

## **HAITI NEWS ROUNDUP: JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 9, 2007**

---

### **Dominicans export US\$147M to Haiti The Dominican Today February 9, 2007**

Santo Domingo.- During the previous year of 2006, the country sold to its neighbor Haiti, more than 147 million dollars distributed among construction rods, eggs and wheat. Ambassadors Jose Serrulle and Fritz Cineas, from Dominican Republic and Haiti, respectively, offered these new statistics on trade between the two nations.

Diplomats considered that during the forthcoming years, Haiti could go from being the country's second trade partner to becoming its first.

On a separate subject, the diplomats reconfirmed the scheduled visit that Haiti's president Rene Preval will make to the Santo Domingo projected for 15th of March. The two heads of state's meeting has been denominated as 'summit against drug trafficking'.

**From soil in Haiti, hopes for antibiotic  
Local biotech firm gets \$70m in venture funds as 'superbug' fears rise  
By Stephen Heuser  
The Boston Globe  
February 9, 2007**

With doctors increasingly worried about "superbugs," deadly infections that can defeat most known drugs, a small Cambridge biotechnology firm has won \$70 million in venture capital money to develop a powerful antibiotic from a microbe discovered in Haitian dirt.

Reflecting the renewed importance of antibiotics, once spurned as a low-profit sideline in the drug industry, the venture investment is the biggest in a New England biotech company in nearly a year, and one of the largest nationwide.

"We're in a very dire situation in the antibiotic business, where nobody really knows where the next good antibiotics are going to come from," said Eric Gordon, a venture capitalist and former antibiotic researcher who helped finance the Cambridge company, Targanta Therapeutics Inc.

Targanta's drug is still experimental, but it joins a series of new efforts to attack strains of bacteria that kill thousands of people each year.

The past several years have seen a handful of small biotechnology companies emerge to develop new intravenous antibiotics, including Cubist Pharmaceuticals Inc. of Lexington. Its drug, Cubicin, won approval in 2003, and the company sells about \$200 million worth of the treatment annually. Two other drug firms have applied for approval to sell similar antibiotics.

Targanta Therapeutics hopes to be next in line. But the path to develop its drug, oritavancin, has been anything but a straight line from its roots in Haiti.

The drug was discovered not by Targanta in Cambridge, but by scientists at Eli Lilly & Co. in Indiana during the 1990s.

At the time, Lilly's department of antibiotic researchers was one of the most respected in the country. In analyzing bacteria-rich samples of tropical soil, the researchers noticed one type of bacteria in a sample from Haiti appeared to be extremely effective at fending off attacks from rival bacteria.

"You've got the Darwinian battle going on under the ground in Haiti," said Targanta chief executive Mark Leuchtenberger. "Somehow, this became the don't-mess-with-me microbe."

Following a standard path in antibiotic research, Lilly researchers isolated the microbe's bacteria-killing chemical and tweaked it repeatedly, finally creating a new drug more effective against bacteria and less toxic to patients.

Instead of developing the drug further, however, Eli Lilly exited the antibiotics business. Because antibiotics are prescribed for only a matter of days, they promise smaller long-term sales than many

other pharmaceuticals. Lilly's leaders decided to focus their research on mental-health drugs, such as its blockbuster, Prozac, and sold its prospective new antibiotics piecemeal to smaller firms.

One of the substances, daptomycin, was licensed to Cubist in 1997 and eventually became Cubicin. Another drug, oritavancin, was licensed in 2001 to a California firm called InterMune Inc., which sank millions of dollars into human trials, but ultimately decided to sell the rights to oritavancin rather than invest the money needed to bring it to market. A year ago, the drug changed hands again, this time going to Targanta, a 10-year-old research company founded in Montreal. Continued...

"The smaller companies are doing what the bigger companies should have been doing, which is bringing these things to market," said Gordon.

Superbugs have become an especially dangerous and expensive problem for hospitals in the United States as more patients each year develop bacterial infections that resist not only penicillin and other common pills, but newer and stronger antibiotic treatments. One family of bacteria alone causes 90,000 serious infections annually, about 17,000 of them fatal.

"These are rather scary organisms, and as of the moment we're not even sure how they're spread," said Dr. Robert Moellering, an infectious-disease specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, who is a scientific advisor to Targanta.

The prevalence of new bacterial strains, especially within hospitals, means patients admitted for medical treatment can sometimes contract an unrelated infection that leaves them fighting for life. The most common superbug, a drug-resistant strain of staphylococcus, can cause a range of conditions from painful skin abscesses to deep infections of the bones or heart valves. Treatment can take weeks, and even then may not be effective.

Hospitals spend about \$800 million a year on drugs to treat such infections, usually with potent antibiotics delivered through an intravenous line. For years, doctors have reserved one antibiotic, vancomycin, as a "last line of defense," but researchers are reporting that some new bacteria can survive vancomycin treatment.

Targanta's drug has been tested on about 1,500 patients with serious skin infections, and has shown encouraging results. The company sought new investors to help fund its application for federal approval and to begin testing the drug against a broader range of diseases,

"There are a lot of so-so drugs that people have dragged out of the closet, but we recognize this one as something that was medically important and would fill a need that's growing," said Gordon.

His firm, Skyline Ventures of California, joined with several other investors in the \$70 million financing round.

To bring oritavancin to market, Targanta hired biotechnology veteran Leuchtenberger as chief executive in September and moved its headquarters to Cambridge. Only five employees work there, with the rest in Indiana and Montreal.

In a sign of how quickly fortunes turn in biotechnology, the Indiana office is staffed with a number of former Lilly scientists who worked together during the Midwestern company's days as an antibiotic powerhouse.

Meanwhile, Leuchtenberger didn't have far to look for office space in Cambridge. His previous company, Therion Biologics, suffered a clinical setback and filed for bankruptcy last year. The Therion office was still empty, so Leuchtenberger simply moved back into his old suite. Earlier this week he hired a former Therion colleague to be his finance chief.

"It's unusual to be sitting in the same office," Leuchtenberger said of his return, "but sitting with the same people? That's pretty common."

**UN: Haitian kidnappers free American missionary**  
**The Associated Press**  
**International Herald Tribune**  
**February 9, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: An American missionary kidnapped outside the Haitian capital was released Friday, U.N. police and friends said, but there were conflicting reports about whether he was harmed during the ordeal.

Gunmen abducted Nathan Jean-Dieudonne, 58, on Sunday while he was driving home from his church in suburban Croix-des-Bouquets. It was not immediately clear if a ransom was paid for his release.

U.N. police spokesman Fred Blaise said Jean-Dieudonne was let go before dawn, unharmed. However, two acquaintances of Jean-Dieudonne said from the United States that they had heard he may have been wounded while in captivity.

Edward Beck, a friend of Jean-Dieudonne's from Palatka, Florida, said in a telephone interview that he received an e-mail early Friday saying the pastor had been beaten by his captors.

The e-mail was sent by the church of Jean-Dieudonne's wife, the Dunn Loring Community Church of God, outside Falls Church, Virginia.

Glenn Dryden, the church's pastor, said Jean-Dieudonne may have been beaten but declined to give details.

"I just know that it's been a very traumatic time for his family, and I know by a second-hand account it was a very traumatic for him as well," Dryden said.

The FBI sent hostage negotiators to Haiti to help secure the release of Jean-Dieudonne, a U.S. citizen of Haitian descent. A U.N. anti-kidnapping squad and Haitian police also worked to free him.

Kidnappings for ransom surged in Haiti in the chaotic aftermath of a 2004 revolt that toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Most of the crimes are blamed on streets gangs based in the capital's sprawling slums, but corrupt police have also been implicated.

Kidnappers have increasingly targeted foreign missionaries, many of whom travel with little security and work in poorer areas where police presence is thin.

U.N. troops and Haitian police have stepped up patrols in the capital, prompting kidnappers to look for victims in outlying suburbs.

## **U.N. Peacekeepers Raid Haiti Slum**

**By TRENT JACOBS**

**The Associated Press**

**Washington Post**

**Friday, February 9, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Hundreds of U.N. peacekeepers raided Haiti's largest slum Friday to arrest gang members and take control of the area \_ sparking a gunbattle that wounded at least two soldiers, the top U.N. commander said. Witnesses said at least one man was killed.

More than 500 blue-helmeted troops in armored vehicles entered the seaside slum of Cite Soleil before dawn and tried to seize several abandoned buildings that had been used by gangs to stage attacks, said Maj. Gen. Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz, the Brazilian commander of the 9,000-strong international force.

Dos Santos, speaking from Cite Soleil even as gunfire continued to echo through the streets, said gang members shot thousands of rounds at peacekeepers, wounding two. Peacekeeper returned fire, but Dos Santos said he did not know if there were any casualties among gang members or civilians in the densely populated slum of 300,000 people.

"We had a raid to try to arrest the criminals and recover their weapons they have inside this place," Dos Santos told reporters.

Associated Press journalists saw the blood-spattered body of a young man in a street. Witnesses said he was walking through the area when he was hit by gunfire, but it was not clear who shot him and his identity was unknown. Residents later moved the body inside a building.

Friday's raid was one of the biggest in months by peacekeepers, who were sent to the troubled Caribbean country more than two years ago to quell violence in the chaotic of a 2004 revolt that toppled former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

On Dec. 22, U.N. troops raided another part of Cite Soleil to break up a kidnapping gang. The U.N. said six suspected gang members were killed, although slum dwellers said 10 people died and that all were civilians.

Dos Santos said most of the fighting was happening in the Boston section of Cite Soleil, which is controlled by a notorious street gang led by a shadowy figure known only as "Evens."

He said peacekeepers made no arrests nor recovered any weapons.

**Massive demonstrations in Haiti catch UN by surprise**  
**Haiti Action Committee**  
**February 9, 2007**

HIP — Challenging recent assertions made by the United Nations that the Lavalas movement is dead, crowds estimated at well over 100,000 took to the streets of seven major cities throughout Haiti on February 7 to demand an end to the UN occupation, freedom for political prisoners and the return of exiled president Aristide. Lavalas is the political movement of Haiti's desperately poor majority and the political party of president Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was ousted on February 29, 2004 in a coup reportedly backed by the United States, France and Canada.

Although the largest demonstrations took place in the capital of Port-au-Prince and Haiti's second largest city Cap Haitien, thousands were reported to have joined similar actions in Port de Paix, Hinche, La Kay, St. Marc and Miragoane. Smaller actions were also reported in the towns of Jacmel, Leogane and Gonaives.

UN Special Envoy to Haiti Edmond Mulet had stated one week earlier, "[Demonstrations demanding the return of president Aristide] became 3,000 and the last ones maybe 75...50 people. So I see that this issue of former President Aristide is not present anymore in the political sphere in Haiti anymore, and his movement - familia Lavalas - is very much divided, weakened." Mulet made his comments during a roundtable forum sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) this past January 31 in Washington D.C.

News of the demonstrations in Haiti has been met with a virtual press blackout by major corporate news organizations. Only the Associated Press (AP) filed a short dispatch on the protests in Port-au-Prince and they reported only "hundreds" attended the demonstration. AP photos also appeared on Yahoo News but appeared to have been carefully selected to minimize the number of participants in Haiti's capital.

Pierre-Antoine Lovinsky of the September 30th Foundation stated during Wednesday's national demonstrations, "Lavalas continues to be the largest political movement in Haiti as they have proven once again. The UN and the international press can do their best to marginalize them and cover-up the truth but they are here to stay and their numbers have never been stronger. Mr. Mulet and the international community have been caught in a web of their own mistruths."

Filling a major thoroughfare of the capital called Route Delmas, the demonstration stretched for miles from above the front of the headquarters of the Provisional Election Council (CEP) on Delmas 48 to down below Carrefour Aviation and a central plaza once inaugurated by Aristide as Place Miel. Demonstrators chanted against the recent national and local elections where they accused the UN-backed CEP of having orchestrated a massive campaign of electoral fraud. Tens of thousands of Lavalas supporters paralyzed the capital for more than a week in Feb. 2006 to challenge the \$76 million UN-sponsored presidential elections fiasco. The CEP attempted a ballot counting fraud meant to keep current Haitian president Rene Garcia Preval from assuming office.

When the demonstration reached the front of Haiti's National Palace the protesters seemed determined to remind President Preval that they were the one's who put him in office. "Preval does not have his own political base. His Lespwa party has no political base and it was Lavalas that elected him

president and then fought against the fraud for him to assume office," shouted 32 year-old Jean Luckenson so he could be heard above the noisy crowd. He continued, "Preval must stop the UN from killing innocent people in Cite Soleil!" as the crowd broke into a chant of "Justice for the victims of Cite Soleil!" This was a reference to recent UN military operations in the seaside shantytown of Cite Soleil this last December and early January where evidence continues to surface of more than 30 unarmed persons killed and scores more wounded. President Rene Preval personally sanctioned the military operations according to UN representatives quoted in the international press.

A pitched moment occurred as the demonstration reached the UN military headquarters on Lalue also known as Avenue John Brown. Demonstrators hurled insults at the UN personnel protecting the facility with a large phalanx of heavily armed soldiers. "Down with the UN!" was the common chant as the demonstration passed by without incident.

In addition to the self-imposed censorship of coverage of Wednesday's demonstrations by the international corporate media, charges are also being made of censorship of news broadcasts in Haiti. According to Andre Joseph, whose popular daily radio program Variety and Vibrations is heard on WLQY in Miami FL, "My program was rebroadcast daily on Radio Indigene in Port-au-Prince. I got notice from the owner they won't carry the program anymore because of death threats he received. He also told me that the UN threatened to boycott his station and pull any commercials funded by the international community if he continued to air my program. They are the major advertisers in Haiti today and this how they control the media." Another owner of a major radio station in Haiti who spoke on condition of anonymity added, "They have put tremendous pressure on us to censor the news. Especially, the UN military operations in Cite Soleil. The pressure not only came from the UN but from CONATEL as well who are the national licensing board for broadcasters. Not only can you lose your major advertising revenues but now you may also be faced with losing your broadcasters license. The UN is obsessed with the way we handle our coverage of their operations. I've never seen anything like this before in Haiti."

HIP exclusive video, of UN military operations in Cite Soleil on December 22, 2006, show the dangers facing Haitian journalists covering the story. A group of journalists is seen on camera taking cover in a home after being fired upon by UN troops. One of the journalists screams over a cellular telephone, "We don't know why they are firing towards us. We are pinned down and we need you to send a car to tell them to stop shooting towards us. We don't want them to kill us too!"

**Worldwide actions demand U.N. forces out of Haiti**  
**Friday, February 9, 2007**  
**Party for Socialism and Liberation**  
**By: Silvio Rodriguez**

**International Day of Solidarity with Haiti**

On Feb. 29, 2004, the president-elect of Haiti Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in a U.S.-sponsored coup. Soon afterward, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) occupied the country.

Although MINUSTAH poses as a "peacekeeping force," its mission has been to provide a cover for the imperialist agenda of the United States and its partners, Canada and France. MINUSTAH has been engaged in the systematic repression of political freedom, focusing particularly on neighborhoods with large numbers of supporters of Aristide and his popular movement Lavalas.

On July 6, 2005, U.N. troops under Brazilian leadership conducted a massive raid in the Port-au-Prince district of Cite Soleil—a stronghold of Lavalas—killing over two dozen residents. A Dec. 22, 2006 raid targeting the same district of the Haitian capital left at least 30 dead. Many other operations against civilians have been conducted, usually under the pretext of fighting "criminals" and "gangsters."

An International Day of Solidarity with Haiti was held around the world on Feb. 7, calling for the end of U.N. massacres in Haiti and for the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces. The solidarity actions counted with the confirmed participation of 53 cities in four continents.

The talk below was given by ANSWER activist and PSL member Silvio Rodrigues on Feb. 7 at a San Francisco rally in front of the Brazilian Consulate.

I just got back from Brazil a little over two weeks ago, and I have to say that the Brazilian media's coverage of Haiti has been absolutely appalling. Actually, you could take many of the articles printed in the American press about U.S. intentions in Iraq, cross out "Iraq" and put "Haiti" in its place, and you'd get an idea of the spin that the Brazilian media has been putting on this.

They praise the Brazilian troops for helping "democracy" thrive in Haiti. For bringing "security" to the Haitian people. These are some of the very same Brazilian newspapers that openly denounced the Iraq war, which shows how far their hypocrisy goes.

Brazil has been leading a brutal occupation—there is no other name for what's going on in Haiti today. The Brazilian government is selling out the people of Haiti to U.S. imperialism. If the goal of this mission was to restore democracy and peace to Haiti, the most important step toward that goal would be for the U.N. troops to leave now.

