interventions of some good-hearted Americans, they can send their children to school.

Deacon Balliew, one of the good-hearted Americans who is aware of their critical condition, has committed himself to save the kids here by supplying food and supplies at Bill Childers Preschool of Roi and pay for the teachers.

And to go further, he focuses on the crippled little ones. He thinks that if he intervenes in their favor, they can be someone someday in life. That intervention is unique and special because Ranquitte is the only place in the region where such cases are now taken into consideration.

What we appreciate the most is those kids who are the beneficiaries of this special attention are the poorest of the poor and usually die of starvation.

Several health specialists, well-renowned pediatricians from Cap-Haitian, the second largest city in Haiti, have already been contacted in order to provide health assistance to those unfortunate kids so they can grow to be helpful to themselves and to the community someday. The health specialists said no other schools are doing this kind of work.

Deacon is doing something that is more special than special when he pays attention to the crippled ones. He invests his life in needy people for Christ's sake. He espouses the behavior of the Good Samaritan. He teaches people how to be compassionate toward others. He is doing something the Ranquitte area appreciates the most.

Truly words fail me to express our thankfulness not only to Deacon Balliew but also to all those who have already committed and will commit themselves to help Deacon rescue those kids from the deep misery in which they are now.

We want to let all those who support Deacon in that wonderful work know that they are doing something grand, something that is more than important.

If they can keep on supporting him they will give the opportunity to the poorest of the poor kids living in Roi, Ranquitte to be someone in life someday.

God's eyes will be always upon all his benefactors. He will keep on blessing them abundantly both spiritually and economically, and because of them, America will be more prosperous and more protected.

God richly bless you all!

God richly bless America!

FRANCOIS FILOGENE

School Inspector of Ranquitte

## **Ex-soldiers in Haiti get back pay, refuse to disarm**

**by Lyn Duff**

**San Francisco Bay View**

**December 7, 2005**

The U.S.-appointed interim Haitian government restarted a nationwide program of cash payments to former members of the disbanded Haitian Army this month, despite international criticism that the demobilized soldiers have no legal claim to demand monetary payments and human rights reports blaming the former soldiers for gross violations of human rights, including the mass rape of women in the popular neighborhoods.

In 2004, Gerald Latortue, a businessman of Haitian descent who lives in Boca Raton, Florida, was appointed Haiti's prime minister after a coalition of drug traffickers, thugs and demobilized soldiers overthrew the democratically elected government of Jean Bertrand Aristide in a bloody U.S.-backed coup.

The soldiers, who were dismissed when Aristide disbanded the Haitian Army in 1995 because of its involvement in rampant human rights abuses against the Haitian people, demanded millions in "back pay" for paychecks they would have received had Aristide not dispersed the army nine years before. Latortue readily acquiesced to the former soldiers demands.

Payments totaling 200 million gourdes - about \$7,000,000 in U.S. dollars - were made in late 2004 and early 2005 but stopped when the government failed to follow through on promises to release more funds, says former Colonel Jean Claude Jeudy, who coordinates the Demobilized Soldiers Management Office.

Last month, Jeudy announced that a second block of 39 million gourdes (\$1,300,000), was released by Latortue to make payments to 962 former soldiers. An additional 81 million gourdes (\$2,700,000) will be released to pay former officers, says Jeudy, some of whom have been accused by international human rights observers of persecuting and killing members of the pro-democracy movement. Jeudy says he estimates that a total of 1,826,000,000 gourdes (\$60,860,000) will eventually be paid to demobilized soldiers.

Activists say they are angry about Latortue's plan. "While hardworking Haitians starve or die of preventable diseases, the government is paying soldiers from a non-existent army for not having worked," says human rights attorney Brian Concannon who directs the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti.

"Even worse, some on the payroll are convicted murders," says Concannon.

Some of the ex-soldier funds are coming directly from the United States. Unlike other countries, whose demobilized soldiers are required to participate in reintegration programs conducted by USAID's Office of Transitional Assistance as a prerequisite for receiving cash payments, no such programs are being offered for ex-combatants in Haiti, according to USAID press officer Jessica Garcia. Garcia said that the agency had no comment on Latortue's decision restarting payments to former soldiers.

The United Nations contributed \$2.8 million to help pay the ex-soldiers. However, despite their willingness to accept the indemnity they were offered, the former soldiers refused to disarm, said U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

"Payments (to demobilized soldiers) should be linked to disarmament and entry into a comprehensive disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration program," Annan said.

Fewer than 1 percent of the demobilized soldiers have surrendered their weapons, say human rights observers. "Some of those arms were used to launch a revolt to overthrow democracy in 2004 and to persecute members of Lavalas and the pro-democracy movement," says American nurse Anne Lautan who runs a public health clinic in Port-au-Prince that often treats victims of human rights offenses.

"We still have former soldiers running around here, working as police attaches or brutalizing the population, raping women," says Lautan. "The former soldiers haven't disarmed even though the U.N. and Latortue's government has been kowtowing to them. When you have all these armed ex-soldiers running around with impunity, you have to ask why. Why isn't anyone disarming them and why is the government - which has so little money to begin with - giving them paychecks?"

Following the overthrow of the democratic government in 2004, the United Nations estimated that Haiti would need \$35 million in emergency aid. Only \$15 million in international aid has been raised thus far, more than half of which has gone to demobilized soldiers.

## **Artist's one-woman show to benefit Haiti hurricane victims**

**Thursday, December 08, 2005**

**By Dave Zuchowski**

**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, PA**

Even though Maggie O'Lear, 51, showed an aptitude for art at an early age and was accepted later as a student at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, she opted for a more practical profession and earned a degree in early childhood education from Lock Haven University.

After spending most of her professional life working in child welfare services, her initial artistic interests rekindled four years ago when her father was dying of cancer. One of the last things he told her was to get into something she really enjoyed doing.

Taking his advice to heart, Ms. O'Lear enrolled in classes offered by the Washington Art Association, where she studied under Donna Jordan, 1981 Art Scholar of the Year at Washington and Jefferson College.

Those studies paid off. Her work has won several awards, and she now has a one-woman show at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair.

"I knew of Maggie's work because we're both members of the McMurray Art League, and I find her paintings to be fun, whimsical and creative," said Sandy Conley, manager of the Westminster Gallery.

Ms. O'Lear, who works as a certification representative for the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development, plans to exhibit 31 of her works influenced by the beauty and spirit of the hills, flowers, forests and wildlife she sees on her farm near Hickory, where she lives with her husband, Martin, a social worker, and son, Daniel.

She'll include a few recent depictions of Westminster Presbyterian Church and, just as significantly, paintings of landscapes and wildlife taken from photos of Haiti she gathered from library books and church missionaries. The latter works are significant because she intends to donate a portion of her sales to flood relief for members of the La Croix New Testament Mission in Haiti who were displaced by October's Hurricane Alpha.