But it's important for everyone here to know that what the Brazilian government has been doing in Haiti is hardly representative of the Brazilian people.

The truth is that the poor Brazil and the poor of Haiti have much in common. They share a colonial history. They share a struggle against slavery. They have known first hand the harsh reality that is life under military dictatorship. And neither Brazilians nor Haitians are people who let themselves be broken or give up in the face of adversity.

When I was in Brazil last month, I met some truly amazing activists from some of the poorest communities in Rio de Janeiro who are waging a struggle against police. The Brazilian police often raid the shantytowns where these people live, always under the pretext of looking for criminals.

These activists told me how in March of last year, the Brazilian police went through their community and just opened fire at random against the residents. Twenty-nine people died that day—29 poor, working people. And when you hear a story like that, you can't help to see the parallel between what's going on in Rio de Janeiro and the massacres being conducted by the Brazilian troops in Haiti.

It's no wonder that the Brazilian media goes out of its way to cover up what's going on in Haiti.

The struggle of the Haitian people is the struggle of the Brazilian people. It's the struggle of all peoples who know what it's like to go hungry in order to feed the U.S. empire.

My call today doesn't go out to the Brazilian government or to the U.S. government—we already know where they stand. My call goes out to the people of Brazil, as well as to the people in the United States, to stand together in solidarity with the people of Haiti; to keep spreading the word about these atrocities and break the media blockade; to continue to take the struggle to the streets until the very last U.N. troop is out of Haiti.

On March 17, there will be a National March on the Pentagon in Washington D.C., to oppose not only the U.S. war of aggression in Iraq but also to show our support for all who are fighting back against the U.S. empire—be it in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Haiti or elsewhere. Here in San Francisco, we'll gather on Sunday, March 18 at Justin Herman Plaza at noon. Please be there and help us build the resistance at home.

U.N. troops out of Haiti now!

**Haiti: Speech by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada at launch of joint Brazil-Canada seminar on MINUSTAH**

**February 5, 2007**

**Source: Government of Canada**

NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE PETER MACKAY, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF THE ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY, ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE JOINT BRAZIL-CANADA SEMINAR ON THE UN STABILIZATION MISSION IN HAITI

I am particularly proud of being here today for the opening of this seminar. First let me take a few seconds to thank Minister Amorim for his inspiring thoughts on the way forward. This event is yet another example of the important contribution that Brazil is making in Haiti, in what is, without a doubt, a complex and integrated peace operation.

I welcome the presence here today of distinguished representatives from the very countries who are working with the Haitian government and international institutions to build a better future. The contribution of Brazil is evident with the participation of General Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz, who leads MINUSTAH's military arm. The presence of senior Haitian officials, including Secretary of State Euchère-Luc Joseph, demonstrates the principles of co-responsibility.

I believe it is important to remember in the context of this seminar that the international community's participation in peace operations has changed with the times. Indeed, Canada and Canadians have witnessed this change since our first contribution to peacekeeping in 1956.

No single "peacekeeping" mission is alike: Cyprus is not Kosovo; Kosovo is not Haiti; Haiti is not Sudan; and Sudan is not Afghanistan. Our role, and the role of our partners, allies and international organizations, has evolved with changes to the missions themselves and the changing nature of the threat posed to international peace and security. Most importantly, we have changed our approach to international peace operations to reflect our constantly evolving understanding of what constitutes an effective international response to conflict—and how best to lay the foundation for sustainable peace.

Haiti is a longstanding important partner for Canada. The relationship between our two countries is built on strong links between peers, on continued support for development and security in Haiti, on the shared use of French as an official language, and on the presence of a large Haitian community in Canada.

But what is new in the case of MINUSTAH [United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti] is the fact that with the direct involvement of so many hemispheric partners, Haiti has become a concrete example of both the challenges and the opportunities of strengthening hemispheric cooperation in support of peace, security and development in our own region—issues that you will address in your discussions over the coming days.

Haiti is at a critical moment in its history. My government is proud to be working with Brazil and other Latin American countries to help the Haitian government break forever from the destabilizing damage of violence and poverty. Canada welcomes this region's strong contribution to international

reconstruction efforts in Haiti, and particularly that of Brazil, whose leadership within MINUSTAH is critical for addressing the important security challenges that affect our ability to deliver improved living conditions for the Haitian people.

Haiti faces development and security challenges of great magnitude, but it can count on the firm support of its friends from all over the continent. While we all recognize that the new Haitian government must lead on the development agenda, this seminar is concrete proof that countries are committed to working with the United Nations, other key donors and the Haitian government to ensure that peace and security provide the needed conditions for development.

During her visit to Haiti in 2006, Canada's Governor General, Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean, said, "... for Haitians, hope has always been a golden rule of life, even when it was only held together by a thread. Let's take this thread and trace a new starting point for Haiti."

Indeed, let's take this thread and weave a new future for Haiti. This undertaking began with close collaborative work to provide the opportunity for the Haitian people to choose their leaders in free and transparent elections. It is to these leaders that the international community—and Haitians, of course—are now looking to provide leadership in determining the way forward for the country. This undertaking now requires the full support of the international community, support that is to a significant extent channelled via the United Nations and its mission in Haiti.

As part of our engagement, Canada, through its Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force, will provide \$5 million to MINUSTAH/UNDP [United Nations Development Programme] to support the Haitian National Police in its reform program. In addition, I am announcing that Canada will also provide \$5 million to support the important work done with the National Commission for Disarmament, Dismantlement and Reintegration through the Community Security, Violence Prevention and Small Arms Control Initiative. In particular, this latter initiative will build upon the success achieved by the Brazilian command of MINUSTAH's military component in tackling gang violence in Port-au-Prince's worst neighbourhoods and restoring confidence within the population. Canada hopes that these two initiatives will contribute to Haiti's peace and security and reconstruction efforts.

In a complex post-conflict reconstruction effort, restoring peace and security are the ultimate goals. Priorities are many and they all deserve to come first. To succeed, a concerted effort is required by all those involved. UN agencies, civilian police and military forces—acting under a Security Council mandate—bilateral cooperation agencies, and other national and international reconstruction actors must define their work on the basis of an encompassing spirit of coordination, communication, and cooperation.

This applies equally to all mission priorities: institutional reform, disaster and humanitarian relief efforts, promoting human rights and democratic institutions, supporting electoral processes, or robustly supporting the enforcement of the rule of law. Indeed, those involved in reconstruction and humanitarian projects in Haiti need to align their priorities with those of the Haitian government and its people in order to ensure that they all become part of a coherent and effective compact. The sustainability of the current Haitian reconstruction process depends on this commitment to coordination, communication, and cooperation.

In that spirit, we are here to support the work of MINUSTAH and to take stock of the progress to date of this integrated mission. I understand that you will explore how this UN integrated mission can address the next set of challenges, guided by the next Security Council mandate for MINUSTAH. Mindful that MINUSTAH's mandate should be renewed in the coming days, your discussions will reflect an imperative to build on past achievements, to strengthen institutional and personal links, and to promote best practices.

Assisting in the reconstruction of a country is indeed a matter of great responsibility, requiring a unique savoir-faire. A great Brazilian and an illustrious UN diplomat, the late Sergio Vieira de Mello, was one of the most seasoned global experts in the formulation and implementation of integrated UN efforts to effectively support reconstruction. His distinguished career of more than 30 years of service exemplifies the laudable work the United Nations has done the world over and the cumulative knowledge gathered during all these operations. Sergio de Mello drafted simple guiding principles for a successful and sustainable integration of international reconstruction, humanitarian assistance and institutional reform efforts in post-conflict societies. One principle was a need to maintain a dialogue with all actors and engage on pre-deployment planning. He also stressed that a mission's Security Council mandate would only be a source of legitimacy for as long as its abstract principles could rapidly translate into tangible improvements for the population in security, peace, and a minimum degree of well-being.

Sergio de Mello's legacy should permeate how the international community continues to face the challenges of this important assignment, and his principles should guide us all. That is why we are here today.

In saluting him, I salute the land of his birth, the work of the United Nations Mission in Haiti, and the dedication of all those committed to Haiti's peace, security and new starting point.

Thank you.

**Author of study on Haiti cleared of bias by journal  
Report criticizes Canadian-led UN effort  
MARINA JIMÉNEZ  
Globe and Mail, Canada  
February 9, 2007**

The Lancet, a prestigious British medical journal, has cleared the author of a study on Haiti of systemic bias, and reaffirmed the findings of her report.

Athena Kolbe's report concluded that widespread human-rights violations in Haiti have occurred, despite the presence of a Canadian-led United Nations police force and Brazilian-led peacekeeping mission.

The Lancet investigation was launched after a British-based Haiti Support Group complained she wasn't objective.

Richard Horton, editor of The Lancet, noted that Ms. Kolbe had an "undeclared conflict of interest" for failing to disclose to its readers that she had worked as a volunteer in 1995 at an orphanage founded by former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and as a journalist under the name of Lyn Duff.

However, Mr. Horton said there was no evidence of bias in the study's findings, and that much of the debate in this case was "aimed at exploiting historical divisions" in Haiti.

"That process has obscured the real issue -- the welfare of civilians in Haiti -- to whom attention should now turn," he said.

Ms. Kolbe's study, co-authored with Royce Hutson, an assistant professor at Detroit's Wayne State University, found that 8,000 Haitians have been slain and 35,000 women and girls raped since the ousting of Mr. Aristide in early 2004. The perpetrators were Haiti's National Police, members of the disbanded army, common criminals, armed anti-Lavalas (Mr. Aristide's political party) groups and in some cases, members of the UN peacekeeping mission. A small number were Lavalas.

Ms. Kolbe said that according to local Haitians, Canadian peacekeepers made death threats against them during house raids, and sexual advances against women while they were drunk and off-duty.

"Now that The Lancet study has reaffirmed our findings, I hope that groups criticized for human-rights violations will be investigated and held accountable," said Ms. Kolbe, who is working on her master's degree at Wayne State's school of social work.

In one alleged incident, a resident of Delmas, on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, said Canadian troops raided his house and threatened to kill him if he didn't give them names of Aristide supporters.

In another alleged incident, a woman said she was grabbed by a drunk, off-duty Canadian soldier while out with friends near a base in the capital. She claims he threatened her with sexual attack.

The Canadian military briefly investigated the allegations, but couldn't substantiate them because respondents were anonymous.

Yves Engler, with Haiti Action Montreal, a solidarity group, said The Lancet's reaffirmation of the study's findings underscore the massive human-rights violations that occurred after Mr. Aristide left office.

"This study reaffirms the indictment of Canada's foreign policy in Haiti. Canada helped to overthrow the government and now the human-rights situation has worsened," he said.

Mr. Aristide was ousted on Feb. 29, 2004, after a rebellion of thugs and ex-soldiers forced him out. He argues the United States and France forced him into exile.

**Protesters In Haiti's Capital Demand Aristide's Return**  
**Nasdaq**  
**February 9, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)--Hundreds of supporters of ousted former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide protested outside the U.N. peacekeeping mission Wednesday, demanding the exiled leader's return and accusing blue-helmeted troops of killing civilians.

Protesters shouted "Down with the U.N.!" as they marched from a downtown slum and gathered outside the U.N. mission's hilltop headquarters, where they shouted at U.N. soldiers and Haitian police guarding the fortified complex.

"We want the international community to hear our voice when we say we want Aristide back," Jacques Bloncourt, 48, said as he held aloft a photograph of the former leader, who is currently in exile in South Africa.

Aristide, a former slum priest turned president, fled the Caribbean nation in February 2004 amid a three-week rebel uprising. He later accused the U.S. of kidnapping him in a coup - a charge Washington denies.

Many of the protesters came from the seaside slum of Cite Soleil, an Aristide stronghold where armed gangs and U.N. peacekeepers clash almost daily. The protesters said civilians are often killed in gunbattles started by peacekeepers and accused President Rene Preval of allowing it to happen.

"President Preval lets them kill us," Cite Soleil resident Fredrick Dubois said.

The 9,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force arrived in July 2004 to quell violence after Aristide's ouster but has struggled to root out gangs based in Port-au-Prince's dense slums. The U.N. mission says troops only fire when attacked.

The march coincided with the 21st anniversary of the ouster of former dictator Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, whose departure paved the way for Haiti's first free elections in December 1990, which Aristide won in a landslide.

Aristide was ousted a year later in a military coup but returned to power in 1994 after 20,000 U.S. troops came to Haiti to halt an exodus of boat people to Florida and restore democracy.

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

02-07-071958ET

Copyright (c) 2007 Dow Jones & Company, Inc.

## **Haitian Man Sentenced to 14 Years in Prison for Taking an American Woman Hostage in Haiti in May 2006**

**Wed Feb 7, 2007**

**US Newswire via Yahoo! News**

**Contact: Channing Phillips of the U.S. Department of Justice, +1-202-514-6933**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Atty Hans, a Haitian man who previously pled guilty to hostage-taking, was sentenced to 14 years in prison today by the Honorable James Robertson in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, announced U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Kenneth L. Wainstein Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's National Security Division. Hans, 21, of Haiti, pleaded guilty on July 26, 2006, to taking hostage in Haiti a woman who is a U.S. citizen in May 2006. The defendant was arrested in late May in Haiti and brought to the United States to face prosecution.

"The kidnapping and hostage-taking of American citizens overseas is a cowardly and dangerous crime that the Department of Justice will forever investigate and prosecute aggressively," stated U.S. Attorney Taylor. "Today's 14-year prison sentence imposed by the Court should make those who think about committing such frightening acts of terror upon innocent victims think twice before doing so."

"This case demonstrates our resolve to prosecute and punish those who take our people hostage overseas. It also highlights the importance of domestic and international law enforcement cooperation in the conduct of these investigations," said Assistant Attorney General Kenneth L. Wainstein.

According to the government's evidence, on May 10, 2006, the American woman victim had been visiting relatives in Haiti and was traveling between the cities of Carrefour and Port au Prince, riding in a truck with a relative. The ordeal began for the woman when a car coming from the opposite direction pulled in front of them, blocking the road. Armed men alighted from the car and took the victim hostage, leaving her companion on the roadside. The hostage-takers threatened her and demanded ransom for her release. She was taken to a deserted area and pushed into a shallow grave to further intimidate her. Among other threats, the hostage-takers contacted relatives of the woman and told them that if they did not pay a large sum of money, they would kill the woman and dump her in a garbage pail.

The woman had friends and relatives in the city of Leogane, Haiti. They heard that she had been kidnapped and that her vehicle was carjacked. They were able to spot her vehicle on a street in Leogane and decided to keep an eye on it. Citizens from the area were watching the vehicle on May 15 when three men came to take possession of the vehicle. One of these men was defendant Atty Hans. The citizens of Leogane were able to detain the three men and notify the authorities, who reported to the scene and arrested defendant Hans.

The other hostage-takers still holding the woman apparently became apprehensive, and freed the woman later in the day on May 15, 2006. Over the five days that the woman was held, ransom of over \$7,200 was paid to the hostage-takers.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Assistant Attorney General Wainstein praised the hard work of the FBI's Extraterritorial Squad, in particular lead case agents Carlos Monero and Oscar Montoto, the Evidence Response Team, and the FBI Miami Special Weapons and Tactics Squad, all based in Miami, FBI Legal Attache and ALAT based in Santo Domingo,

Dominican Republic, the Haitian National Police and the United Nations Civil Police, the Haitian Ministry of Justice, the ICE Office in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Port au Prince, Haiti. Furthermore, they acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeanne M. Hauch and Trial Attorney Jennifer Levy of the Counterterrorism Section of the National Security Division of the Department of Justice.

Contact: Channing Phillips, (202) 514-6933

SOURCE U.S. Department of Justice

**Building a reluctant nation**  
**The Economist**  
**Feb 8th 2007**

THE United Nations is rebuilding a house. A couple of soldiers mix cement on the street, lifting it up by a backhoe to their colleagues who use it as mortar, placing concrete block on top of concrete block. The house is tiny, and cramped inside; there is barely room for the gun emplacements that face every which way from the second storey, pointing out over sandbags which are being replaced by the concrete blocks.

It is the newest outpost of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (known as MINUSTAH from its initials in French). Brazilian troops under the command of Colonel Cláudio Barroso Magno took over the house in a 2am raid in late January. It was part of an effort by UN troops, begun a month earlier, to set up strongpoints in Cité Soleil, a slum district of Haiti's capital which has been under the control of criminal gangs for years.