"I didn't want to hang my paintings in a church exhibit during the Christmas season without donating to a cause that benefited children or hurricane victims," she said.

A mixed media artist, Ms. O'Lear likes to incorporate fabric or things she finds in her yard, such as grasses, leaves and birds' nests, into her work. Some of the techniques she uses to get the desired effect are just as inventive, such as painting on glass, then pressing the finished work on paper, or painting abstract works on wet paper to produce a watercolor bleeding effect.

In July, the artist submitted two of her paintings to the Greene County Art Show at Waynesburg College, where she vied with 36 other artists and came away with first-place awards for both works.

"One of the things that caught my eye in O'Lear's work was the way she doesn't follow the rules of art and extends traditional boundaries," art show judge Kyle Hallam said. "There's a spontaneity and childish quality in her work, which is, at the same time, serious and mature."

In October, Ms. O'Lear took a second place Peoples' Choice Award at the McMurray Art League Fall Show at the Galleria in Mt. Lebanon. A month later, she donated a painting titled "Forest Friends" to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of West Virginia's Northern Panhandle, which raffled it off at the Festival of Trees at Oglebay Park in Wheeling.

"I seem to be much more inspired to paint when I know the work will be donated to a good cause," Ms. O'Lear said.

Ms. O'Lear's paintings will be exhibited at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Road, Upper St. Clair, daily through Dec. 29. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The artist will be at the gallery from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday to discuss her art and the flood relief effort for Haitian children.

**Amidst tension, Fernandez will visit Haiti**  
**Dominican Today**  
**Dec. 8, 2005**

SANTO DOMINGO. - President Leonel Fernandez will visit Haiti shortly to meet with Haitian prime minister Gerard Latortue, the local media reports, quoting a National Palace source, who added that the chief executive's agenda in the neighboring country will be announced tomorrow, Friday.

Fernandez's visit will take place after a crowd of Haitian immigrants stabbed a Dominican to death last weekend, supposedly to rob to him, in a locality near Villa Trina, in the country's north.

In retaliation, a group of Dominicans burned at least 35 houses of Haitian immigrants, forcing entire families to flee from that community.

Last Monday the Dominican authorities found a Haitian killed in that same municipality, and that same day, 3 Dominican women suffered stab wounds in an incident with supposed Haitians in Ponton, La Vega province. One of the women said that the attackers tried to rape her.

So far this year at least five violent confrontations have occurred between Dominicans and Haitians and in different cities of the country's north, leaving at least 11 dead, according to official figures.

**South Africans plan to sabotage Haitian elections through DR**  
**Dominican Today**  
**Dec. 10, 2005**

Santo Domingo.— Immigration authorities in the Dominican Republic are carefully inspecting the travel documents and personal identification of all arriving passengers of South African and European origin, following intelligence reports that South Africans are planning to enter the country by air and then cross the border with Haiti, in order to sabotage the elections in that country.

According to intelligence reports, South African citizens have been requesting visas through Dominican Republic consulates in Europe and it is suspected that these groups may be linked to Jean Bertrand Aristide, the ousted former president of Haiti who is currently exiled in South Africa.

Secretary of Defense General Sigfrido Pared Perez has instructed all military personnel assigned to the border with Haiti to be more vigilant. Security has been increased at check points in the border cities of Elias Piña, Jimani, Dajabon and others.

The elections in Haiti, recently postponed for a third time to January 8, continue to be under threat from the violence that has plagued the country since Aristide fled into exile in South Africa.

Since then Haiti has been led by an interim government, supported by a 7,000-strong UN peacekeeping force that has struggled to maintain order as the country moves toward re-establishing a constitutionally elected government.

#### **4 NGOs demand contract terms to hire Haitian nationals**

**Dominican Today**

**Dec. 9, 2005**

Santo Domingo.- 4 non government organizations representing Haitians working in the Dominican Republic demanded from the Migration Agency and the Labor Ministry to "clearly" define contracting terms for the upcoming sugar cane cropping season.

In a public joint declaration read by Phillomard M. Joseph during a press conference this Friday, the NGOs demanded that authorities publish the terms by which Haitian workers will work at the local sugar fields during the 2005-2006 cropping season.

The NGOs were identified as the Association of Dominican-Haitian Immigrants (ASOINDOHA); the Association of the Migratory Dominican-Haitian Community (ACM-DH); the Haitian Immigrants Youth Association (AJIH); and the Association of Haitian Workers (ATHASOL

**Haitian groups want better conditions for sugar workers**  
**The Dominican Today**  
**December 9, 2005**

SANTO DOMINGO.- Four associations of Haitian immigrants today suggested that the authorities improve conditions in the cane fields and sugar refineries, so that Dominicans would work the sugarcane and are avoided to have to bring Haitian workers.

The Immigrants and Dominican-Haitian associations, the Dominican-Haitian Migrants Community, the Young Haitian Immigrants and the Haitian Workers Rising Sun, requested that the authorities outline the methodology that will be used for the hiring of Haitians in the 2005-2006 harvest season.

Professor Philomard M. Joseph, speaking in representation of the Haitian organizations, said that the proposal is made because Dominican Republic is experiencing an acute economic crisis and the issues of greatest importance for public opinion is the Haitian laborers and Dominicans supposedly losing their jobs to the Haitians.

He asked that Immigration director Carlos Amarante and Labor minister Ramon Fadul publish the terms of the work contracts that the laborers will sign.

"For the purpose of avoiding old practices, we the leaders of the migrants associations understand that the authorities of the government must give a clear explanation on the entrance of new Haitian workers for the indicated harvest season," he said.

He added that the abuses which in his view Haitian workers are subjected to result from the bad faith on the part of the Haitian and Dominican authorities not to remunerate them as compensation for the services rendered.

"And on the contrary they throw them out on the streets, on their own, without documents, social security, without work, in essence even without the hope of living with dignity."

**Torch and sack Haitians' shacks in La Vega**  
**December 9, 2005**  
**The Dominican Today**

PONTON, La Vega. - Around 30 shacks occupied by Haitians and their families were destroyed and sacked by a crowd with sticks and machetes that left them homeless. There were no reports of fatalities or injuries.

The Haitians said that they managed to flee because they were warned by their Dominican neighbors that the multitude with was approaching to attack them, but that they did not manage to save their properties. The Haitians from the neighboring communities El Pinito and El Pino also fled.

A man, identified only as Roque, was arrested in connection with the attacks against the Haitian families but no further details were provided.

The violence against the Haitians began at the beginning this week after a retailer in Villa Trina, Moca, was killed by Haitians who assaulted him, and here in Ponton a group of these immigrants attacked three women with machetes, one of which lost an eye and still is still hospitalized in Santiago.