This tenuous foothold of law and order is a microcosm of Haiti's snail-like progress a year after René Préval was elected as president of the poorest and most lawless country of the Americas. The election came two years after the ousting of the thuggish socialist regime of Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the hands of a rebel band and American and French troops.

For a failing state, the election was a success. Mr Préval, a moderate former president who was once an ally of Mr Aristide, won just over 50% of the vote. But he did not form a government until June, after legislative elections. Local elections followed in December, with more due in March. All this voting gives Haitians the chance of a fresh start, but it has also diverted resources from other priorities.

The most pressing issue remains crime. The government tried at first to negotiate with the criminal gangs. But kidnaps, assaults and drug-trafficking rose. A UN scheme under which those who hand in guns get job training has few takers. The new, tougher policy is aimed at regaining control of places like Cité Soleil, a district of more than 200,000 people which has been too dangerous for aid groups to enter.

The new UN presence there is meant in part to get the gangs to react, says Colonel Magno. In that, at least, it is working. There are nightly attacks on the strongpoints; the concrete blocks are pockmarked with bullet scars. It may also be having a wider effect: January saw only a third as many kidnappings as December, according to MINUSTAH. "We can end kidnapping" by the summer, says Colonel Magno.

This modest progress underlines that the UN force of 6,700 soldiers and 1,700 police—mainly from Latin America but including troops from Jordan and Nepal and police from China—will be needed for a long while yet. The government is rebuilding a national police force, but it is slow work. The police number only about 6,000 for a rugged country of 8.5m people. Another 500 or so are graduating every six months from the police academy run by the UN. The new police have been vetted in an effort to avoid the corruption of the country's past gendarmeries.

But the whole judicial system also needs reform. According to International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based organisation, 96% of the inmates of the main national prison have not been tried. Past efforts by international donors to achieve judicial reform failed. Now parliament is discussing, without urgency, plans to vet judges and increase their salaries, currently \$200-500 a month.

Mr Préval's main achievement has been to get the budget approved in the legislature. His party, itself a makeshift coalition, has only a fifth of the seats in the lower house and a third in the upper. The main obstacle is not partisanship, but individualism. Legislators spent several of the past few weeks trying to get a policeman sacked for inspecting a congressman's car (he found illegal weapons).

Even in Port-au-Prince's richer suburbs, rubbish fills the streets. The economy has stopped contracting. Venezuela supplies subsidised oil and Haitians in the United States send money home. But Haiti still depends on foreign aid for over 65% of the state budget. A job-creation scheme, backed by \$128m from the United States and the World Bank, is only just starting up. According to the bank, 83% of skilled Haitians live abroad. Driven out by instability and poverty, they have yet to show any sign of returning.

The motto of Colonel Magno's brigade is: "To be more than it seems". That is Mr Préval's task, too, if Haiti is to become a functioning nation-state. Enough has been achieved to warrant staying the course. But the burden will increasingly be on Mr Préval to produce results.

**Permanence of Brazilian Troops in Haiti**  
**Prensa Latina**  
**February 6, 2007**

Brasilia, The Brazilian troops, part of the United Nations Stabilizations Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) will be able to stay longer in this country, Foreign Affairs Minister reported.

A report of the Chancellery mentioned by the Brazilian ambassador to Haiti, Paulo Cordeiro de Andrade Pinto reflects that possibility.

The Brazilian military allocated in Port au Prince will stay until the Haiti government and the United Nations Organization decide so, according to the diplomatic.

That does not mean we maintain the current structure. There can be a gradual withdrawal of soldiers depending on the evolution of the situation in the field, the source reported.

We will withdraw our troops when they are no longer necessary and he also said that this is part of an agreement between the presidents Rene Preval (Haiti) and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (Brazil).

## **New U.S. aid to create more youth jobs in Haitian slum**

**BY PABLO BACHELET**

**Miami Herald**

**Friday February 2, 2007**

WASHINGTON - The United States will provide Haiti with \$20 million to create more youth jobs in a gang-ridden slum in the capital that is testing the government's ability to bring peace to the country.

Nicholas Burns, undersecretary of state for political affairs, made the announcement Thursday after a meeting of 21 countries and multilateral institutions that have contributed troops or money to Haiti.

Burns said the group also agreed to ask the United Nations Security Council to renew the mandate of the 8,400-member blue-helmet peacekeeping force for an additional year. The decision is expected later this month.

"Violence in Port-au-Prince is an important and very serious issue," Burns said at a press briefing, with Haitian Foreign Minister Jean-Raynald Clerisme at his side. "And we understand that Cité Soleil in particular is a place where there are many challenges for the Haitian government."

Special U.N. envoy to Haiti Edmond Mulet, a Guatemalan diplomat, said security was better today than it was a year or two ago but nonetheless painted a grim picture of marauding gangs terrorizing civilians in urban areas when he addressed on Wednesday the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank.

He vowed to eradicate violence and gangs from the Cité Soleil slum in Haiti by July. Cité Soleil, where ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is still popular, remains a no-go zone for security forces even as the gang activity spreads to other Port-au-Prince neighborhoods, and some rural communities.

As early as a year ago Haitian police officials complained that the gangs were moving out of Cité Soleil and into Port-au-Prince neighborhoods like Martissant. Last fall, both Haitian and UN authorities launched a program to disarm up to 1,000 gang members.

UN peacekeepers are coming under fire every day, Mulet said, and 24 have died since the mission began in 2004.

He said last summer the UN security mission worked out a plan with Haitian authorities that was "working wonders" in returning security to Port-au-Prince before troops had to be redeployed into the countryside for provincial and municipal elections Dec. 3.

In December, following a surge in kidnappings of school-age children, the UN and Haiti stepped up efforts going after bandits and kidnappers where they lived.

The 6,000-member Haitian National Police is undergoing a vetting process to root out members linked to gangs. Mulet said he expects about 1,000 officers will be fired after the process is completed.

Mulet also cited an "extremely corrupt" judicial system and rising drug trafficking as major challenges.

On the same day as Mulet's visit, Organization of American States Secretary General José Miguel Insulza reiterated the importance of international agencies coordinating their efforts.

Miami Herald staff writer Jacqueline Charles contributed to this report.

**OAS backs education initiative in Haiti**  
**Caribbean Net News**  
**Thursday, February 8, 2007**

WASHINGTON, USA: Supporting an initiative to improve education in Haiti, the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, advocated a twin-track approach that would include both short- and long-term objectives. He called for quick-impact socioeconomic programs that would improve living conditions for Haitians, as well as sustained efforts to build capacity and strengthen institutions in order to advance democratic governance, security and development.

Ramdin made his remarks at The Carter Center in Atlanta, addressing a recent forum on “The Role of the Private Sector in Improving Educational Outcomes in Haiti.” Haitian government officials, private sector leaders, representatives of the international community and education specialists participated in the forum, which explored possibilities for donor support to public-private partnerships in education. The meeting was organized by the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), in association with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), The Carter Center, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and CIFAL Atlanta, an affiliate of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

The OAS Assistant Secretary General called for a realistic program based on Haiti's development needs. Young people are a country's key asset, he said, and their education is therefore a priority. Ambassador Ramdin said entrepreneurship training and e-training in governance and education could be provided by the OAS through the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT).

Providing access to quality education at all levels in Haiti is not confined to formal education, but must include skills training and on-the-job training, Ramdin told the meeting. And while primary, secondary and tertiary education would need a huge influx of capital and skills, he said, programs could be developed in the short term in which Haitian experts in the diaspora could return to their country to share their skills and help train people.

Ramdin further pointed out that Haiti's recent readmission to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and entry into the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) as a borrowing member raised prospects for closer cooperation with CARICOM. To boost education, he suggested a public-private partnership to set up a University of the West Indies campus in Haiti.

Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark chaired the meeting, which was a follow-up to one held in Ottawa in September 2005, the brainchild of Clark and then-IDB President Enrique Iglesias. That first event generated new opportunities to engage donors, and the Haitian private sector has participated in meetings of the Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF) for Haiti. The IDB, in collaboration with the OAS, is planning a meeting in Haiti for later this year to develop a public-private strategy for education in Haiti.

## **Amnesty International's track record in Haiti since 2004**

**Thursday, February 8, 2007**

**by Joe Emersberger**

**Caribbean Net News**

The coup that ousted Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide on February 29, 2004 led very predictably to the worst human rights disaster in the Western Hemisphere over the following two years. It is worth reviewing how the world's most famous human rights group, Amnesty International, responded.

Aristide was twice elected President (in 1990 and in 2000). His first government was overthrown in a coup in 1991. The outcome of the 1991 coup was horrific and well documented. Thousands were murdered; tens of thousands were raped and tortured; hundreds of thousands were driven into hiding. The victims were overwhelmingly supporters of Aristide and his Lavalas movement. The 1991 and 2004 coups were both the work of the US government, Haiti's elite and their armed servants. Canada and France collaborated extensively with the planning and execution of the second coup.

By mid April of 2004, three organizations had sent delegations to Haiti to investigate the aftermath of the coup: the Quixote Center based in Maryland, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and the Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean (EPICA). All drew very similar conclusions.

They uncovered a massive terror campaign waged by the de facto government in collaboration with the UN forces in Haiti (later to be known as MINUSTAH) against Lavalas partisans. They reported that some Haitian human rights groups in particular the National Coalition for Haitian Rights (NCHR) were unreliable due to their hostility towards Lavalas. The NLG and Quixote Center delegations observed "wanted" posters in NCHR offices which identified Aristide and other Lavalas officials as criminals. Both delegations reported that NCHR refused to carry out investigations in Lavalas strongholds such as Cite Soleil. Even at this early stage the NLG uncovered evidence in the state morgue of the huge death toll that was being exacted on Lavalas supporters. The state morgue reported that 1,000 bodies had been disposed of a month after the coup - most obvious victims of violence. The morgue typically disposed of only 100 bodies a month.

The EPICA delegation suggested that people contact Amnesty to alert them of the unreliability of NCHR. It was a good suggestion because Pierre Esperance, NCHR's director, had boasted in 2002 that "I am a primary source of information for international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Most recently, I was invited to address the US State Department in a roundtable forum to discuss the human rights situation in Haiti."

His statement does not seem to have been much of an exaggeration. During the first four months after the coup Amnesty failed to call attention to the evidence that a massive assault on Lavalas was well underway. Amnesty's statements suggested equivalence between armed Lavalas partisans and their opponents. For example, on April 8, 2004 Amnesty would state that

"...a large number of armed groups continue to be active throughout the country. These include both rebel forces and militias loyal to former President Aristide."

Amnesty criticized the de facto government for arresting "only Lavalas leaders" but it did not condemn the arrests, many of them made illegally. It expressed no doubts about the legal authority of the de facto government to make any arrests at all. Moreover, by April 8, 2004, many Lavalas officials such as Jocelerme Privert and Amanus Maette had been imprisoned without charge for longer than the 48 hours allowed by the Haitian Constitution. Amnesty had frequently protested violations of this nature in the past even in the case of Roger Lafontant, head of Duvalier's infamous Tonton Macouts, who was arrested by Aristide's first government in 1990 but in 2004 Amnesty was silent as the constitutional rights of elected officials were violated.

It was not until a report issued in June of 2004 that Amnesty mentioned some of the facts other investigators had uncovered months earlier. It finally acknowledged that a " large proportion of the victims of violence were Aristide supporters, including members of grassroots organizations and their relatives" It finally stated that "some human rights organizations who have been active in denouncing abuses committed under the Aristide period do not seem inclined to investigate abuses committed against pro-Aristide groups". However, Amnesty failed to name any of those groups. The omission was harmful to the victims because NCHR, the most prominent Haitian human rights groups, was not only willfully blind to the campaign against Lavalas. It eagerly assisted with the campaign. On March 6, the de facto government made an agreement with NCHR to file criminal charges against anyone NCHR denounced. NCHR eventually changed its name to RNDDH at the request of its parent organization in New York, who wished to distance itself from its Haitian associates. Nevertheless, NCHR/RNDDH continues to be frequently and uncritically cited by the international press.

Amnesty's report of June, 2004 denounced the brutality of US marines who arrested Annette Auguste ("So Ann"), a popular folk singer and Lavalas activist. Her family members, including her 5 year old grandson, were handcuffed by the marines. However, Amnesty suggested that arresting her was justified by hastening to add "those suspected of responsibility for human rights abuses must be brought before a court of law." Kevin Pina, a US filmmaker who worked with Haitian journalists to capture images of the post coup terror, pressed Amnesty to recognize So Ann as a political prisoner. Amnesty's responded that it had "reliable information" that So Ann was guilty of crimes. Amnesty would not tell Pina who their sources were, but NCHR had publicly "saluted" So Ann's arrest. She would remain imprisoned for 20 months without being charged before Amnesty would finally concede that she was arrested "solely for her political views." She finally had her day in court in August, 2006 and was acquitted because no evidence was presented against her.

Amnesty also continued to use the word "Chimere" as if it were a term accepted by all Haitians to refer to armed Lavalas partisans. In fact, it was a term used by elites and the de facto government to stigmatize Lavalas supporters as criminals. Kevin Pina explained:

"This word was a highly partisan term used by those who supported Aristide's ouster, especially NCHR, to create a climate of terror and fear after Feb. 2004. Anyone accused of being a 'chimere' was marked for death or imprisonment without trial. Yet here was AI, a purportedly independent human rights organization, using the same politically charged language. I found it disgraceful."

The partisan language Amnesty used was indicative of other failings that would mar this report and their future work.

The background Amnesty provided to the situation in Haiti did not put the human rights record of the Aristide government in proportion to those of his opponents. This had been done by Peter Hallward, a UK-based researcher who had used Amnesty's reports, but coming from Amnesty the analysis would have been more difficult to ignore. It would have helped refute articles in the international press which consistently equated Aristide's government to the murderous regimes of the past. These distortions greatly diminished international support for Aristide's government while it was in power and for the victims of the 2004 coup.

Hallward's analysis showed that the record of the Aristide's government was vastly superior to any run by his adversaries. After a month the abuses of the de facto government had already dwarfed anything that took place under Aristide. Hallward's analysis was indirectly supported by opinion polls and elections results since 1990. In 2002 a USAID commissioned poll found that Aristide remained - by a wide margin- the most popular politician in Haiti. The results of presidential elections of 2006, where the presidential candidate endorsed by the Lavalas movement won by a landslide for the fourth consecutive time, also confirmed that Haiti's poor majority, if not the international press and various NGOs, did not equate Lavalas governments to the despised regimes of the past.

On August 16, 2004 Amnesty condemned the sham trials that acquitted Jodel Chamblain and Jackson Joanis - two death squad leaders who played a key role in the coup. The outcome was hardly surprising. Gerard Latortue, head of the de facto government, had publicly praised the armed leaders of the coup as "freedom fighters".

On October 8, 2004 Amnesty expressed concern about "the disregard for the lives and safety of the people" shown by the Haitian police in poor neighborhoods that were Lavalas strongholds.

On October 19, 2004 Amnesty expressed concern about the arrest of Reverend Gérard Jean-Juste, a prominent Lavalas supporter, whom they said "may" be a prisoner of conscience. The statement was issued days after the arrest, which was encouraging given Amnesty's failure to defend other political prisoners, but the tentativeness of its criticism was inexplicable given the record of the de facto government.

Amnesty's press release of November 11, 2004 condemned more police repression in Lavalas strongholds but the following outlandish statement was also made.

"Amnesty International recognizes the difficulties currently facing the transitional government, many of which are the legacy of the actions of the previous government of Jean Bertrand Aristide."

The main "difficulty" the de facto government faced was eliminating Haiti's most popular political movement. That was clear even from a careful read of Amnesty's reports. The "difficulty" was, in one sense, a legacy of Aristide's government, and of the 200 year struggle by Haitians for democracy, but that is not what Amnesty meant. It was commiserating with the elite over their "difficulties".

I had donated to Amnesty for many years, but as 2004 came to a close I began writing to them often to complain about their work on Haiti.

I received gracious replies to my letters from Linn Kingston, Amnesty International Canada's Caribbean Coordinator at the time. It quickly became clear that it was Amnesty's UK office that was responsible for reports about Haiti. Kingston told me that a detailed report was to be published about Haiti "early in 2005" and that my concerns would be "passed on". Repeated delays to the report's publication eventually exasperated Kingston. She wrote to me in May of 2005 saying she was "mystified" by the delays given the dire situation in Haiti. She told me she had "protested and have asked the Canadian Secretary General, Alex Neve and the Directeur General, Michel Frenette of the Francophone Canadian Section to protest as well."