**March for the release of Father Gerard Jean-Juste  
Release Prisoner of Conscience Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste Immediately!  
Haiti Action Committee  
December 8, 2005**

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 12:00P.M. AT THE TORCH OF FRIENDSHIP, DOWNTOWN  
MIAMI

Join over 400 members of the clergy, 34 U.S. Congressmen, the Miami Herald, the Miami Times, Human Rights First, Amnesty International, hundreds of thousands of Haitian- Americans in South Florida, and millions of Americans to demand the immediate, unconditional release of Rev. Gerard Jean- Juste, a prisoner of conscience in Haiti and a hero to South Florida's Haitian Refugee Community.

The first ordained Haitian-American priest, Rev. Jean-Juste moved from Boston to Miami in 1978 to fight for Haitian refugee rights, serving as Executive Director of the Haitian Refugee Center from 1979 to 1989. This student of Martin Luther King and Gandhi is beloved to hundreds of thousands of Haitian refugees.

For the past 11 years, Gerry ministered to a parish of 80,000 Haitian families in a church on a dirt road outside Port-au-Prince, organizing a program which fed 600 children twice a week. Last October, armed men wearing black ski masks broke into his church and arrested him on fabricated charges. Imprisoned in a jail with no beds, blankets, or water to bathe; he was released after seven weeks due to international condemnation of his imprisonment.

This July, visiting Miami, Gerry led a non-violent protest against killings in Cite Soleil which claimed 23 lives. Subjected to public threats and urged by colleagues not to return to Haiti, he went anyway, consistent with his principles, saying he had a mission to fulfill. Police detained and questioned him at Port au-Prince airport and, a few days later, a pro-government mob attacked him at the funeral of a relative murdered while he was in Miami. The government arrested him instead of his attackers and has held him ever since without formally charging him with any crime. In August Gerry fell ill in prison and nearly died. He sleeps on a rubber mat on a concrete floor beneath a picture of murdered Salvadoran priest Oscar Romero.

Gerry is in jail for speaking truth to power in the tradition of Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Let's do everything we can to insure Gerry's immediate release, freedom of speech, and personal safety.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10, 12:00P.M. AT THE TORCH OF FRIENDSHIP, DOWNTOWN  
MIAMI

## **Activist Decries Canada's Colonial Relationship with Haiti**

**Embassy,**

**December 7th, 2005**

**COLUMN**

**By Marcella Adey**

As Haiti's puppet interim regime illegally signs on to various international trade agreements that concretize and increase Haiti's debt, the people are not reaping the benefits our government speaks of so proudly. Canada, since the Feb. 29. 2004 coup of democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, promised over \$180 million, of which over \$20 million has been issued by paying RCMP officers to "keep the peace," that has produced nothing more than thousands of dead poor Haitians. While the Canadian government promises better essential services to Haitians, the people continue to live without electricity, clean water, adequate food supplies and proper education.

In the mix of all the turmoil facing the country, Canadian officials have claimed that elections slated for January 2006 will be fair and democratic, overseen by our own Jean-Pierre Kinglsey, Chief Electoral Officer with Elections Canada. But Haiti is far from being ready for elections; political prisoners, such as presidential candidate Father Jean Juste, rot in jail without charge; and members of non-American supported parties are being repressed and even killed. With the level of injustices and discrepancies surrounding these elections, "democratic" seems the furthest descriptor from the truth of the upcoming Haitian elections.

Yet, with all of this bearing down on the Haitian poor majority, the Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF), sponsored by the U.S., Canada and France, continues to enforce an economic policy centered around privatization and export-promotion on the already devastated country. And while Canada supports this agenda, a key piece of the ICF has remained in the shadows: Canada's recent announcement that it will sponsor Haiti to join the Caribbean Development Bank, on which Canada's own Foreign Affairs Minister, Pierre Pettigrew, sits as a Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors.

Canada, a major investor in the Bank, will be paying Haiti's registration fee to join the Bank. In an interview, Denis Marcheterre, a senior Multilateral Financial Institutions specialist with CIDA, said that this announcement was in fact made in order to fast-track the signing on to the Bank by the non-elected interim government to ensure that Haiti becomes a member prior to upcoming elections. This move will effectively lock Haiti into long-term debt, not decided on by the people of Haiti, but rather by Washington and Ottawa.

Canada's ménage-à-trois with Haiti and the CDB neither begins nor ends with Mr. Pettigrew, as Canada was the first country to pressure Haiti into joining the Bank in 1998. By 1999, Haiti officially submitted its application, coincidentally the same time when aid flows from Canada and the U.S. to Haiti began dropping. For the following four years, the CDB contested accepting Haiti for the reasons that it met neither the financial requirements, nor did followed practices of "good governance," so determined by the Bank. It was not until May 2003, a mere four months after the Ottawa Initiative meeting where top Canadian officials and others decided that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide must leave Haiti, that Haiti was deemed to meet the conditions of "good governance." And it was not until after Mr. Aristide's removal, seven years after pressuring Haiti to join the CDB, that Canada agreed to

pay its registration fee. With both of those conditions now met --never mind the fact that Haiti was being run by an unelected interim government -- the country was deemed ready to receive the loans.

According to the CDB's own regulations for competitive contracting, Haitian companies are at a great disadvantage as they will be unable to meet the competitive bidding process against well-established Canadian corporations outlined by the CDB, which, for example, requires companies to have been well-established in the region for more than five years. This requirement alone excludes any up-and-coming Haitian companies or any companies that have been ravaged by the current post-coup forces from being able to obtain work through the CDB. This type of contracting, rather than promoting Haitian companies to participate in the rebuilding of their country, suggests not only that existing rich Canadian corporations will enter Haiti for rebuilding purposes and then leave, but also that the CDB is a seemingly far cry from the sustainable development models so widely promoted by Canada elsewhere.

With Mr. Pettigrew playing a key role in establishing policies for one of the region's main private lending institutions, and Haiti's unique history as a recipient of Canadian development assistance, we can better understand the importance attached to the CDB and the urgency with which Canada is rushing through the finalization of Haiti's CDB membership prior to any democratic elections that might produce a less enthusiastic or pliant government. With the Canadian government slashing its aid to Haiti in the years leading up to the 2004 coup, and the possibility of a new Canadian-dominated conduit for Canada's lending to Haiti in the CDB, there emerges a significant risk that this little-noticed institution will in fact prove to be of "developmental" benefit only to Canadian corporations and private lenders. Such an outcome, marketed as a component of Canada's "overseas development assistance" to Haiti, would only serve to further lock-in Haiti's underdevelopment and continue its history of victimization at the hands of the powerful.

Marcella Adey is an Ottawa-based activist involved with the Canada Haiti Action Network:  
[www.canadahaitiaction.ca](http://www.canadahaitiaction.ca) [editor@embassymag.ca](mailto:editor@embassymag.ca)

## **Ecuador's New Canadian Ambassador Helped Plan Haiti Coup**

**By Anthony Fenton,**

**Tue Dec 6th, 2005**

**The Narcospere**

With little fanfare only three days before the minority Liberal government of Paul Martin fell by way of a non-confidence vote in Ottawa's House of Commons (on November 28th), beleaguered Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew appointed Christian Lapointe as Canada's next Ambassador to Ecuador. Lapointe has been serving as Director of the Caribbean and Central America and Andean Region Division within the Department of Foreign Affairs. This move could spell trouble for Ecuador as Canada is in the midst of profound changes in foreign policy that find new support for destabilization under the cover of support for "democracy promotion."

In March of 2003, Quebec Journalist Michel Vastel leaked the details of a secret meeting on Haiti hosted by the Canadian government on January 31-February 1st, 2003. This high-level roundtable was dubbed the "Ottawa Initiative on Haiti." No Haitians were invited but it was attended by members of the State Department, the European Commission, officials from the OAS, including the Assistant Secretary General, Luigi Einaudi, and the head of La Francophonie.

Also attending this secret meeting were El Salvador's Foreign Minister, Maria Eugenia Brizuela de Avila, long-time counterinsurgent and coup plotter Otto Reich, and French Minister Pierre-Andre Wiltzer. According to Vastel, both in the article and in interviews subsequent to the February 2004 coup d'etat, the theme of "Aristide must go," the restoration of Haiti's disbanded military, and the potential for a Kosovo-style UN trusteeship over Haiti, were discussed. Vastel insists that both Paradis and officials within the French government affirmed these details.

Christian Lapointe helped co-ordinate and attended the meeting, as did future (and present) Ambassador to Haiti Claude Boucher, who is known to be close to elements within the elite Group of 184 political opposition to Lavalas and is virulently anti-Aristide.

Documents obtained via Canada's Access to Information Act reveal that Lapointe was in on key high-level deliberations that may have involved the topic of Haiti's regime change. Lapointe himself may have censored the portions of these documents that could prove the international community's plans to overthrow the government of Jean Bertrand Aristide more than one year before the regime change took place. According to an officer within the Department of Foreign Affairs Access to Information and Privacy division, Lapointe was the final person through which the Ottawa Initiative on Haiti documents had to pass prior to being released. Another officer referred to approximately 1,000 pages pertaining to the Ottawa Initiative on Haiti meeting. Only 67 pages were released.

Here are some interesting points and context gleaned from the Ottawa Initiative on Haiti documents, cited at some length for the first time . Some of this is (unofficially) translated from French:

Page 30 refers to several "Consensus Points" that came out of the meeting, which were geared toward an "Action Plan." Point "F" of the 'consensus points' is entitled "main constraints." Four of the six items under this heading are deleted\*. The following page, 31, reads as follows:

## "Next Steps"

### 1. Action Plan to Be Built

A) Ensure the application of Resolution 822 (authored by Roger Noriega while he was U.S. Ambassador to the OAS) by slice, according to a technique known as "the sausage" since it is not possible to follow-up on all the elements of the resolution at once.

B) In exchange for the application of elements of Resolution 822, the international community would be willing to come to Haiti's aid following an initiative of the international community to approach both President Aristide and the other Haitian actors.

Ensure training and protection for Haitian media and further sensitise the international media on the Haitian situation by allowing them to operate safely on the ground.

If all this fails and we find ourselves nonetheless in an impasse (cul-de-sac), (MAJOR DELETION). Page 32 then shows a letter from then Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, applauding Secretary of State for Latin America and La Francophonie Denis Paradis for the initiative. The following page, 33, Graham sends a letter to OAS Secretary General Cesar Gavaria, confirming a follow-up meeting to be held in El Salvador in April 2003.

Page 34 finds Lapointe sending a defensive-toned letter to "USS" regarding the Ottawa Initiative meeting. Lapointe points out that Graham and then-Prime minister Jean Chretien "both applauded the initiative...At the bureaucrats level, CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) was kept abreast of the initiative on a constant basis this, as early as October 2002." Lapointe's letter to "USS" ends with another major deletion following a reference to a meeting in Ethiopia between Canadian Minister of International Cooperation Anne Whelan and her British counterpart Clare Shot. The significant deletion continues on the next page, and the letter finishes with a curious reference to a "M. Fairchild" who "preferred not to play an active role and abandoned his responsibilities into the hands of other members of the drafting committee. Further, during the (Ottawa Initiative on Haiti) meeting, he constantly questioned the validity of the process."

On page 37, there is a copy of an e-mail correspondence between then Canadian Ambassador to Haiti Kenneth Cook and Lapointe. Cook sends Lapointe a copy of Former President Leslie Manigat's March 4th text decrying the call to place Haiti under U.N. tutelage. Cook informs Lapointe that Manigat also "blames the international community for having supported Aristide" and concludes that Port au Prince having just slowly awoken from the carnival which ended at 5 a.m. that morning, "the media are still relatively calm." Lapointe informs Cook that "It appears that l'Actualite received over 100 letters as of the previous day and that 70% of them supported the thesis explored in the article while the rest recalled that Aristide was democratically elected." Cook then informs Lapointe that he has been asked by the Haitian foreign minister to see him the next day at 1 p.m. Cook writes to Lapointe: "I imagine it is concerning the article. I will let you know what the object of the meeting was."

Page 44 finds another significant deletion under the heading "Position of the Francophonie Intergovernmental Organization." The deletion occurs immediately following the passage "M. Roger Dehaybe...proposed 3 solution paths around the Haitian political situation...DELETION...The Francophonie wishes to see the reflection group on Haiti maintained. To this effect, it welcomes favourably to be associated, within the limits of its possibilities, to the reconstruction effort in Haiti, once the circumstances permit it."

Page 48, in an e-mail from Ambassador Cook to Lapointe, the subject is a letter to Prime Minister Chretien from Coffy Ferere of Fanmi Lavalas Canada. All comments made by Foreign Affairs spokesperson Selma Ferhatbegovic are deleted.

Lastly, on page 53, Cook sends his update on his meeting with Haiti's foreign minister to Lapointe and company. Most of his letter is deleted, except for the surviving portion which reads, "in order to save credibility, [the government of Canada] should clearly dissociate itself from the unacceptable declarations attributed without detour to Denis Paradis...or it would be uneasy for the Haitian government to dialogue in good faith and to deal without reticence with Canadian envoys or correspondents."

Given Lapointe's intimate involvement in the Haiti intervention and since Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs has characterized Ecuador as suffering from "chronic instability" and have expressed "concern" over the human rights situation, Latin America observers should keep their eye on Christian Lapointe and the Canadian Embassy in Quito.

\*Most deletions were made under Section 15(1) of the Access to Information Act, whereby:

"the head of a government institution may refuse to disclose any record requested under this Act that contains information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to be injurious to the conduct of international affairs, the defence of Canada or any state allied or associated with Canada or the detection, prevention or suppression of subversive or hostile activities..."

## **Local residents dedicated to helping school in Haiti**

**A church's members have provided money and labor to build it in a village, and others have joined their mission.**

**By WAVENEY ANN MOORE**

**St. Petersburg Times**

**December 7, 2005**

ST. PETERSBURG - A Christmas tree in a waterfront Pinellas Point church is decorated not with baubles and tinsel, but with photographs of children from a poor village in Haiti.