The report would not be published until the end of July, 2005.

Several months before Amnesty's report was finally available, the University of Miami School of Law's Center for the Study of Human Rights, published a detailed report about the human rights situation Haiti. Harvard Law School had also put out an extensive report shortly after.

The University of Miami report summarized conditions in Haiti as follows:

"...the police, backed by UN forces, routinely carry out indiscriminate and unprofessional killing operations. The undisciplined army is back, protecting the rich and attacking the poor. The justice system is twisted against poor young men, dissidents and anyone calling for the return of the constitutional government."

The report conservatively estimated that 700 political prisoners were jailed by the de facto government. It shed considerable light on the close working relationship between NCHR, the Haitian government, and officials linked to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and USAID.

The Harvard School of Law report was more focussed on the role of the UN forces (MINUSTAH) in Haiti but would reach similar conclusions:

"MINUSTAH has effectively provided cover for the police to wage a campaign of terror in Port-au-Prince's slums. Even more distressing than MINUSTAH's complicity in HNP abuses are credible allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by MINUSTAH itself..."

Amnesty's report of July 28, 2005 again failed, unlike other investigators, to clearly put the violence of Lavalas partisans and the government in proportion. It did, belatedly, defend Yvon Neptune, the former Prime Minister under Aristide, whose illegal detention NCHR had caused with its groundless allegations of a "massacre" in Saint Marc. Amnesty finally stated that Yvon Neptune was a "political prisoner" after he had already spent a year in jail. Amnesty said that a "local human rights organization" had accused him. Again, it failed to name NCHR. Neptune was finally released provisionally in August, 2006, but he must still fight NCHR's allegations in court.

On July 6, 2005 MINUSTAH forces and the Haitian police carried out a massacre in Cite Soleil, a slum where support for Lavalas runs especially deep. At least 23 people were killed. The consequences of the raid were extremely well documented. It was captured on film by Haitian journalists working

with Kevin Pina. The evidence of MINUSTAH's criminality was so compelling that MINUSTAH stated shortly afterwards that it "deeply regrets any injuries or loss of life during its operation."

Weeks after the massacre Lucile Robinson, Amnesty's UK based researcher for Haiti at the time, explained Amnesty's silence to me as follows.

"We are aware of the situation and are currently gathering information from a variety of sources in order to gain a balanced and informed view on the subject before we react to these events. As I am sure that you are aware, in order to maintain the good reputation that AI depends on to produce effective actions, we do need to make very certain of our facts before acting upon them."

Amnesty's reluctance to comment even to call for an investigation despite overwhelming evidence contrasted starkly with its swift response to unsubstantiated reports of police beheadings by Lavalas supporters. Amnesty finally made brief reference to the July 6 massacre in a statement it published six months after it took place.

Lucile Robinson also defended Amnesty's work by saying that "there are actions which we take which will not always be visible to the general public". However, it was obvious that public exposure was desperately needed. I cited various, far too typical, press reports that obscured the campaign against Lavalas, and thereby minimized the political price paid by the governments of US, Canada, and France (among others) for siding with the oppressors.

Amnesty redeemed itself somewhat by responding quickly, and this time decisively, to the second arrest of the Reverend Gerard Jean-Juste. In a statement of July 25, 2005 it designated him as a "prisoner of conscience." Despite Amnesty's public action, Jean-Juste remained imprisoned for six months after Amnesty took his side. He was provisionally released to have chemotherapy and has still not been cleared.

In January of 2006, Amnesty co-authored a report with OXFAM and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) about the progress of disarmament in Haiti since the coup. The report was entitled "The call for tough arms controls:Voices from Haiti", but some voices were conspicuously absent. After reading the report, I posed questions to Amnesty to which they never responded. Among those questions were

\*Why are none of the victims of MINUSTAH's raids into poor neighborhoods quoted in this report?  
\*Why, in the section entitled "What needs to be done", was discussion dominated by foreign officials and representatives of the de facto government? There was one brief quote from a Bel Air resident but nothing from the well known and highly respected political prisoners: Gerard Jean Juste, So Ann, Yvon Neptune who had been interviewed by journalists and activists.

Despite the elections of February 2006, the Haitian government remains penetrated by appointees of the de facto government. Judge Peres Paul responsible for the incarceration of Gerard Jean-Juste and Kevin Pina remains on the bench. In December of 2005 the regime stacked the judiciary in a brazen abuse of executive power. It fired five supreme court justices and replaced them with their allies. As a result, at least 100 political prisoners jailed by the de facto government remain in prison. Police hired by the de facto government , and vetted by NCHR/RNDDH, are still on the job.

MINUSTAH continues to patrol slums like Cite Soleil on behalf of Haiti's elite and their foreign allies. On December 22, 2006 MINUSTAH and the Haitian police perpetrated yet another massacre in this neighborhood. Nearly a month later, Amnesty has yet to publicly comment.

On December 13, 2006 Jean Candio, a former Lavalas parliamentarian, became a political prisoner of the Canadian government. He was imprisoned for two weeks in a Windsor Ontario jail due to his association with Aristide's government and spurious allegations by NCHR/RNDDH that in 2001 he had used violence to disrupt a church meeting. Both Amnesty and the UN had published NCHR's allegations against Mr Candio, but never mentioned later investigations that exonerated him.

The Canada Haiti action Network (CHAN) has expressed its dismay at Amnesty's response to the case of Jean Candio. CHAN summed up Amnesty's track record in Haiti: "Amnesty has been outperformed in Haiti by investigators with far fewer resources and much less stature."

**Judge stays deportation order of Houston teacher from Haiti**  
**KHOU.com, Houston, TX**  
**Wednesday, February 7, 2007**

The Houston school teacher singled out for deportation to Haiti was freed from the ICE Detention Center Wednesday night.

A judge stayed the deportation order and reopened Marie Baptiste's application for a visa.

Baptiste was brought to the U.S. by her parents when she was only nine.

She's now married with two young children.

An immigration judge had ordered her back to Haiti after she showed up late for a visa hearing.

She said she was late because her children had gotten sick.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee got involved in her case after 11 News brought attention to it.

## **Canada and Haiti Document Actions**

**Written by : Kevin Skerett and Yves Engler,**

**ZNet**

**February 8, 2007**

Before antiwar Americans place your bets on Canada or the United Nations, you should know what they are up to in Haiti....

Wednesday, January 6— Canadians of conscience who pay attention to Haiti continue to be ashamed of what is being done in our name.

In a January 15 interview with Haiti's Radio Solidarité, Canada's ambassador to Haiti, Claude Boucher praised the UN occupation forces (identified by the French acronym MINUSTAH), urging them to "increase their operations as they did last December."

Boucher's reference to operations "last December" is an unmistakable reference to the December 22 MINUSTAH assault on the slum neighbourhood of Cité Soleil.

Marketed by its architects as an action against "armed gangs" blamed for a spate of recent kidnappings, 400 troops, backed by helicopters, entered a densely populated residential area at 4:30 a.m. Eyewitnesses and victims of the attack claim MINUSTAH helicopters fired on residents throughout the operation. The cardboard and corrugated tin wall houses were no match for the troops' heavy weaponry and the raid left scores of civilians dead and wounded, including women and children.

Dubbed the "Christmas Massacre" by neighbourhood residents a Reuters photo revealed a row of dead bodies and two distraught women carrying a wounded young boy. Agence France Presse indicated that at least 12 people were killed and "several dozen" wounded, a casualty total over 40. A Haitian human rights organization, known by the acronym AUMOHD, reported 20 killed with an initial set of victims' names.

The Association Haitienne de presse (AHP) reported "very serious property damage" following the UN attack, and concerns that "a critical water shortage may now develop because water cisterns and pipes were punctured by the gunfire." Red Cross coordinator Pierre Alexis complained to AHP that UN soldiers "blocked Red Cross vehicles from entering Cité Soleil" to help the wounded. MINUSTAH denies it interfered with the Red Cross and refuses to acknowledge any civilian casualties. The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits military interference in the provision of medical assistance to the wounded as well as collective punishment and the deployment of military force in districts where civilians are likely to be victimized. International humanitarian law obligates all parties to military engagements (or territorial occupation) to extend protection to civilians.

In other words, the "operations" that Ambassador Boucher praised may constitute war crimes.

This was a military assault carried out against a residential neighbourhood by a military force—"peacekeepers"—charged with protecting the population. We can only imagine the reaction if the Canadian army killed dozens of local residents by using helicopters and military assault vehicles with machine guns while conducting operations in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood of Toronto or Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and justified its actions as "cracking down on gangs."

The Toronto Star was the only English-language Canadian newspaper to run a Reuters article that reported nine killed in December. It seems as if the dead and suffering of an extremely poor Haitian neighbourhood can be safely ignored. And worse. Canada's ambassador to Haiti can hold up the operation as a model to be repeated.

And that is what happened. A UN raid on Cité Soleil on Thursday, Jan. 25 left five dead and a dozen wounded, according to Agence France Presse.

**Argentine Blue Helmet Arrives in Haiti**  
**Prensa Latina**  
**February 7, 2007**

Port of Prince, The Argentinean contingent of army, the Navy and the Air Forces servicemen will arrive in the country Wednesday as part of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

According to the Argentinean ambassador in this nation Ernesto Lopez there will be an amount of 500 militaries giving humanitarian and health assistance.

The Diplomatic affirmed that the new Blue Helmet group will work in a hospital in Port of Prince.

During the farewell ceremony to the group the country's minister of defense Nilda Garre considered the mission a display of the Argentinean people and government vocation with the peace, security and international stability.

The contingent is equipped with a small helicopters' unit driven by 40 or 45 person and four mini-bases, among other elements.

Ernesto Lopez explained that the talks at the UN Security Council did not debate the renewal period but it is researching the extension of the new period.

Nevertheless Haitian humanitarian and political organizations showed their rejection to MINUSTAH continuance in the country.

In this sense the Trant Septanm foundation launched a call against the mission's renewal.

**USA : ITC to study effects of new trade benefits for Haiti for textile & apparel**  
**February 7, 2007**  
**[www.fibre2fashion.com](http://www.fibre2fashion.com)**

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC or Commission) has instituted an investigation to study the effects of new trade benefits accorded to textile and apparel imports from Haiti under recently enacted legislation.

The investigation, Textiles and Apparel: Effects of Special Rules for Haiti on Trade Markets and Industries, is required by the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act (HHOPE). HHOPE was enacted as part of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, which was signed into law in December 2006.

The HHOPE legislation grants U.S. duty-free treatment to imports of qualifying textile and apparel from Haiti if the President determines that Haiti meets certain requirements set out in the statute.

The new law also requires the ITC to report to the Congress on the effects of the law on the trade markets and industries involving textile and apparel in Haiti, the United States, beneficiary countries of the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Preference Act, and countries with which the United States has free trade agreements.

The ITC will submit its report to the Congress by June 20, 2008.

The ITC will hold a public hearing in connection with the investigation at 9:30 a.m. on November 8, 2007. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed no later than 5:15 p.m. on October 23, 2007, with the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436.

The ITC also welcomes written submissions for the record. Written submissions (original and 14 copies) should be addressed to the Secretary to the Commission at the above address and should be submitted at the earliest practical date but no later than 5:15 p.m. on February 7, 2008. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be available for public inspection.

United States International Trade Commission, USA

## **More evidence of drugs-for-guns trade between Jamaica and Haiti**

**mardi 6 février 2007**

**By Charles Arthur**

**AlterPresse**

London, --- Jamaican police have carried out a series of arrests and seizures of firearms that appear to confirm long-held suspicions of the existence of an extensive criminal network smuggling marijuana and guns between Jamaica and the nearby nation of Haiti.

On February 4th, following a shoot-out between Jamaican police and an unidentified man in Spanish Town in the central parish of St Catherine, a gun was recovered from the man who had been shot dead by the police. The weapon was found to have originated in Haiti and to have once belonged to a Haitian police officer. "The firearm was stolen from the Haitian police," said Jamaican police inspector, Steve Brown. "We suspect that it's a part of the ongoing 'guns for drugs' trade between Jamaica and Haiti, and again this raises concerns about the viable trade that is going on."

Jamaican police officials have sought the assistance of international policing organisation, Interpol, to try and locate the Haitian police officer to whom the gun was issued, and to determine how the gun got into the hands of local criminals.

"We want to know how this gun reached our shores," said Assistant Commissioner Glenmore Hinds, head of Operation Kingfish, the special police unit formed in October 2004 to counter drug-trafficking and to stem the rising crime rate and gang violence in Jamaica.

Just a few days earlier, on February 1st, officers from Operation Kingfish carried out a raid on the Hampton Court area of St Thomas that netted four illegal handguns, which the lawmen believe had just arrived from Haiti, and resulted in the arrest of 11 people, including three Haitians and a Honduran. The arrests were made by police with the assistance of a Jamaica Defence Force (Army) helicopter, and those arrested were airlifted from St Thomas to the Jamaican capital, Kingston.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Hinds said that some of those arrested had been under surveillance for some time, and indicated that several business interests are believed to be responsible for the financing of a massive drugs-for-guns smuggling ring between Jamaica and Haiti.

Police sources allege that a St Elizabeth woman, who is among the detainees, accompanied her Honduran husband on a recent trip by boat to Haiti, and returned to Jamaica with the three Haitians. Hinds told the local daily newspaper, The Gleaner, "Our intelligence has suggested that persons operating legitimate businesses are now employing people as 'fishermen' to transport the drugs to Haiti and trade it in for the guns." According to Hinds, powerful handguns and sub-machine weapons are being traded in the other direction from Haiti to Jamaica.

Just a week earlier, Jamaican police arrested three Haitians in connection with two large marijuana busts. In the first operation, that took place in the community of Orange Hill, in the western parish of Westmoreland, on January 25th, two Haitians were detained after authorities discovered a one-acre marijuana field. The spokesman for Operation Kingfish, Inspector Brown, said a police team also went

to the central parish of Clarendon where a large quantity of marijuana was seized, and another Haitian arrested.

Brown said, "The fact that these Haitians are getting involved in criminal activities means we will be asking the authorities to take a serious look at the status of these Haitians who are in Jamaica. A lot of them came here under the disguise that they are seeking refuge, but soon they get involved in the illegal gun and drug trade..."

The Operation Kingfish discoveries come just weeks after Haitian President René Préval made a working visit to Jamaica during which he discussed the illegal trade in drugs and guns between the two countries with Jamaican Prime Minister, Portia Simpson. At a joint press conference on January 3rd, the two leaders stressed that security forces in both countries were taking strident moves to curtail the illegal gun and narcotics trade. Further talks on the issue are expected at the first Jamaica/Haiti Joint Commission, in Jamaica, during the second quarter of 2007.

Speaking to reporters following the meeting with President Préval, Prime Minister Simpson said Jamaica's security forces would be working closely with Haitian authorities in several areas. "Bringing guns into Jamaica to kill poor people is something not to be tolerated. It has to be dealt with....(and) I believe that the people bringing them in - the traffickers - are to be taken by surprise. That's the only way we are going to end this," she said.

President Préval said Jamaica stood to benefit if Haiti was made a more stable democracy, "because if we continue to be a weak state, weapons will continue to come into the country to kill Jamaicans."

In a study published in 2005, the Small Arms Survey estimated that as many as 170,000 small arms are held illegally in Haiti (the total population is 8.3 million), and later the same year, the UK's Control Arms Campaign called for a new international Arms Trade Treaty, based on the principles of international law, to help reduce the human cost of irresponsible arms transfers. As part of the campaign, Oxfam GB produced a report entitled, 'The Call for Tough Arms Control : Voices from Haiti.' This report noted that "Haiti produces no firearms itself except for home-made 'Creole' guns which are usually crude handguns or rifles made from old ones. Most arms are smuggled into Haiti from neighbouring countries in the region, including from the USA."

On his return to from Jamaica to Haiti President Préval made an annual address to the National Assembly (Parliament) during which he said Haiti remained a "victim of drug-consuming countries", accusing the United States in particular of not doing enough to help to fight the illegal trade. Most of the marijuana smuggled into Haiti from Jamaica, as well as the cocaine coming in from Colombia and Venezuela, is destined for the North American market.

Renewing a criticism that he made during his first presidential term (1996-2001), Préval accused drug-consuming countries of blaming Haiti for failing to stop drug-trafficking, while doing little to boost the country's weak defences. He said, "A lot of crimes happening in the country are connected to drugs. But everybody knows that Haiti doesn't produce drugs. Haiti isn't a big consumer of drugs. ... Haiti is the victim of drug-consuming countries, mainly the United States."

During 2006 there were indications that marijuana from Jamaica was being smuggled into Haiti en route to the United States in ever-greater quantities. At the beginning of November, Jamaican police seized 1,598 pounds of compressed marijuana with an estimated street value of US\$570,000 in separate operations in Kingston and Portland. "Six hundred and thirty pounds were found along the Manchioneal beach in Portland, waiting to be picked up by a boat," according to Carlton Wilson, head of the local Narcotics Division. Wilson added, "We understand that from time to time go-fast boats are used to pick up drugs in Manchioneal and transport them to Haiti or the Bahamas." On the same day, police detected a stash of compressed marijuana, packed in the flooring of a 40-foot container at the terminal in Kingston.

On December 16th police arrested two men and seized 40 parcels of compressed marijuana on the beach at Leath in the parish of St Thomas. The police believed that the men were about to depart by boat with the marijuana, with the intention of delivering the drugs to Haiti. [ca apr 06/02/2007 13:00]

**Government plans to strip Dominican nationality from children of Haitian descent, Jesuits say**  
**The Dominican Today**  
**February 8, 2007**

SANTO DOMINGO. - The Jesuit Service for Refugees and Migrants (SJRM) denounced that some government agencies plan to strip the Dominican nationality from thousands of children and minors of Haitian ancestry, with which a massive persecution against Haitian immigrants could begin in the Dominican Republic.

"It concerns us that they are counting children and young Dominicans of Haitian ancestry, as well as those who are not Haitian," states in a document released yesterday Wednesday the SJRM, of the Company of Jesus, a religious congregation of the Catholic Church.

According to the document, signed by the priests Jose Núñez and Regino Martínez Bretón, if those alleged plans are carried out it would be a flagrant violation by the negation of those children's rights to a name and a nationality, aside from constituting an international scandal, that the Dominican Government doesn't recognize its own citizens.

The document points out that several days ago the media published a report on a alleged probe by the National Investigations Department (DNI), for the Central Electoral Board (JCE), on alleged forgery of cédulas, adding that from the conclusions made public, "more than one million Haitians have managed to obtain fraudulently, with the "assistance" of NGOs, churches and international organizations, birth certificates and electoral identity cards (cedulas)."

"In view of this, the SJRM believes that it's important to stress some elements that are derived from that conclusion of the report, attributed to that intelligence organism," it states.

## **New U.S. aid to create more youth jobs in Haitian slum**

**The United States said it will give Haiti \$20 million to curb gang violence in the Cité Soleil slum.**

**BY PABLO BACHELET**

**Miami Herald**

**February 2, 2007**

WASHINGTON - The United States will provide Haiti with \$20 million to create more youth jobs in a gang-ridden slum in the capital that is testing the government's ability to bring peace to the country.

Nicholas Burns, undersecretary of state for political affairs, made the announcement Thursday after a meeting of 21 countries and multilateral institutions that have contributed troops or money to Haiti.

Burns said the group also agreed to ask the United Nations Security Council to renew the mandate of the 8,400-member blue-helmet peacekeeping force for an additional year. The decision is expected later this month.

"Violence in Port-au-Prince is an important and very serious issue," Burns said at a press briefing, with Haitian Foreign Minister Jean-Raynald Clerisme at his side. "And we understand that Cité Soleil in particular is a place where there are many challenges for the Haitian government."

Special U.N. envoy to Haiti Edmond Mulet, a Guatemalan diplomat, said security was better today than it was a year or two ago but nonetheless painted a grim picture of marauding gangs terrorizing civilians in urban areas when he addressed on Wednesday the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank.

He vowed to eradicate violence and gangs from the Cité Soleil slum in Haiti by July. Cité Soleil, where ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is still popular, remains a no-go zone for security forces even as the gang activity spreads to other Port-au-Prince neighborhoods, and some rural communities.

As early as a year ago Haitian police officials complained that the gangs were moving out of Cité Soleil and into Port-au-Prince neighborhoods like Martissant. Last fall, both Haitian and UN authorities launched a program to disarm up to 1,000 gang members.

UN peacekeepers are coming under fire every day, Mulet said, and 24 have died since the mission began in 2004.

He said last summer the UN security mission worked out a plan with Haitian authorities that was "working wonders" in returning security to Port-au-Prince before troops had to be redeployed into the countryside for provincial and municipal elections Dec. 3.

In December, following a surge in kidnappings of school-age children, the UN and Haiti stepped up efforts going after bandits and kidnappers where they lived.

The 6,000-member Haitian National Police is undergoing a vetting process to root out members linked to gangs. Mulet said he expects about 1,000 officers will be fired after the process is completed.

Mulet also cited an "extremely corrupt" judicial system and rising drug trafficking as major challenges.

On the same day as Mulet's visit, Organization of American States Secretary General José Miguel Insulza reiterated the importance of international agencies coordinating their efforts.

Miami Herald staff writer Jacqueline Charles contributed to this report.

## **American missionary kidnapped in Haiti**

**Associated Press**

**The Houston Chronicle**

**February 5, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Armed kidnappers seized an American missionary as he left his church near Haiti's capital and have demanded a ransom for his release, U.N. police said Monday.

Nathan Jean-Bieubonne, a U.S. citizen of Haitian descent, was snatched Sunday afternoon as he and three others drove home from church in Croix-de-Bouquets, a suburb of Port-au-Prince, U.N. police spokesman Fred Blaise said.

The kidnappers surrounded Jean-Bieubonne's all-terrain vehicle and forced him out at gunpoint while leaving the other three passengers, Blaise said.

"The men who kidnapped him are in touch with the family to demand the ransom," Blaise said, declining to discuss the amount.

Blaise said a U.N. anti-kidnapping task force was working with Haitian police to recover Jean-Bieubonne, whose hometown in the U.S. and church denomination were not immediately available.

## **CANADA ANNOUNCES IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO TWO KEY HAITI SECURITY PROGRAMS**

**Press Release - Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada  
February 6, 2007**

The Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, today announced that Canada will contribute \$10 million to Haiti's National Police Reform Programme and Community Security Programme. Both projects will address ongoing security challenges in that country.

"Canada has been a leader in efforts to improve the overall situation in Haiti for some time," said Minister MacKay, in his address to the joint Brazil-Canada seminar on the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in Brasilia today. "This latest contribution by Canada's New Government is yet further testament to our commitment to the region. Progress in police reform, gains in the fight against criminal gangs and an overall reduction in violence will help lead Haiti on the path to peace and sustainable development."

The \$5 million contribution to the Police Reform Programme, made to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), will fund the construction and outfitting of a new building for the Inspectorate General as well as provide other fundamental tools to the Haitian police services.

The \$5 million contribution to the Community Security Programme will be made to the UNDP to help improve security in the communities most affected by gang violence. Through the creation of Committees for the Prevention of Violence for Development, communities will implement strategies to reduce the influence of armed groups, prevent conflict and provide counselling to victims of violence and former gang members. The committee will also define and implement new social programs. The \$10 million contribution is part of a \$15 million contribution announced last June to support efforts in Haiti through the Global Peace and Security Fund.

## **Urban agriculture in Haiti facing lack of infrastructure**

**Monday, February 5, 2007**

**by Vario Sérant**

**Caribbean Net News**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: In Haiti, agriculture represents 25% of gross domestic product (GDP) and it constitutes the main activity of the rural people. An urban and peripheral urban agriculture develops alongside towns, but faces all kinds of difficulties.

"Activities are not good. But we have no better choice if we want to nourish our children," said a retailer of vegetables grown by herself at the principal public market in Port-au-Prince, Croix-des-Bossales.

Before devoting herself to this trade, Ghislaine survived by alternating the activities of cleaning lady and horticulturalist, in her native township of Kenscoff, east of Port-au-Prince.

The production of vegetables constitutes the essence of urban agriculture in Haiti. In fact, it is a question of growing vegetables out of pot, much like flower-growing in other countries.

According to the agronomist Gilles Damais, who has been working in Haiti for several years for a French engineering and design organisation, urban agriculture is found mainly in the most populous districts. "One places the pots on the roof of the houses. They profit at the same time from an excellent sunny climate - since there is no shade - and precipitation when it rains. One irrigates in the dry season."

Urban agriculture in Haiti involves private, NGO and the international co-operation initiatives. A project was observed a few years ago in Cité Soleil, the largest shantytown in the country.

Another experiment in Gonaïves, a city located in the northern part of Port-au-Prince, aims at developing small kitchen-gardens a little larger than tyres in an urban environment.

Gilles Damais also mentions a private initiative by a contractor who undertakes hydroponic agriculture in an urban environment and who sells products of great quality, but very expensive, in some supermarkets.

The production resulting from these urban gardens is extremely marginal, explains the agronomist. "It is made initially for domestic consumption, namely the person who cultivates on the roof of her house will use vegetables for her daily food supply, but can also sell a part of her production to buy, for example, produce seeds, which are relatively expensive."

Besides urban agriculture, a culture much more important takes place alongside cities. It consists of the production of perishable goods, vegetables in particular, which are sent to the consumer markets very close to the Haitian capital.

According to Gilles Damais, this (peripheral urban) agriculture is carried out in two complementary areas in terms of eco-systems: a plain zone (La Plaine du Cul de Sac, located at the north of Port-au-Prince) and an altitude zone (Kenscoff, located in the east of the capital).

In the hot zone (the plain zone), "one finds onions, tomatoes and leafy vegetables, which are in fact spinach or amaranth (which is consumed at the local level)." In the mountain area (between 800 and 1,600 meters in altitude), "one also finds leeks, cabbages, carrots and a little bit of potato," states the agronomist.

Counter to urban agriculture, the peripheral urban culture constitutes, in terms of income generation, an important activity for the population which lives in these peripheral urban zones. The value of this peripheral urban agriculture is estimated at forty million US dollars annually.

Gilles Damais points to competition on the land as a major constraint to the development of peripheral urban agriculture. "If one is a small farmer with a very small plot of land, and one sees the price of land multiplying in the space of a few years, one is strongly tempted to sell his small piece of ground, to settle either in the peripheral urban or the urban zone, to live on his revenue, to finance, with the proceeds of the sale of land, the emigration of a child or the schooling of the others."

This situation involves, underlines Damais, a considerable reduction of the surface devoted to this (peripheral urban) agriculture. Another difficulty increasingly added to this panorama is, according to the agronomist, the absence of a production plan. "One has more and more difficulty to structure production and the flow of the products in this peripheral urban area," says Damais.

The market of peripheral urban agriculture in addition faces vigorous competition from increasing bulk imports coming from the Dominican Republic (which shares a common border with Haiti). "A few years ago, Haiti exported potatoes to the Dominican Republic. Today, Haiti imports a major part of its potato consumption from the Dominican Republic," notes Damais.

Finally, the specialist points to a lack of infrastructure, which prevents the regular delivery to the markets of products of quality, and at the same time resulting in significant losses at the time of marketing. "One can sometimes see in certain public markets in the capital, the perishable aspect of the products. The tomatoes are crushed, the leek leaves have started to rot, the cabbages have rotted in storage."

Damais thinks that it would be necessary to invest in market infrastructure in order to allow better conservation of perishable vegetable. For example, the cleaning up of the public markets of the capital and the setting-up of a cold storage, inevitably not sophisticated, would help the peripheral urban producers to satisfy better the urban consumers, emphasises Damais.

## **CARICOM welcomes World Bank decision to provide grants to Haiti**

**Monday, February 5, 2007**

**Caribbean Net News**

GEORGETOWN, Guyana: The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has welcomed last week's announcement by the World Bank that its Board of Executive Directors had discussed a new Interim Strategy for Haiti.

This projects financial assistance of up to US\$82 million in grants over the next 18 months to support Haiti's development agenda as well as two grants for a total of US\$28 million to support economic governance reform (US\$23 million) and water and sanitation in rural areas (US\$5 million).

The Caribbean Community said it is particularly pleased at the quote attributed to Caroline Antsey, the World Bank Director for the Caribbean, that the Bank's interim strategy supports the Haitian Government's efforts to strengthen governance and deliver quick and visible benefits to the Haitian people.

The Community has previously called on the international community to release funds earmarked for Haiti and in response to the immediate needs of the Government of Haiti. CARICOM said it therefore looks forward to the release of the funds announced as well as those pledged by other members of the international community.

For its part, the Caribbean Community has said it will continue to support the development needs of its Member States, including Haiti and looks forward to continued and new partnerships with members of the international community to this end.

**Peru asks Security Council to prolong UN Haiti force**  
**Caribbean Net News**  
**Monday, February 5, 2007**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK: Peru has asked the UN Security Council to extend for another year the international UN stabilization force MINUSTAH that has been in Haiti since 2004, the UN announced.

Peru submitted a draft resolution asking the mandate of MINUSTAH be extended until February 15, 2008.

The mandate of MINUSTAH's 7,200 soldiers and 2,000 police was extended in August for six months and expires February 15.

The draft says the Security Council "acknowledges with appreciation that MINUSTAH has successfully completed most of its mission in support of the electoral process and calls on MINUSTAH to draw on this momentum, consistent with its mandate, to assist Haitian authorities to strengthen institutional capacity."

The draft says that the council "requests that MINUSTAH continue the increased tempo of operations in support of the (Haitian National Police) against armed gangs as deemed necessary to restore security, notably in Port-au-Prince."

Over two decades, Haiti has suffered from political violence and instability, notably since the resignation of then-president Jean Bertrand Aristide in February 2004 amid a popular uprising.

Some UN members pressed for a six-month extension for the peacekeeping mission, while Thursday's contact group meeting of 15 countries and seven international organizations - including a representative of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon - unanimously backed leaving the force in place for a year.

The UN force, under Brazilian command, last month carried out a series of raids targeting gangs in Cite Soleil, sparking gun battles that left 17 people dead in the sprawling slum.

More than half of the Caribbean island's 8.4 million people live on one dollar a day, according to UN officials.

**U.S. Reporting on the Coup Haiti**  
**How to Turn a Priest into a Cannibal**  
**By DIANA BARAHONA**  
**Counterpunch**  
**Weekend Edition**  
**February 3 / 4, 2007**

When Haiti's wealthy elites removed President Jean Bertrand Aristide from office in a February 2004 coup, they had the help of the Bush administration, as well as that of the French and Canadian governments. But they also had help from the U.S. press, which helped publicize a carefully planned narrative to justify the overthrow.

I have always been interested in how a supposedly independent press so often manages to report on foreign affairs from the point of view of the State Department. What are the mechanisms by which the government's narrative ends up being the frame for stories about U.S. military interventions and CIA-backed coups in the Americas? Who are the foreign correspondents and how do they learn the "correct" way to report on a given crisis? Journalist Michael Deibert reported as a special correspondent in Haiti during the crisis, contributing to or authoring 16 stories, which were first published in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel and then in Newsday. I chose to look at the stories of just one foreign correspondent because together they provide a perfect example of framing techniques used by the press to create acquiescence towards the coup, or at least to confuse the public.

The narrative

Every overthrow of a government begins with a narrative. Its purpose is to justify the military removal of a president by telling the world that he is bad and unpopular among the majority of the people. Another way of presenting it is that the leader is the cause of a problem—a crisis—and that the only solution is a change of government. Formulated by Stanley Lucas, a Haitian-American employee of the International Republican Institute, and Otto Reich, at the time a special envoy to the Western Hemisphere for the NSA, the narrative was repeated by spokesmen for the official foreign-financed political opposition as well as by NGOs funded by the United States, France and Canada. All that was needed was for the press to adopt the narrative as its own frame. Here is one version of the narrative (March 4, Newsday): "Haiti's poor majority initially saw Aristide as something of a savior, first electing him president in 1990. In recent years, his popularity fell amid allegations that he tolerated corruption and used armed gangs to suppress dissent."

Another variation on the theme of lost support was given while reporting on Aristide's forced exile (March 1, Newsday): "Haiti's first democratically elected president, who in recent years had been accused of corruption, human rights abuses and ineptitude, apparently flew out of the capital undetected about 6:45 a.m. in a U.S.-provided jet after losing the support not only of many Haitians, but of his chief international backers."

And finally, "Aristide, who was elected for a second time as Haiti's president in December 2000, fled into exile Feb. 29 after months of large street protests against what critics charged was his increasingly violent and corrupt rule" (Mar. 8, Newsday).