Over the next few weeks, members of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will claim the pictures and commit to donating \$150 to sponsor a child's education for a year.

It's been several years since the small congregation at 738 Pinellas Point Drive S. decided to help build a school in the mountainside village of Loiseau, about 30 miles southwest of Port Au Prince. Since then, members have provided money and labor to build the St. Francis Christian School, supported the small Baptist church next door and traveled to the village on medical missions.

Last month, St. Petersburg council member James Bennett and two other Pinellas County residents went to Loiseau for the beginning of St. Francis' second year. While there, they also worked on a new road and helped build a play area for the school's children.

For Bennett, a member of St. Matthew's vestry, or church board, it was the fourth trip to the impoverished nation. Passionate about St. Matthew's cause, he returned home with videotapes, 13 rolls of film and a wealth of stories about his seven-day stay.

"It's my determination to keep things going. We can't turn our backs on them now," said Bennett, 53, who served with the Peace Corps in Kenya during the 1970s.

Traveling with Bennett were the Rev. Joseph Myrthil, 55, a Haitian-American from Gulfport, and Howard Parrish, 51, from Largo. Tuesday Myrthil recalled how the effort got its start.

"In 1998, I went to Haiti on an invitation to translate for a Baptist convention. At that point of time, I decided not to return to Haiti at all," he said, explaining that the situation in his former homeland left him feeling discouraged.

But God changed his mind, Myrthil said, and he decided to focus on the village where he was born. The new school and church are on land once owned by his great-grandfather, he said. In December 1998, the foundation for the church was begun with assistance from two Pinellas County Southern Baptist congregations.

In 2002, Myrthil, who once had a congregation that was given space to worship at St. Matthew's, approached the church's then pastor, the Rev. Louise Baker. He asked for help to build a school.

"St. Matthew's congregation responded quickly and in March 2003, we made the first trip. And then we started the foundation of the school. By December 2003, four classrooms were ready, but it's not until September 2004 that we started with 100 children. A month later, we added a kindergarten, which is another 25 children."

Last month, Myrthil, Bennett and Parrish stretched their baggage allowances beyond the limit. They packed backpacks from the Breakfast Optimist Club of St. Petersburg for each of the school's 128 children, clothing, a bugle and other gifts. They also took tools to work on the new road and a basketball pole, backboard and hoop for the new playground. American Airlines waived the charges for the extra luggage, Bennett said.

"As a result of that, we were able to leave \$300 for the school," he said.

The spartan facility, which offers classes for children from kindergarten to about age 13, is creating "a small future" for them, Bennett said. Eventually, St. Matthew's hopes to build additional classrooms and add more grades, he said.

"The school is the only one in the area. Six hundred kids came for registration. We had to turn away over 400," the council member said.

St. Francis' annual budget is \$17,000. Money provided by St. Matthew's and others in the community pays for six teachers, three administrators and a cooking staff of four. It also provides books, two school uniforms for each child and a simple lunch of beans and rice or porridge during the 10-month school year.

When the new concrete road is complete, it will make it easier to get to the church and school, Bennett said. Currently supplies must be taken up the steep, rocky road by donkey. People travel by foot, he said. Concrete for the road is being mixed by hand, so progress is slow.

"We poured about 100 feet, about one-third the way down," Bennett said. "The steepest part is yet to come."

For Parrish, 51, who used to own a concrete construction company, it was a unique experience. "Not at all religious," said Parrish, who said he decided to go on the mission trip after hearing Bennett, a friend since college, talk about his church's work in Haiti.

"He told me about the situation down there and I figured I could do a little to help some people out. I was very glad I went. It gives you a whole different perspective on the things you take for granted in this country," he said. "It was a pretty rewarding experience. You know you're making a difference, even if it's only in one small chunk of the world."

Loiseau residents live simply. The church and school are the only places with electricity, and that's only when necessary. They get their power from a generator that has been repaired several times, Bennett said. The school's stove was cobbled together from old car parts.

The villagers are grateful for the help they're receiving, he said.

"They have nothing to give back but their love and their appreciation, which they give abundantly," he said.

**More than ever, Haiti needs U.S.**

**Ranley Desir**

**adviser to Charles Henri Baker, Independent candidate for President of Haiti Miami**

**South Florida Sun Sentinel**

**December 7 2005**

On Jan. 8, millions of Haitians are to go to the polls to elect their first president and national legislators since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide went into exile in 2004. It is an election that must be free and fair, and one that must take place as scheduled.

Already the national elections have been postponed four times, raising the anxiety of millions of Haitians who are desperate for an opportunity to choose a new direction for the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Further delay would inevitably lead to more violence, more hardship and even more instability in a country that has had more than its share during its independence.

With 35 candidates for president and elections for 120 legislative seats, the election itself will be difficult and complex. More than ever, Haiti needs the unwavering support of the United States and her other international partners to closely monitor the elections and to stand with the country's new leadership.

The United States has had a tumultuous relationship with Haiti for more than 200 years. America must do what it can to support the restoration of the democratic process in Haiti. The January elections must be held as planned.

## **Haiti's elections: Will the peasantry's demands be taken into account?**

**Wednesday 7 December 2005**

**By Djems Olivier**

**AlterPresse**

Translated from French for the Haiti Support Group by Charles Arthur

Port-au-Prince, 07 Dec. 05 [AlterPresse] --- Candidates for the presidency largely ignored an invitation to meet peasants grouped in the Peasant Platform for Food Security in the North-West (PPSANO) held in the capital on 30 November.

"We invited 31 political parties and presidential candidates but the majority of them were conspicuous by their absence. This very clearly shows that they are not going to take into account the peasants' concerns," remarked Ernia Massillon of the Regional Platform of Organizations from the Lower North-West (POREBANO).

"Will this sector of Haitian society continue to be exploited by the politicians who want to form the next government?", wondered the peasant activist.

Out of the 30 or so candidates and parties called to the meeting, only ten turned up, of which three were presidential candidates. They were Reynold Georges of ALAH, Himmler Rébu of the GREH, and Judie C. Roy of the REPAREN.

This forum, considered by some as a failure for the so-called 'political class', had the objective of presenting the concerns and demands of North-Western peasants in relation to food security and sovereignty.

"Today, peasants want to involve themselves in the struggle to press home their demands. They have the right to participate in the big decisions concerning the whole country," said the agronomist, Allen Henry, the moderator of the meeting.

"We believe that it is important to make the country's future decision-makers aware of the problematic of development in the North-West," added Hudson Michel who suggested that "opportunists are enriching themselves on the back of the population's poverty".

Thanks to the financial support of the humanitarian organization, ActionAid, the PPSANO had been able to carry out a field study in the region, stated the agronomist Huguenel Alézi. The coordinator of the ActionAid Haiti program vowed to ensure the follow-up to these activities, the objective of which is to guarantee the country's food security.

According to the study, the majority of families in the region known as the Far West live in sub-human conditions. Basic social services are not provided, and the State is more or less nonexistent, yet the Lower North-West possesses the potential and the means to permit it to initiate a genuine development that could satisfy the needs of its communities.

A better exploitation of the so-called Three Rivers would enable a strong agricultural productivity in the region, according to the study. The statistics show that the water resources that could be tapped in the region are estimated at 17,868,750 cubic metres per 43 metres of height, stated the Platform's document.

The leaders of the PPSANO believe that, to develop the North-West, it is necessary to irrigate more than 15,000 hectares of land for agriculture, to resolve the problem of (lack of) electricity by using wind energy, and to provide peasants with training.

"All sustainable policies, aiming for sustainable development in this region, must have food security as their principal objective and must revolve around the axis of agriculture and livestock, fishing and tourism," said the organizers of the 30 November meeting. They also foresee the construction of basic infrastructure at Môle Saint Nicolas.

"The studies show that Môle Saint Nicolas is a zone exposed to the wind that the authorities could use for wind energy to electrify the region", revealed Hudson Michel, who did not state his source.

The Lower North-West is composed of four communes: Môle Saint Nicolas, Jean Rabel, Bombardopolis et Baie-de-Haine. The members of the PPSANO demanded concrete actions to improve the region, where the coast is exploited, they say, by Cuban, Dominican and Bahamian fishermen.

A first meeting with candidates and political parties has already taken place in the departmental capital, Port-de-Paix. Out of 64 people invited, only 10 turned up.

In the Artibonite Valley, activities of the same sort have been organized by the Mouvement Revendicatif des Paysans de l'Artibonite (MOREPLA), supported by Oxfam Intermon. [do ca gp apr 08/12/2005 21:00]

## **Official of Aristide's party kidnapped in Haiti**

**Tue Dec 6, 2005**

**By Joseph Guylor Delva**

**Reuters**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Reuters) - A senior official of ousted Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party has been kidnapped and attempts to pay a ransom for his release failed after another gang stole the ransom money, party officials said on Tuesday.

Emmanuel Cantave of Aristide's Lavalas Family party was seized by gunmen on Saturday, becoming the first high-profile Lavalas official to be targeted in a wave of kidnappings sweeping the impoverished and turbulent Caribbean nation as it lurches toward elections next year.

Cantave's abductors initially demanded \$200,000, but reduced their ransom demand to \$10,000 during telephone negotiations, said Francky Exius, a former legislator who has been leading the talks with the abductors.

Party colleagues collected \$7,000 and sent it to the kidnappers, but a different group of criminals intercepted the money and stole it, Exius told Reuters.

"It was very difficult to collect \$7,000. Now that the money has gone to the wrong people, we don't know what we're going to do," said Exius, who believes his colleague is being held in the sprawling Port-au-Prince slum of Cite Soleil, long regarded as a stronghold of support for Aristide and Lavalas.

In the past week, a radio journalist, a U.S. missionary, 11 schoolchildren and about a dozen other people have been kidnapped. All were released after ransoms were paid.

Police say over a thousand kidnappings have taken place since March, despite the presence of over 7,000 Brazilian-led U.N. peacekeepers and international police meant to ensure stability and order in the aftermath of Aristide's ouster.

A former Roman Catholic priest initially hailed as a champion of Haiti's fragile democracy, Aristide faced increasing accusations of despotism and corruption. He fled Haiti in February 2004 after a monthlong armed revolt and under U.S. and French pressure to quit.

The U.N. envoy to Haiti, Juan Gabriel Valdes, said the international force could not on its own establish order and security in Haiti's wretched slums, where gangs rule unchallenged, families sleep in shifts because they have so little room and most get by on less than \$2 a day.

"The security situation in those places where people live in impossible conditions cannot be solved only by a foreign military force," Valdes said.

"It should be solved with the cooperation from the population who live there and by providing social and economic assistance to change the conditions in which people live."

Gang violence has been on the rise as the country of 8 million prepares to hold presidential and legislative elections on January 8, with a run-off set for February 15 -- the first elections since Aristide left for exile in South Africa.

"To say the truth, the security situation is disturbing," the top U.S. diplomat in Haiti, Timothy Carney, told Reuters on Tuesday. He said the U.N. force and the Haitian police were working on plans to guarantee security during the election.

## **Dominicans and Haitians in Conflict**

**Prensa Latina**

**December 7, 2005**

Dominican Minister of Foreign Relations Carlos Morales Troncoso called for harmony and peace from both Dominicans and Haitians, recently involved in violent clashes, saying, "we are obliged to live together on the same island and must live in harmony."

"The recent regrettable incidents involving citizens of both nations are isolated acts and do not hamper relations between our countries at all," Morales affirmed.

Similarly, Secretary of Interior and police Franklin Almeyda expressed his disagreement with the xenophobia violently expressed against Haitians after the death of a Dominican citizen allegedly caused by immigrants.

Almeida described the matter as "delicate" and admitted that the immigration phenomenon had been affecting the country for years, but there has been no attempt to stop it due to the benefits obtained from the cheap foreign labor that Haitians represent, which he described as unnecessary.

Dozens of Haitian families have fled from reprisals in the northern part of the country following the robbery and murder with machetes by a gang of immigrants last weekend.

A group of Dominicans burned at least 35 Haitian homes, and one Haitian was killed and three Dominican women injured in a confusing incident on Monday.

## **Students call attention to atrocities in Haiti**

### **Middle College teacher reveals bloody footage of recent massacres**

**By Molly Tanenbaum**

**Mountain View Voice, CA**

**December 9, 2005**

The terror-filled lives of Haitian residents have drawn about 30 high school and college students at Foothill College into a new activist group advised by high school social studies teacher Seth Donnelly. To advertise for a campus forum on Haiti on Nov. 16, members of the club Students Ending Rights Violations, or SERV, posted unsettling signs around the college's Los Altos Hills campus depicting brutally murdered Haitians with headlines like "Grand Theft Haiti" and "Your tax dollars at work."

The 50 students and community members who attended the forum heard several speakers discuss the recent political events in Haiti and their connection with U.S. foreign policy.

The evening program began with a meal of Haitian food and musical entertainment and ended with gory footage of murdered Haitians and talks by members of the Haiti Action Committee.

"It was really gruesome but it was really eye-opening for a lot of people," said Katie Johnson, one of SERV's founding members. "We often think of Haiti as our backyard, so it's always been sort of overlooked."

Haiti is a special subject for Donnelly, who teaches at Middle College, an alternative high school for about 100 juniors and seniors -- half of whom come from Mountain View and Los Altos -- based on Foothill's campus.

A few years ago, Donnelly joined the Haiti Action Committee -- a Bay Area-based organization that raises awareness and funds to support rebuilding efforts in Haiti -- and has traveled to Haiti three times in the past two years on a U.S. legal and human rights delegation supported by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo.