The authors' repeated assertion that Aristide had lost popularity and support is patently false. He won the 2000 election with 90 percent of votes cast, and a 2002 USAID-commissioned Gallup poll showed that over 60% of the populace still supported the president. Even going by the action in the streets, witnesses to the demonstrations say that for every anti-Aristide protest there was a much larger pro-Aristide demonstration.

### Questionable legitimacy

Part of the process of undermining Aristide was to question the legitimacy of his tenure as president. Implicit in the narratives cited above is the idea that Aristide only wanted power; the idea that he felt obligated to defend the country's fledgling constitutional democracy is never mentioned. To the contrary, the authors of the articles use the word "constitutional" to describe the manner in which Aristide was replaced:

McClellan said Washington remains "committed to working with our international partners toward a peaceful, constitutional and democratic solution." That was an apparent reference to news reports that the administration wants Aristide to resign in favor of his constitutionally designated successor, Supreme Court Chief Justice Boniface Alexandre (Ken Fireman, Newsday, Feb. 28).

After McClellan's quote, the authors go on to use the word constitutional in every subsequent reference to Alexandre. In this way, Aristide is made to be illegitimate, and his refusal to cede to the unconstitutional demand that he resign is portrayed as the stubbornness of a dictator. The authors reinforce this idea of illegitimate rule by twice referring to Aristide's government as a "regime" (Jan. 1, Mar. 1), and by repeatedly calling him "dictatorial." They use the expression, "corrupt and dictatorial" four times and "despotic" once. Even people who fought against the coup are delegitimized by calling them "Aristide's die-hard supporters" (Feb. 28), as if their resistance were irrational. According to Deibert, after the coup, supporters hoped he would "return to power," not "complete his term as president," as Haiti's 1987 constitution required.

### Armed gangs

The slur that the press used most often against Aristide was that he used "armed street gangs" to attack opponents in order to hold onto power, implying that he had created the gangs and gave them orders. The authors use variations on the expression, "pro-Aristide gangs" 14 times and "pro-Aristide thugs" twice. Here is one way Deibert describes them: "Behind the National Palace, pro-Aristide gang members known as chimeres lounged with assault rifles and beer bottles."

Aristide supporters don't call themselves "chimeres;" the term is used by lighter skinned and wealthy Haitians to dehumanize poor, dark and insubordinate Haitians. Contrast the above description with this description of the Group of 184, organized with help from the International Republican Institute to force Aristide out of office: "a coalition of private sector, civic, peasant and labor organizations and university students." And here is the description of the Democratic Platform: "a coalition representing a broad base of political, civic, education and peasant organizations."

The many references to armed gangs leaves the impression that they are Aristide's only supporters, especially when similar language is used to describe pro-government demonstrators. For example, both

gangs and demonstrators are described as young males: "On Monday, several thousand young, mostly male Aristide partisans staged a raucous protest in support of the president throughout the capital" (Dec. 31, 2003, Sun-Sentinel). The articles do not try to correct this confusion of supporters and gangsters; for that matter, how does Deibert define a gang? The coup may have been a surprise to the outside world, but the Haitian people knew from bitter experience what the end game was, and had every legal and moral right to defend their government and themselves from the bloodbath they knew was coming. A quote from the Jan. 1 Sun-Sentinel article makes this plain: "Groups of young men from shantytowns formed a noisy barrier in front of the nation's National Palace to prevent what they said was an imminent coup d'etat."

Here is a paragraph that reinforces the claim that Aristide "used armed gangs" against his opponents, showing them as menacing:

On Sunday, pickup trucks were seen leaving the capital's Canape Vert police station with their plates removed and full of armed men, and other pickups with identification removed circled on the outskirts of the march route carrying young male Aristide supporters (Jan. 12, Sun-Sentinel).

Deibert's vivid descriptions of Aristide supporters-"roam[ing] through Haiti's capital," "bands of Aristide loyalists armed with clubs," "stopp[ing] motorists at blockades of flaming tires, robbing some, hijacking cars and shooting suspected opponents"-seem calculated to play on white fear, especially in the absence of reports on the attacks against Lavalas that were occurring during that period. In fact, when rebels took the city of Cap-Haitien, it was described not as a blow against Haiti's democracy but a "rapid victory" (Feb. 24, Newsday). No casualties are reported, implying that Haiti's second-largest city fell without violence.

Deibert had nothing to do with the following black propaganda story, but it fits into the theme of Aristide and his supporters as savages. On May 10, 2004, singer and political activist Annette Auguste "So Anne" was violently arrested by U.S. marines, and in the following month was publicly accused by a woman of having invited her to President Aristide's house in 2000, where the woman said she witnessed the sacrifice of a baby. According to the woman's story, this sacrifice was to ensure that Aristide stayed in office for his full five year term (Aristide wasn't even president at the time). This unusual charge brought out into the open what until then had only been implied: that government supporters were naked savages dancing around a boiling kettle, preparing to eat the white men-with Aristide as their chief.

#### Use of sources

The easiest way for any journalist to express his own bias is through the use of sources. By using some sources and not others, selecting quotes that support a bias and presenting those quotes first, the journalist speaks through his sources. In the articles examined, Aristide's opponents are always quoted first, allowing them to make outrageous charges such as this one: "He burns children in their homes; he destroys human rights; he must go!" Through the uncritical repetition of charges, the authors accuse Aristide of corruption no less than 14 times, and political assassination twice. They quote unnamed "critics" accusing Aristide of drug trafficking a total of four times: "Human rights groups accused him of ordering killings of political opponents and of involvement in drug trafficking, charges that Aristide denied" (Mar. 1, Newsday). Deibert's preferred source is millionaire sweatshop owner Andy Apaid, followed by sweatshop owner Charles Baker, never identified as such in the press. Deibert uncritically quotes U.S.-trained paramilitary leader Guy Philippe, who claimed that "Aristide supporters were

conducting alleged massacres in towns they hold." (Notice Philippe's use of transference-Aristide supporters and the Haitian police "hold" towns, as if they are the invaders and not Philippe's men.)

Most of these allegations are libelous, and they would never have been published if they had been about a U.S. citizen. A journalist who quotes a person making an unsubstantiated charge is just as responsible for the libel as the person quoted, and you don't get out of it by saying that the object of the allegation denies it, or by using the word, "alleged." Only in foreign reporting do reporters get away with these journalistic crimes.

In the same way a journalist can present a source sympathetically, thus making him more credible, he can also discredit a source by presenting the person as uneducated or belonging to a radical group. In two instances the stories follow up on anti-Aristide statements by quoting supporters from radical organizations, providing a contrast to the respectable-sounding names of the opposition groups:

At a gate of the palace, hundreds of people noisily demonstrated their support for Aristide. "We chose Aristide for five years!" shouted Freline Zephirin, an activist with a group called Radical Women in Action. "We will defend him to the death!" (Feb. 25, Newsday)

"All were not pleased, [about the coup] however. Watching from a street corner as marchers filtered downtown, David Oxygene, an electrician and spokesman for the Young Revolutionaries of Haiti, a left-wing pro-Aristide group, said he was disturbed to see foreign troops in his country" (Mar. 8, Newsday).

### Transference

On Jan. 1, in an article about Haiti's bicentennial celebrations, Deibert employs the technique of transference to impute the opposition's methods and motives to the president. Even though it was the opposition that was engaged in a campaign to the finish to take power, by naming him first in the following sentence, Deibert implies that Aristide was the aggressor: "Jean Bertrand Aristide is locked in a take-no-prisoners struggle with his domestic political opposition." The opposition wasn't above launching an armed assault to seize power, but the articles convey the impression that the only attacks are carried out by "pro-Aristide gangs." As mentioned above, paramilitaries who were taking towns and who had committed atrocities in the past accused Aristide supporters of the same.

### Civil society

The government attempted to mark the bicentennial of Haiti's independence in the midst of protests and rebel attacks. In the article about the celebrations (Jan. 1, Sun-Sentinel), Deibert expands on the theme of Aristide's alleged loss of support. He makes the patently false claim that Aristide has lost support of his poor base as well as introducing outrageous allegations to explain why the poor have turned against him:

Combined with a deepening poverty among the poor majority, as well as a political class increasingly bloated on drug money, segments that had formed Aristide's base during his first tenure in office, peasants, women's organizations, the urban poor and students, have found themselves increasingly at odds with what they see is the government's corruption and thuggery.

In the listing of groups that have turned against Aristide, we see a classic formula, perfected from decades of CIA-backed interventions going back to post-WWII Italy: the civic opposition. Composed of business groups, the clergy, student groups, labor unions and "human rights" groups, the civic opposition is a theater show put on for the international audience through the medium of the foreign press. Look at these diverse organizations, says the press: everybody wants the president to step down. But look behind all of the civic-sounding names and you have organizations, such as the labor group Batay Ouvriye, which received generous funding from the U.S. government, and the National Coalition for Haitian Rights, generously funded by the Canadians.

### The numbers game

Deibert makes use of the quantifier, "thousands," as well as metaphors and adjectives to convey the idea that the Aristide opposition is large. Opposition protests are "huge." The opposition is a "swelling tide of protests around the country" and a "groundswell of popular discontent." The invasion of a few hundred mercenaries is transformed into an "uprising" and a "popular rebellion," as if the population itself had joined in the campaign. Supporters of the president, although they make up the vast majority of the population, are reduced through minimizing language to isolated groups or individuals: "Despite those accusations, Aristide still had the support of many." This last statement is backed up by quoting a barber. After the coup the only supporters visible to the press were "die-hard supporters," "gunmen" and "chimeres."

### Blame the victim

The authors report the economic crisis caused by a U.S.-led aid embargo in the passive voice, as if it were an unfortunate weather event: "Following the disputed May 2000 elections, \$500 million in international aid was suspended." The suffering of Haiti's people, intentionally brought on by the aid embargo, must therefore be Aristide's fault because of his "ineptitude," or because he squandered what little money the government did receive: "Aristide's critics counter that any resources he did receive - and they accuse him of getting some money from drug trafficking - were squandered and used to pay high-priced lobbyists to sell his image as a man of the people" (Feb. 29, Newsday). The president is also held responsible for political killings, as well as the general climate of violence that was in fact created by the opposition.

### Omission: Reporting one side of the story

While the authors dutifully report every accusation the opposition makes against Aristide, the government is seldom given the opportunity to respond to them. Except for this quote from a Lavalas spokesman at the end of an article, there is no other direct quote from a government source: 'Where do these rebels come from? Who is the principal architect of this situation? That is the principal question everyone in Haiti is asking,' said Jonas Petit, spokesman for Aristide's Lavalas party. 'We are observing hundreds of people coming from the Dominican Republic with arms. This question is an international question.'

For balance, Deibert quotes human rights lawyer Brian Concannon (Jan. 1, Sun-Sentinel), but this is in the context of the cutoff of international aid, not the crisis at hand. Concannon is talking about Haiti's

long-term needs when it would have been more relevant for Deibert to ask him whether demands for Aristide's resignation were legal or justified by any crimes committed by the president. Nowhere in the 16 articles does Deibert quote a government official regarding the serious charges against Aristide that the authors repeat in the articles-that he is "corrupt and dictatorial," attacks political opponents and deals in drugs.

Another omission is the scant coverage of the paramilitary invasion force that drove Aristide out of the country. Led by Guy Philippe, Louis Jodel Chamblain, and Jean Tatoune, the well-armed group included former members of the disbanded Haitian army. To their credit, the authors twice mention Chamblain's participation in a 1994 massacre, but we don't read a lot about Philippe, an admirer of Augusto Pinochet who had carried out multiple deadly attacks over the past two years. Deibert doesn't mention the fact that the mercenaries have U.S.-made weapons even though he was present at a press conference by Philippe, nor does he seem to be asking the obvious question: Who is behind the invasion?

An interesting side story was a January 1, 2004 report about a "formerly pro-Aristide" gang based in Gonaives called the Cannibal Army, which joined up with Philippe's forces and changed its name to the Artibonite Resistance Front. This information is true, but the way it is presented may have given the impression that Aristide was connected to the Cannibal Army, of which there is no more evidence than there is for the other allegations made about him.

In spite of relatively mild treatment of the rebels in the press (reporter Jane Regan eulogized them) it was impossible to completely sanitize these groups led by gross human rights violators, and the civic opposition denied any links to them. Andy Apaid disingenuously claimed, "We feel trapped between two [groups], an armed movement coming from the north, and an armed movement coming from the terrorizing and criminal government in the National Palace." Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Walt Bogdanich actually investigated how the invasion had been planned and executed, and to nobody's surprise, both the U.S. government and the Democratic Convergence/Group of 184 were behind it.

The rebels quickly disappeared from the news, but they didn't disappear from Haiti. Their murder of thousands of Lavalas supporters (estimated in a study at 4,000) was the most thoroughly censored story of 2004.

Regarding support for the civic opposition and the rebels, who reportedly were welcomed with "euphoria" by thousands of Haitians filling the streets, here are the results of the February 2006 elections, according to AP: "The businessman Charles Henri Baker was third with 7.8 percent. Guy Philippe, who helped lead the armed uprising against Aristide, won only 1.7 percent." Did anybody call for a recount?

It is impossible to say whether any establishment reporter intentionally promotes the State Department line, or whether he has internalized the world view of the ruling class. But it doesn't matter in the end because a reporter is not independent of his publication. According to filmmaker Kevin Pina, working in Haiti for seven years, a prominent journalist who was reporting in Haiti at the time said about his editors, "Hey, I am sorry but they are not interested in positive stories about Lavalas. I wrote it, submitted it and they told me they were not interested." So it appears that the editors, who answer to

their publishers, know in advance what kind of story the publisher wants. Even if they don't have a Michael Deibert to file that story, they will find someone else to do it.

Diana Barahona is a freelance journalist with an interest in Latin America. She can be contacted through [www.freehaiti.net](http://www.freehaiti.net) or [www.haitianalysis.com](http://www.haitianalysis.com)  
Unnamed experts on Haiti provided invaluable help with this article.

## References

Michael Deibert Special Correspondent. Demonstrations Against Aristide Gaining Momentum in Haiti. South Florida Sun - Sentinel, December 31, 2003.

Michael Deibert Special Correspondent. Information from The Associated Press was used to supplement this report. Haitians Mark 2 Centuries as Nation Bicentennial Finds World's First Black Republic Mired in Poverty, Torn by Political Violence. South Florida Sun - Sentinel, January 1, 2004.

Michael Deibert Special Correspondent . Violence Disrupts Revelry in Haiti  
Anit-Aristide Marches Overwhelm Parties on Nations's Bicentennial President Calls for Patience, Unity as Dignitaries Visit. South Florida Sun - Sentinel, January 2, 2004.

Michael Deibert. Two Killed, 23 Injured as Haitian Protesters Press Aristide to Quit. South Florida Sun - Sentinel, January 8, 2004.

Michael Deibert Special Correspondent. Information from EFE News was used to supplement this report. Masses March Against Aristide Tens of Thousands Demand Resignation of Haitian President Leader Scheduled to Attend Special Summit in Mexico. South Florida Sun - Sentinel, January 12, 2004.

Michael Deibert, Aristide Loyalists Flee. Newsday, February 23, 2004.

Michael Deibert. Insurgency in Haiti / Girding for siege / Aristide loyalists prepare to defend the capital as rebels close in and diplomats seek a peaceful solution. Newsday, February 24, 2004.

Michael Deibert. No Peace in Haiti / Aristide braces for rebel assault. Newsday, February 25, 2004.

Tina Susman. Staff Correspondent, Special correspondent Michael Deibert contributed to this story. Haiti peace deal rejected: As foreigners flee, the capital braces for rebel attacks amid fears of anarchy and vows Aristide will stay. Newsday, February 26, 2004.

Ken Fireman. Washington Bureau, Special correspondent Michael Deibert in Port-au-Prince contributed to this story. Pushing Aristide to go / Bush administration goes public in urging him to step down, and prepares plans to send peacekeepers. Newsday, February 28, 2004.

Tina Susman. Staff Correspondent, Special correspondent Michael Deibert contributed to this story from Port-au-Prince. Behind Aristide's long slide / As chaos continues to reign in impoverished island

nation, Haitians debate how much blame their president must shoulder for the mess. Newsday, February 29, 2004.

Tina Susman and Michael Deibert, Aristide departs, Marines move in / UN approves U.S. - led mission to restore peace as fragmented opposition groups in Haiti battle for political influence. Newsday, March 1, 2004.

Tina Susman. Staff Correspondent, Special correspondent Michael Deibert contributed to this story. Thousands gleefully greet rebel army. Newsday, March 2, 2004.