He returned from his trips with video evidence of a massacre that took place in Cite Soliel, the biggest slum in Port-au-Prince. The footage, which SERV unveiled at its Nov. 16 forum, depicted dead bodies in homes and on the streets.

"Once I was able to see with my own eyes and learn about the depths of suffering that's occurring in Haiti and the linkage to U.S. foreign policy, I felt there was no more going back," Donnelly said.

During his last trip in September, Donnelly was one of three human rights workers collecting eyewitness affidavits about the July massacre. He and his group recently submitted legal complaints to the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights regarding the role of the United States, as well as Brazil and the United Nations, in the recent military actions in Haiti.

Donnelly has educated SERV members -- both Foothill and Middle College students -- on Haiti's history, which includes coup d'etats in 1991 and again last year to overthrow President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, described as the first democratically elected Haitian president.

According to Donnelly and the SERV students, it is the United States' involvement with these coups that has gone largely unnoticed in the international media. To them, it is clear why the United States government would not want to publicize these issues.

"We don't want to parade our guilt to the world and it's sort of a contradiction to everything we tout," said Johnson, a Middle College senior. "We say we want democracy but then we overthrow a well-loved president of an autonomous nation."

Donnelly and SERV students feel that Haiti has been ignored by mainstream media, so they decided to try to get the word out themselves.

"If they're too busy talking about the Scott Peterson trial, we'll create our own media," Donnelly said.

So far, SERV's methods of shocking audiences into paying attention have worked. What began with three members and an advisor last spring now has almost 30 members from both Foothill and Middle College.

"We had a few people who didn't even know we were an organization and now they're totally plugged in and coming to all of our meetings," Johnson said.

Members of the group find their own ways to contribute to SERV's efforts. Middle College senior Zachary Karnazes was so struck by the forum that he designed flyers for the group, and has written poetry to express his reactions to seeing the grotesque images from the massacre. Other students have contributed artwork and written articles for SERV's first magazine.

"It's special because a lot of people who go to community college don't have a lot of communication with their fellow students often," said Foothill College student Reid Bogert, who became involved with the group after attending the Nov. 16 forum. Bogert is helping design a T-shirt for SERV.

This year, the group has set a goal of raising \$1,000 for the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, but their fundraising activities are still in the planning phase, Johnson said. SERV has not limited itself to issues in Haiti, though.

"We want to spread our wings but not abandon any topics," Johnson said. "We want to always be involved with Haiti but spread into other areas on the common theme."

As a follow-up to the Nov. 16 forum, SERV held a film screening of the documentary "Aristide and the Endless Revolution" on Dec. 6. Plans for a demonstration later in the school year are in the works.

**Group to push for U.S.-Haiti trade pact**  
**By Jacqueline Charles,**  
**The Miami Herald Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News**  
**December 8, 2005**

Dec. 8 - A powerful Washington lobbying group that promotes economic development in the Caribbean basin has agreed to go to bat for a preferential trade agreement for Haiti with expectations that a deal ahead of the island-nation's presidential elections would provide Haitians with much hope.

Haitian business leaders and others attending the Caribbean-Central American Action's conference in Miami say in an incredibly poor nation like Haiti, the hope of jobs could be the key to ending the spate of violence gripping the volatile nation, and motivating Haitians to vote on election day, now scheduled for Jan. 8. Thirty-five candidates are running for the presidency.

"It's not going to solve all of our problems," Maryse Kedar, president of Haiti's manufacturer's association, said of the Haiti aid bill, called HOPE.

"But it's going to take people off the streets by putting them to work. This will create some hope."

But the prospects of the U.S. Congress passing the bill before lawmakers recess for Christmas break and before Jan. 8 appear dim, said Chandri Navarro-Bowman, who has been trying unsuccessfully to get lawmakers to agree to the textile trade legislation. Navarro-Bowman, who brought her pleas to a Wednesday afternoon workshop on the role of Haiti's private sector on the last day of CCAA's Miami conference, said Washington lawmakers are apathetic toward Haiti.

"It is only when Haiti gets a trade preference program that sets Haiti's imports into the U.S. apart that true investments incentives will be there for U.S. companies and others to establish operations in Haiti," Navarro-Bowman said before session moderator and CCAA Executive Committee Member Peter Johnson agreed to have CCAA write a letter to the House Republican leadership supporting the Haiti aid legislation.

Haitian manufacturers estimate that the bill, aptly called HOPE, would create about 40,000 textile jobs over the next two years in the country. It would be more than twice the number the country currently has.

"Haiti needs help," Johnson said.

"But Haiti is not doing enough to help itself."

Johnson said Haiti's private sector needs to use the next few weeks to come up with a common agenda to present to all of the presidential candidates and the new Haitian government after election on what its needs are.

At the top of that list said some non-Haitian business leaders needs to be security, a properly working justice system and an end to corruption.

"No matter what best efforts come from Washington as long as those conditions are not there, you will not see the kind of quality investments pouring into Haiti that are required to create jobs," said Pat Minicucci, an executive with Scotiabank which this year opened its fourth branch in Haiti.

"There is so much money poised and waiting for Haiti."

Adolfo Franco, assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the U.S. Agency for International Development, agreed Haiti is a good investment.

"The private sector should look at Haiti not as a charity case but as a place for enormous growth and potential," said Franco, who gave the final keynote luncheon address. "Haiti is a good investment for the future, a good bet for the future."

## **Red tape grounds Haitian repatriation**

**Tuesday | December 6, 2005**

**Monique Hepburn, News Editor**

**Jamaica Gleaner**

Haitians board a plane after being processed by immigration officials at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay on August 16. Seventy-three Haitians were repatriated to their homeland on that occasion. - FILE

WESTERN BUREAU:

OFFICIALS AT the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade are still awaiting a landing permit from Haiti in order to repatriate the more than 100 Haitians, who were denied entry to their homeland on the weekend.

The Air Jamaica flight, which never left Jamaica, was denied landing rights due to the absence of the Haitian Interior Minister, who is expected to return to the country later this week.

The Haitians were subsequently transferred to the Horizon Remand Centre in Kingston.

"We want to clear up speculations about the flight going to Haiti and then having to turn back to Jamaica," Wilton Dyer, public relations officer in the Foreign Affairs Ministry, told The Gleaner yesterday.

"The flight did not leave Jamaica and it is not a matter of the Haitian authorities snubbing Jamaica, but the Interior Minister was not in the country," Mr. Dyer said.

He said joint discussions were being held at the ministry level to expedite the repatriation process, which resulted from an administrative hiccup in Haiti.

MIGRANTS

"The Interior Minister has responsibility to receive migrants but was not present, so there is not an issue of permit being denied," Mr. Dyer noted.

Donovan Nelson, spokesman at the Ministry of National Security, which has responsibility for the Haitians as undocumented persons, told The Gleaner they were awaiting clearance, and that the Haitians will remain in the island until it was granted by Haitian authorities.

**By PAULA MATHIEU**  
**Contributing Writer**  
**Real Change News.org**  
**December 9, 2005**

Following Saint Paul  
Mountains Beyond Mountains  
By Tracy Kidder  
Random House, 2004  
Paperback, 336 pages, \$14.95

When I picked up *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, I was expecting to read a hagiography—an idealized portrait of a saint. In choosing Paul Farmer, Tracy Kidder certainly had a subject who could withstand a bit of saintly description. Farmer is a doctor, Harvard professor, infectious-disease specialist, anthropologist, prolific writer, and recipient of a MacArthur genius grant. He works almost nonstop treating infectious diseases in places of the world that often see little of the world-class medicine he offers.

Farmer spends much of his busy life in Haiti, often walking half a day or more over rocky terrain just to treat one patient. Zamni Lasante (Creole for Partners in Health) is the name of the state-of-the-art medical compound he established in Cange, an extremely poor and arid section of Haiti. Even the best parts of Haiti are economically devastated, but none more so than the dry regions to which peasants fled after a U.S.-built dam project flooded river-side communities in order to bring water and power to U.S. agribusiness and the small number of elites in Port-au-Prince. In this rugged and inhospitable place, Zamni Lasante offers medical treatment to anyone needing it.

Certainly there is enough in the book to suspect that Farmer may in fact be a saint. He's almost nauseatingly tireless in his crusade to fund and deliver health care to those most needing it. He berates himself if a patient dies in his absence, always fearing he could do more. He donates most of his Harvard salary to Partners in Health and sees his wife and child in stopovers between crusading trips around the world.

Farmer is part Florence Nightingale, part Atticus Finch, part Hawkeye Pierce, and part Huck Finn. He cares for patients, fights for the rights of people to receive healthcare, bucks the logic of bureaucracy that limits health treatments to the poor, and journeys around the world in his quest. Farmer is not the child of privilege, but a kid with an unconventional working-class family who lived on a bus and a boat and always worked additional jobs to bring in money.

Luckily, however, Kidder never lets his portrayal of Farmer stray too deeply into sainthood. He includes a healthy dose of his own first-person questioning and reflection about this man. Kidder gets exhausted and impatient literally chasing Farmer around the world. He also portrays the prickly, hardheaded side of Farmer, as well as moments of humor and self-deprecation about Farmer's larger-than-life reputation.

At the Boston offices of Partners in Health, Kidder makes the following observation:

“ On one visit, in a new employee’s office, I saw a sign taped to a wall which read, ‘If Paul is the model, we’re golden.’ When you looked closely, though, you saw that the word golden was written on a strip of paper. Lift up the strip and you saw that the original read, ‘If Paul is the model, we’re fucked.’”

This statement means that Farmer’s life should not be a manual for others to follow but proof that “seemingly intractable problems could be solved.” Kidder quotes one of Farmer’s colleagues, who says “Paul is a model of what should be done. He’s not a model for how it has to be done.”

Kidder is a Pulitzer Prize—winning writer who seemed to turn his life inside out trying to keep up with Farmer long enough to write his story. Keeping up wasn’t easy and took many years and many forms: long arduous climbs in rocky sections of Haiti to treat patients, long forays through the complexities of tuberculosis treatments, and long flights to places like Russia, France, or Peru, for a medical visit, a health conference, or a brief visit with family. Just the vast amount of medical, historical, and political information Kidder had to digest and represent in order to tell Farmer’s story makes this book worth the read. At a time when good news seems more than a scarcity, a story like Farmer’s reminds us that individual people can and do make positive changes in the world.

## **A Two Week Stay In Haiti**

**By Dennis L. Siluk**

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I travel a lot, 687,000-air miles as of today. In 1986, I traveled for a two week stay in Haiti, so I really do not know how it is today, other than some of the turmoil in the newspaper I've read; and the updating I do get in letter form, about every three months from certain folks I've met back then, but let me tell you about the Haiti I knew back in 1986, it may come out better.

First of all the people are warm, kind and poor, for the most part. I was in several locations, but Port-au-Prince, was my first stop where I stayed and slept on top of the roof of an orphanage (did some puppet playing with the kids then); then came the mountains, and a small village there, no sense in mentioning its name, it only had about a hundred folks there, and occasionally I went to Cap Haitian, a few miles down the mountain from where I was. I helped build a clinic for the poor folks, the doctor said he wouldn't treat them unless someone did, so 19-of us hired a plane flew in and did just that.

But how was it back then that is the premise of the article, right. It had perhaps about six million inhabitants then, for the most part. The Blacks are descendents of the African slaves imported into Hispaniola some time in the 6th century. The Mulattoes I recall were descendents of these slaves. I took a six week course back then before I went to Haiti, and here I only stayed in Haiti for two weeks, but it was wise I think to know my subject well.

Anyhow, slaves intermarried with the French, and so you get some lovely women there with mixed blood. I noticed a hand full of white residents in the republic back then, not many, mostly concentrated in Port-au-Prince.

French may be the official language, but Creole is the spoken one when I was there. Mixed with Creole is English, so listen closely. There is a saying in Haiti: the poor man doesn't dream of a chicken; he dreams of an ox: Cbien derrie cbien; devant Cbien: Monsieur Cbien; thus, this leads me into my next chat.

Like in Peru, the Haitian peasant has what you call, honorable stealing...and perhaps a little violence, but I've never seen that part of them: but I was told to be careful. They are good-humored and to a certain degree philosophical, not sure why, they are poor as mice, but they smile all the time nonetheless, and seem to have a good outlook on life.

Because they are poor, and do not have much income, especially in the mountain area, they get their neighbors to help them do big jobs, like building a shack or so, and in return, help them later: the coumbite. And normally a feast is done thereafter. When we built the clinic we did pay the help, some of the help that is, and we did have a gathering in the mist of the midnight moon.

In the day you see them [them being: the Haitian common folks] preaching Christianity, at night you hear the voodoo drums. That is what I call red beans with sweet potatoes; no Pumpkin Soup for the Soul there I think.

Well, I could write on and on about Haiti, and its lovely people, and I may do a second article, but I just wanted to share with the readers, something without politics on Haiti, I think they got enough of that.

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About the author: Mr. Siluk is a world traveler, a lover of the mysteries around the world, and has visit many World Heritage Sites, his most recent being Easter Island, the Galapagos and Mesa Verde. His books can be seen on/at Barns and Noble.com, Amazon.com, Wal-Mart, Abe.com Alibis, Borders and several other sites and book stores. Many of his books can be purchased through the English Bookdealers. He spends his time between Lima, Peru and St. Paul, Minnesota, and has just finished working on two new books: "The Macabre Poems," and "Perhaps it's Love," and continues to work on "Curse of the Abyss Worm," a suspenseful mystery, and "Cold Kindness," a tragic love affair.