Michael Deibert and Tina Susman. Rebel vows to disarm: Leader meets with U.S. ambassador and then announces his forces will lay down their weapons. Newsday, March 4, 2004.

Michael Deibert. Gunmen fire upon rally / As thousands of people gather to cheer Aristide's exile, shots, allegedly from his backers, leave 5 dead. Newsday, March 8, 2004.

Michael Deibert Special Correspondent. This story was supplemented with wire service reports. Aristide's Jamaica visit prompts Haiti protest. Newsday, March 16, 2004.

## **Haitian Candidate Seeks to Add His Voice**

**Ruby Washington/**

**The New York Times**

**By JONATHAN P. HICKS**

**February 5, 2007**

As a television in a corner of a small, cozy Haitian restaurant in Brooklyn played a comedy in Creole, Dr. Mathieu Eugene spoke about his quest to become the first Haitian-born member of the New York City Council.

West Indian groups are prevalent in the 40th City Council District, where there is a race to replace Councilwoman Yvette D. Clarke, who was elected to Congress in November. The candidates include, clockwise from top left, Jennifer N. James, 34; Jesse E. Hamilton III, 44; Wellington Sharpe, 62; and Joel G. Toney, 61.

“Has the time come?” Dr. Eugene said, repeating a question that he has been asked frequently during the past few weeks. “Yes, I believe the time has come. We Haitians have been participating in the political system for some time, and we have helped others get into elective office. Many people believe that it’s our turn. And they look at this as a historic and important moment.”

There are anywhere from 100,000 to 200,000 Haitian-Americans in New York, but no one with that background has been elected to the Council or the State Legislature.

Many Haitian-Americans in Brooklyn suggested that they have their best chance ever in Dr. Eugene, 54, a physician who is seeking to replace Yvette D. Clarke, who was elected to Congress in November.

In the complicated Caribbean politics of central Brooklyn, Ms. Clarke, who is of Jamaican descent, has decided to endorse Dr. Eugene, forsaking the Jamaican candidates in a race that has become a test of ethnic primacy among the fervently political West Indian groups that are prevalent in the district.

And just as Irish and later Jewish and Italian politicians clawed their way to political power by first capturing local offices in previous generations, the Caribbean groups are viewing this contest as a vehicle for showing their growing political clout.

“This race is significant because you have a lot of people from various Caribbean ancestries trying to get a seat or hold a seat at the political table,” said Michael Gaspard, a political consultant who has studied the race to succeed Ms. Clarke. “And it’s a sign of the Caribbean community coming of age in a significant political way.”

In an indication of how prized the seat is, the campaign leading up to the Feb. 20 special election initially drew 25 candidates, including people who claim ancestry from Barbados, Jamaica, Pakistan, Panama and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The cumbersome process of gathering petition signatures winnowed that original field down to 10 contenders, including one Jewish candidate, who could carry some of the district’s Jewish vote.

The seat, for the 40th City Council District, represents parts of Flatbush and Crown Heights, and has long been known as a hotbed of political activism over issues like police brutality and immigration rights.

Ms. Clarke's mother, Una, made history by becoming the first Jamaican-born member of the Council in 1991. And Yvette Clarke succeeded her mother in the Council before going to Congress this year.

Now, both mother and daughter, who are something of a political force in Brooklyn, have decided that it was time to repay the substantial Haitian support they have received over the years.

Dr. Eugene's candidacy represents a maturation of the often fractious Haitian political landscape in New York. During the 1960s, a large wave of Haitians came to the United States, seeking better opportunities when François Duvalier was the dictator of Haiti. Even after Mr. Duvalier's son, Jean-Claude, was overthrown in 1986, Haitians continued to flock to New York, many to flee Haiti's chronic famine and unemployment.

In 1980, there were about 50,000 Haitian-born New Yorkers, according to figures from the New York City Planning Commission. By 2000, that number had grown to nearly 100,000, the Planning Commission said. And Haitian-American civic associations now suggest that the number of New Yorkers of Haitian descent could be as high as 200,000.

Over the years, several Haitian candidates have run for office in New York, but none have been successful.

"Haitian people are interested in politics," said Henry Frank, the executive director of the Haitian Centers Council, a New York-based consortium of Haitian organizations. "And they brought that interest in politics from Haiti to New York."

Mr. Frank said that typically, several Haitian candidates run for an office and as a result, not one is able to get enough votes to win. "Here in New York, there was a lot of fighting among candidates in our community," he said. "That's the way of saying, too many chiefs and not enough Indians here."

So important was this seat to Haitian political and civic leaders that they had meetings to narrow the field of Haitian-American candidates. The group selected Ferdinand Zizi, a health care administrator, but he withdrew from the race while his petitions were being challenged, leaving Dr. Eugene as the sole Haitian running. Since then, his candidacy has received attention from media outlets in Haiti, which are following the race closely.

Whether Dr. Eugene, who also runs a nonprofit organization for young people, is successful in his quest to become the first Haitian-born council member remains to be seen, since he has some rather stiff competition among the nine other candidates.

Mohammad A. Razvi, 36, another of the 10 candidates, is a Pakistani-born businessman. He was campaigning in the Midwood neighborhood of Brooklyn.

Haitians in Brooklyn One rival is Jennifer N. James, 34, who worked as an aide to state Comptroller H. Carl McCall and as a fund-raiser for Ms. Clarke's congressional campaign. Ms. James, who is of Jamaican and Costa Rican heritage, has won several political endorsements.

Another candidate is Jesse E. Hamilton III, 44, a lawyer who ran unsuccessfully for the Assembly last year, but won a position as Democratic Party district leader. The District Council 37 labor union has endorsed Mr. Hamilton, who traces his roots to Barbados and the state of Georgia. Another is Zenobia McNally, 45, a businesswoman of Panamanian descent who ran against Ms. Clarke for the Council in 2005.

There is Jamaican-born Wellington Sharpe, 62, a businessman in the district who ran unsuccessfully for the State Senate in 2004. Another candidate is Joel G. Toney, 61, a former ambassador to the United Nations from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. They are among the top fund-raisers.

Other candidates are Mohammad A. Razvi, 36, a Pakistani-born businessman who runs a community center; Karlene A. Gordon, 46, a former public school teacher who was born in Jamaica; Leithland Rickie Tulloch, 44, a Jamaican-born longtime member of Community Board 17; and Harry L. Schiffman, 55, the director of government and community relations of Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, and the only white candidate in the race.

Under the City Charter, such special elections are nonpartisan races in which candidates are barred from running on the ballot lines of established political parties.

And a special election in February tends to be as unpredictable as the winter weather. With so many candidates running and so few voters expected to go to the polls, any of the 10 candidates makes a plausible case for victory.

Mr. Razvi, for example, has led the fund-raising, having collected more than \$100,000, of which \$62,000 was in public matching funds. Mr. Sharpe has been endorsed by well-known politicians like Representative Edolphus Towns. Ms. James has called upon her vast network of political friends. Others, like Mr. Hamilton, said that their previous candidacies had given them familiarity with voters.

"It's unpredictable because it's in the dead of winter and a candidate could win with 15 percent of the vote," said Mr. Gaspard, the political consultant. "Turnout will be extremely low, and any of them could squeeze this out. And that's what makes it intriguing."

**The Lancet publishes results of inquiry into potential conflict of interest  
Regret the Error, Canada  
February 5, 2007**

Human rights abuse and other criminal violations in Port-au-Prince, Haiti: a random survey of households was published online on Aug 31, 2006, and in print on Sept 2, 2006.<sup>1</sup> Within days, The Lancet was informed that co-author Athena Kolbe had previously written about Haiti as a journalist under the name of Lyn Duff. Because Kolbe had worked as a volunteer at an orphanage in Haiti founded by President Aristide and had written sympathetically about Aristide after he was deposed,<sup>2</sup> concerns were expressed about the paper's findings.

In response to credible allegations that one author's former activities might constitute an undisclosed conflict of interest, The Lancet began an inquiry.<sup>3</sup> The authors' institution, Wayne State University (Detroit, Michigan, USA) was asked to investigate the matter, and the issue was referred to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Eileen Trzcinski, Professor and Interim Director of Research at Wayne State University School of Social Work, audited 100 questionnaires selected by computerised randomisation. Outcome details on the original handwritten records corresponded with the project's computerised database. The overall distribution of rapes and murders were re-analysed according to alleged perpetrators, and the results agreed with the published findings. Outcomes were then compared by political affiliation of the interviewer and for Kolbe's own data (as an interviewer). Again, there was no evidence of systematic bias. On the basis of this investigation, The Lancet has confidence in Kolbe and Hutson's findings as published.

COPE recommended that readers should be made aware that Athena Kolbe had published as a reporter under the name of Lyn Duff, and that failure to disclose a separate name, under which relevant material had been published and cited in her Lancet paper, constitutes an undeclared conflict of interest. The Lancet's position on transparent disclosure of potential conflicts of interest is in accordance with guidelines established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.<sup>4</sup> The Lancet has made this position prominently available to readers<sup>5</sup> and to authors,<sup>6</sup> and stated clearly that incomplete disclosures will be amended in a published statement in the Department of Error section, which will also be linked electronically to the publication in electronic databases. Such a correction for this study appears in today's Lancet.

To realise their full potential to benefit populations, research findings must influence practice. Intelligent debate of scientific misconduct. It is unfortunate, however, that in this case much of the debate was aimed at exploiting historical divisions in Haiti. That process has obscured the message of Kolbe and Hutson's research and detracted from the real issue-the welfare of civilians in Haiti-to whom attention should now turn.

**Cops hold suspects in Haiti/Jamaica drug for gun trade**  
**Jamaica Observer**  
**Saturday, February 03, 2007**

THE police believe they have made a dent in the in the operations of a guns for drug trade operating between Jamaica and its Caribbean neighbours Haiti, following an operation in Hampton, St Thomas Thursday night in which 11 people, including four foreigners were arrested. The 11 included 3 Jamaican women.

Three of the foreigners are Haitians and the other a Honduran, the police reported yesterday. One of the women held was said to be the wife of the Honduran.

According to Operation Kingfish, which conducted the operation, four handguns and a quantity of assorted ammunition were seized during the raid, in which members of the constabulary received assistance from the Jamaica Defence Force Airwing.

Information officer for Operation Kingfish, Inspector Steve Brown, said the operation would prove to be a major setback for the gun-runners.

"We suspect the Honduran to be a major player in the illegal activity and with his arrest and the arrest of the others we know that this will stem the tide of illegal arms which are flooding the island," Brown said.

Yesterday, top sleuths from Operation Kingfish were interrogating the suspected arms dealers.

Last year the police seized 675 illegal guns and 8,140 rounds of assorted ammunition. Included in the haul were 314 pistols, 165 homemade firearms, 123 revolvers and 26 assault rifles.

Just this week Commissioner Lucius Thomas vowed that the police would be moving to break the back of the guns for drugs trade on the islands coastal waters.

## **Canada ends Haiti investigation of troops**

**February 03, 2007**

**Other news, World**

**UPI, ImediNews**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (UPI) — Canada has dropped an investigation into allegations its troops harassed Haitian civilians, Canadian military officials said Friday.

The allegations against Canadian forces were made anonymously so they could not be followed up by investigators, Canada's CanWest news service reported.

Canadian forces were part of an interim force led by U.S. Marines in February 2004 that arrived in Haiti as armed gunmen overran the country.

The rebel insurrection came ahead of the departure of then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

## **So that Haitians, and others, do not forget**

**By Gary Dzen**

**The Boston Globe**

**February 4, 2007**

Haitian photographer Daniel Morel takes a picture every time he opens his eyes.

Morel takes pictures of violent protests. He takes pictures of floods and of hungry children. He takes pictures of gang leaders' funerals.

"I capture life," said Morel. "There's no planning."

Morel has worked as a photojournalist in Haiti since 1986, for 14 years as the Associated Press resident journalist. His work has appeared in hundreds of newspapers and magazines. He will showcase his photography today at an exhibit titled "Facing our History!" organized by the Association of Haitian Women in Boston. "Daniel has a known history in Haiti," said Carline Desire, the association's executive director. "He's been involved in a lot of activities that shaped the country." Of Haitians transplanted here, she said: "Living here for so many years, we have become disconnected. This exhibit will get folks to reflect on their past."

Haiti has a complicated history of political uprisings, government coups, and abject poverty. Morel said his work is meant to get Haitians to reflect on some of their collective problems.

### **FACING OUR HISTORY: The photographs of Daniel Morel**

"Haiti is a troubled country," Morel said in a phone interview. "People in Haiti are trying to manage crisis every day. They don't have time for yesterday. Their life is talking about the next day and seeing what will happen."

There will be no captions on the 40 photos in Morel's exhibit. Morel wants observers to interpret the photos the way they are and discuss their meaning with others.

"I want people to think," he said. "I don't take pictures to take beautiful pictures. Each picture means something."

Desire estimates there are 25,000 Haitians in the Boston area and 85,000 in Massachusetts. She said the population as a whole does not like to reflect on the past because of Haiti's difficult history. (Morel agreed, saying a common criticism of his work is that it is too negative.)

"People get tired of seeing the negative, especially the young ones," said Desire. "It has taken a lot to bring the young folks to identify with their culture. It's been a struggle."

Morel, whose wife, Jane Regan, is a writer and a documentary filmmaker, insists his negative images invoke positive reactions, which is good for Haitians as a whole. Morel's exhibit has been shown all over Haiti, as well as in New York and New Jersey.

Yves Sanon , who's been a political activist in Haiti for 21 years and a vocal critic of US and UN involvement in the country, will participate in a roundtable discussion at the event. Morel will join that discussion.

The Association of Haitian Women provides programs such as housing assistance and adult education for Haitian women in the Dorchester area.

The "Facing our History!" exhibit starts at 4 p.m. at 330 Fuller St. , Dorchester.

**New UN forces arrive in Haiti**  
**Caribbean Net News, UPI**  
**Saturday, February 3, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (UPI): An additional 350 troops have been added to the UN peacekeeping force in Haiti, the United Nations said.

The Nepalese forces join some 7,000 multi-national troops led by Brazilian forces already in the embattled Caribbean nation trying to bring order to the country.

UN peacekeepers first arrived in Haiti in the spring of 2004 to take over from an interim force led by US Marines, which came to the island following the departure of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Armed gunmen had overrun the country, calling for the resignation of Aristide, who left the country in February 2004.

## **US backs year's extension of Haiti UN force**

**By David Gollust**

**Voice of America (VOA)**

**February 2, 2007**

The United States has endorsed a one-year extension of the mandate for the U.N. stabilization force in Haiti, MINUSTAH. At a multi-national meeting on the troubled Caribbean country in Washington Thursday, the Bush administration also committed another \$20 million in aid to Haiti, VOA's David Gollust reports from the State Department.

The mandate for the U.N. force, sent to Haiti following political upheaval in 2004, has been renewed by the Security Council every six months since then.

But the Bush administration says it will support a one-year extension when the issue comes up again later this month, as part of an effort to show international staying power in Haiti, where crime and chronic poverty continue to threaten the country's struggling democracy.

Announcement of the move capped a semi-annual meeting of the international contact group on Haiti, co-chaired by U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicolas Burns and the Haitian Foreign Minister Jean-Raynald Clerisme.

Fifteen countries, most of them in the Western Hemisphere, took part along in the day-long meeting, along with seven international organizations including the United Nations and Organization of American States.

Burns said the 6,700 member Brazilian-led U.N. force, and a 1,7000 member international police contingent, are needed to back the political reform and economic programs of the Haitian government of President Rene Preval.

"This is currently under debate at the United Nations and there's been some talk about whether or not it should be renewed for a short period of time, or a longer period of time. It's the very strong view of the United States that this is a United Nations military mission that is making a great difference and a positive difference. And the presence of that mission is essential for stability and peace, and to deter crime in Haiti," he said.

The meeting here came amid a background of international concern about the stability of the Haitian government in the face of mounting gang violence and deteriorating economic conditions.

The Brussels-based International Crisis Group warned in a report this week that Haiti could be overwhelmed by violent crime, unless the Preval government and the international community acted to reform the police and judicial systems.

However appearing alongside Burns at a press conference, Haitian Foreign Minister Clerisme said that crime in the capital Port-au-Prince, though serious, has begun to decline since the arrival of the U.N. force. "With the support of MINUSTAH, now all displaced people can come and go. We still continue

to have some kidnappings, we still continue to have some gangs operate, but the number has been reduced really to, I don't say the minimum, but it has been reduced drastically," he said.

The Haitian Foreign Minister said U.N. troops and Haitian police had begun targeting gang leaders and that the capital could be pacified very shortly so that investors, driven out in the last decade by violence, can return to Haiti without fear.

Burns said the Bush administration, which has provided Haiti with \$640 million in aid since 2004, announced at the meeting that it is committing another \$20 million in assistance.

It is to be targeted at creating employment for young people in the violence-torn Port-au-Prince slum area of Cite Soliel, considered the most impoverished area in the hemisphere's poorest country.

Burns said the situation in Haiti would be a major issue in talks he and Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Thomas Shannon have next week in Brazil and Argentina, which are both contributors to the Haitian U.N. force.

He said the trip will otherwise be aimed at creating stronger bilateral relations with the two South American powers.

**Accusations of UN cover-up in Haiti  
by Haiti Information Project  
February 2, 2007**

HIP - UN Special Envoy to Haiti, Edmond Mulet, held a roundtable discussion at the Center for International and Strategic Studies (CSIS) in Washington this past Wednesday. The CSIS event capped off what amounted to a whirlwind week long propaganda tour by Mulet where he has sought to mitigate reports of UN forces killing unarmed civilians in recent raids against gangs in the Port-au-Prince shanty town of Cite Soleil. In response to questions about the huge amount of firepower used by UN forces in recent raids and the growing number of accounts of unarmed civilians felled by UN bullets, Mulet made an extraordinary claim. He stated, "[This past Jan. 24]...we were under attack for over an hour and they [gangs in Cite Soleil] shot more than 20,000 rounds at us - 20,000 rounds at us."

A former UN employee and law enforcement expert assigned to Haiti and speaking on condition of anonymity commented, "That's just ridiculous. We never received reports of gangs in Cite Soleil having that kind of firepower. You also have to ask how Mulet got that number of 20,000 rounds shot at UN forces? Did they stop to pick up the cartridges and count them afterwards? I don't think so."

Mulet's assertion comes on the heels of the release of Freedom of Information Act documents that show the United Nations acknowledged firing more than 22,000 rounds of ammunition during a seven-hour period in a highly controversial raid of Cite Soleil on July 6, 2005. The UN claimed they had only killed six "bandits" while human rights organizations and community activists claimed as many as 70 may have been killed, the vast majority unarmed civilians. In the same document, a personal commentary apparently added by former US Ambassador James B. Foley states, "It remains unclear how aggressive MINUSTAH was, though 22,000 rounds is a large amount of ammunition to have killed only six people." To this day, not a single international human rights organization has undertaken a serious investigation into the allegations.

The former UN employee added, "I read the reports where the UN admitted firing more than 22,000 rounds in a seven hour period on July, 6, 2005. It appears that Mulet is playing a numbers game to diminish the impact of that report. If there are gangs of 30 armed men running around with 20,000 rounds of ammunition than you're no longer talking about just gangs. You're talking about an armed insurgency and Mulet can't have it both ways. It's even more ridiculous if you do the math. It would have required each gunman to fire more than 650 sustained rounds each during the one-hour period to account for the nearly six bullets fired per second, as he would have the public believe. That's a battle of epic proportions, which I think we would have seen reported in the press by now. I just don't see it."

During Mulet's presentation at CSIS in Washington, he also managed to alienate the few Haitians who attended the event. He claimed that, "... there are many sectors who don't like our presence there. That is certain and they dislike us enormously. Of course, I have [identified] them as the ones who are involved in drug trafficking, the ones who benefit from impunity, from the disorder, from the lack of state, from lack of institutions, the people who benefit from contraband, from lack of institutions." In an interview on the radio program Variety and Vibrations heard on 1320 AM WLQY in Miami FL, a Mr. Wilbert Clerizier responded, "I was there and I took that to mean the Lavalas movement. That what he was saying was that the only people who oppose the UN occupation are Lavalas and that they are all drug dealers and criminals. I responded to Mr. Mulet that they should leave Haiti because they

helped to legitimize the overthrow of the constitutional government. That would make me a drug dealer and a criminal too, which I am neither." Lavalas is the political movement of Haiti's desperately poor majority and the political party of president Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was ousted on February 29, 2004 in a coup reportedly backed by the United States, France and Canada.

Perhaps even more controversial was Mulet's attempt to write the epithet for the Lavalas movement when he stated, "And to the Jean-Bertrand Aristide issue, when I first arrived in Haiti on the 2nd of June last year, we've had different marches and manifestations — all sorts of protests demanding for the return of this ex-president and former president. In the beginning, these were expressions of 5,000 people. Then later on they became 3,000 and the last ones maybe 75...50 people. So I see that this issue of former President Aristide is not present anymore in the political sphere in Haiti anymore, and his movement - familia Lavalas - is very much divided, weakened." Contradicting Mulet is HIP video and photographs documenting a demonstration of over ten thousand people launched from Cite Soleil this last December 16. Protestors were demanding Aristide's return, an end the UN military occupation of Haiti and the release of Lavalas political prisoners. All of this took place a mere seven weeks ago and according to Pierre-Antoine Lovinsky, one of the Lavalas organizers, "December 16, 2006 is not that long ago but long enough to go beyond the collective memory of the UN and the apparent temporary amnesia of Mr. Mulet."

Human rights activists have begun to point to the December 16th demonstration and others like it in Cite Soleil as the real reason behind the UN's expanded military operations in this poor neighborhood packed with cardboard and cinderblock shacks covered with tin roofs. Six days later on December 22, UN forces launched another major military assault on Cite Soleil that residents claim killed close to 30 people and wounded many others including a woman who was six months pregnant. She claims to have been shot by a UN armored vehicle in the abdomen instantly killing her unborn child.

Responding to well-documented reports of the UN firing from helicopters during the Dec. 22 raid, Mulet claimed, "We never shot from a helicopter — never. We had one helicopter with a camera taking pictures and following the operation, but we never shoot from helicopters. We never use heavy artillery either." According to John Carroll, an Illinois-based doctor who runs a charity that provides medical aid to Haitian children, "I spoke with the family with holes in their roof. They said the helicopter fired down on Cite Soleil for three hours. I saw the holes in the roof and the holes in the people," he said. "I went to St. Catherine's Hospital in Cite Soleil. I did not interview any doctors. I examined the patients myself and their stories seemed to correspond with their injuries," Dr. Carroll stated in a recent interview with Andrew Buncombe of The Independent based in the United Kingdom. HIP also has video documentation of a 28 year-old man whose family has asked to withhold his name due to fears of UN reprisals. He is seen dying in his home. Before succumbing to his wounds, he gives testimony that directly contradicts UN denials of firing from helicopter gun ships on the population below. "I was shot by the helicopter" were his last words.

"This is beginning to resemble collective punishment against the residents of Cite Soleil. There is more to this than just the issue of gangs and alleged kidnappers. If this were just about gangs then why isn't the UN going after the Little Machete Army in Martissant?" asked Brian Concannon, the Director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti. A gang known as the Little Machete Army massacred spectators at a soccer game in broad daylight down the street from a UN observation post in August 2005, hacking its victims to death with machetes. The group attacked another neighborhood last

summer, and according to media reports it assassinated community leader Esterne Bruner last September 21, and freelance photojournalist Jean-Remy Badio on January 19. All along, Martissant residents had been asking the UN to provide protection. The Little Machete Army still controls the area through terror and intimidation despite the presence of United Nations forces.

To further illustrate his point Concannon points to other gangs currently operating in Haiti, "Gangs that were members of the Gonaives Resistance Front took over the police station in Haiti's fourth largest city, Gonaives, in February 2004. They have never disarmed, and some of the gangs, especially those led by Wilfort Ferdinand and Winter Etienne, regularly and openly control large parts of the city to this day. But there are no large-scale assaults to dislodge them. It is hard not to see the connection between the large-scale protests in Cite Soleil, and that neighborhood's being singled out for major military operations."

In another press conference held earlier in the week at the UN headquarters in New York, Mulet admitted that while they were obsessed with disarming gangs in Cite Soleil, they allowed the former brutal military to keep their weapons and that they are still heavily armed to this day. Mulet stated, "When MINUSTAH [the UN mission] first arrived in the country, the members of former armed forces of Haiti had been a destabilizing presence, as well. **ALTHOUGH STILL ARMED**, they were not active and organized now."

Human rights organizations have accused the former military along with paramilitary death squads of having sowed a campaign of terror against Aristide supporters following his ouster in Feb. 2004. As part of UN policy, they were integrated into the Haitian police that was also accused of committing gross human rights violations against Aristide supporters including summary executions and arbitrary arrests. After having illegally seized the residence of the exiled former president in late 2004, the brutal former military was rewarded with a payoff of more than 29 million dollars, or \$5000 per former soldier, paid for with funds provided by the international community.

Finally, new reports of a UN military operation in Cite Soleil at 1:00 AM EST today continue to come into HIP. According to reporters on the ground, a family of five was sleeping in their home when UN/MINUSTAH soldiers started firing weapons in the neighborhood; there was no report of other gunfire in the area. The mother and father were wounded and their two daughters were killed. Seven year-old Stephanie Lubin and four year-old Alexandra Lubin are now counted among the mounting toll of unarmed civilians killed by United Nations forces in Cite Soleil.

**File closed on soldiers' alleged misconduct in Haiti Jeff Heinrich**  
**CanWest News Service**  
**Canada.com**  
**Friday, February 02, 2007**

MONTREAL - Canada's military briefly looked into allegations its peacekeeping troops threatened civilians in Haiti in 2004, but gave up because the claims were made anonymously, says the military police investigator assigned to the case.

"The file is closed, at least at my level," said Sgt. Stephane Gendron.

"Investigating is one thing, but you need something to go on," he said from his office at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier, near Quebec City.

"The problem is, it was all anonymous. That's why we couldn't do anything. You can't investigate ghosts."

The allegations of death threats and sexual threats stem from a December 2005 survey of 5,720 Haitians by human rights researchers from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Published in August in the British medical journal the Lancet, the survey estimated 8,000 Haitians were killed and 35,000 women and girls were raped after the ouster of then-president Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004.

The survey also detailed threats made against civilians, and said 20 per cent of those threats came from foreign soldiers who were part of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Haiti, especially Brazilian and Jordanian troops.

Not published in the survey, but detailed to The Montreal Gazette by one of the survey's authors after their report came out, was anecdotal evidence alleging Canadian troops were also involved. Canada had 450 soldiers in Haiti between March and August 2004.

Some were said to have made death threats during house raids and made sexual threats against women while drunk and off-duty. The allegations came from households in and around the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

In the wake of the bad publicity, Gendron contacted the survey's authors by phone and interviewed them for details. But essential questions went unanswered, such as who made the allegations, and could they be confirmed.

To protect them from reprisals, no records identifying the survey's respondents were kept, said the researchers, who had gathered their data in face-to-face interviews.

"Because of the sensitive nature of the questions we were asking, we purposely made it so that if one of us had been detained, anyone who'd get hold of the surveys wouldn't be able to identify the households" the answers came from, co-author Royce Hutson said.

Lancet editor, Richard Horton, and executive editor, William Summerskill, said in an online clarification Thursday night that there was no problem with the veracity of the survey. An audit of 100 handwritten questionnaires from the original survey was done independently by Wayne State's interim director of research.

**CARICOM Welcomes World Bank Decision to Provide Grants to Haiti**  
**Caribbean Press Releases**  
**February 2, 2007**

Georgetown, Guyana -- 2 Feb., 2007 -- The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) welcomes the announcement by the World Bank of 30 January 2007 that its Board of Executive Directors had discussed a new Interim Strategy for Haiti which projects financial assistance of up to US\$82 million in grants over the next 18 months to support Haiti's development agenda as well as two grants for a total of US\$28 million to support economic governance reform (US\$23 million) and water and sanitation in rural areas (US\$5 million).

The Caribbean Community is particularly pleased at the quote attributed to Caroline Antsey, the World Bank Director for the Caribbean that the Bank's interim strategy supports the Haitian Government's efforts to strengthen governance and deliver quick and visible benefits to the Haitian people.

The Community has long called on the international community to release funds earmarked for Haiti and in response to the immediate needs of the Government of Haiti. The Caribbean Community therefore looks forward to the release of the funds announced as well as those pledged by other members of the international community.

For its part, the Caribbean Community will continue to support the development needs of its Member States, including Haiti and looks forward to continued and new partnerships with members of the international community to this end.

## **US gives Haiti \$20 million, seeks longer UN mission**

**Source: Reuters Foundation**

**Date: 01 Feb 2007**

WASHINGTON, Feb 1 (Reuters) - The United States said on Thursday it will give Haiti \$20 million to create jobs in a volatile slum and called for the U.N. peace-keeping force in the impoverished Caribbean nation to be extended for a year.

U.S. Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns said the United States would give Haiti \$20 million to help create jobs in Cite Soleil, a Port-au-Prince shantytown run by warring gangs and so overcrowded some residents sleep in shifts.

Speaking to reporters after a Haiti "contact group" meeting that gathered officials from 15 nations and seven international organizations, Burns also told reporters there was unanimity among the group to push for a 12-month extension of the U.N. military mission in Haiti, whose mandate expires on Feb. 15.

"The presence of that mission is essential for stability and peace and to deter crime in Haiti and to renew it for anything less than 12 months would not be right," Burns said, saying the force could continue at its current levels.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti had nearly 8,400 uniformed personnel at the end of last year, including 6,684 troops and 1,692 police, according to U.N. figures.

U.N. Security Council diplomats say China initially opposed renewal of the U.N. mission in Haiti because of Haitian ties to Taiwan, but has since relented. However, China continues to argue for limiting any extension to six months, arguing the Council should keep a closer eye on its peacekeeping missions.

The U.N. force has been in Haiti since shortly after former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in an armed rebellion in February 2004.

Politically motivated violence appears to have eased since President Rene Preval, regarded by the country's poor as their champion, was elected almost a year ago. But poverty, joblessness and the drug trade fuel widespread crime.

## **U.S., Haiti join to fight gang violence**

**By Pablo Bachelet**

**McClatchy Newspapers**

**San Jose Mercury News**

**(MCT)**

**February 1, 2007**

WASHINGTON - The United States will provide Haiti with \$20 million to create more youth jobs in a gang-ridden slum in the capital that is testing the government's ability to bring peace to the country.

Nicholas Burns, undersecretary of state for political affairs, made the announcement Thursday after a meeting of 21 countries and multilateral institutions that have either contributed troops or money to Haiti.

Burns said the group also agreed to ask the United Nations Security Council to renew the mandate of the 8,400-member blue-helmet peacekeeping force for an additional year. The decision is expected later this month.

"Violence in Port-au-Prince is an important and very serious issue," Burns said at a press briefing, with Haitian Foreign Minister Jean-Raynald Clerisme at his side. "And we understand that Cite Soleil in particular is a place where there are many challenges for the Haitian government."

Special U.N. envoy to Haiti Edmond Mulet, a Guatemalan diplomat, said security was better today than it was a year or two ago but nonetheless painted a grim picture of marauding gangs terrorizing civilians in urban areas when he addressed on Wednesday the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think-tank.

He vowed to eradicate violence and gangs from the Cite Soleil slum by July. Cite Soleil, where ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is still popular, remains a no-go zone for security forces even as the gang activity spreads to other Port-au-Prince neighborhoods, and some rural communities.

As early as a year ago Haitian police officials complained that the gangs were moving out of Cite Soleil and into Port-au-Prince neighborhoods like Martissant. Last fall, both Haitian and U.N. authorities launched a program to disarm up to 1,000 gang members.

U.N. peacekeepers are coming under fire everyday, Mulet said, and 24 have died since the mission began in 2004.

He said last summer the U.N. security mission worked out a plan with Haitian authorities that was "working wonders" in returning security to Port-au-Prince before troops had to be redeployed into the countryside for the Dec. 3 provincial and municipal elections.

In December, following a surge in kidnappings of school-age children, the U.N. and Haiti stepped up efforts going after bandits and kidnappers where they lived.

Currently, the 6,000-member Haitian National Police is undergoing a vetting process to root out members linked to gangs. Mulet said he expects about 1,000 officers will be fired after the process is completed.

Mulet also cited an "extremely corrupt" judicial system and rising drug trafficking as major challenges.

On the same day as Mulet's visit, Organization of American States Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza reiterated the importance of international agencies coordinating their efforts.

"We need to coordinate effectively with other international organizations to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts," he said. The group announced that it was leading a trade mission to Haiti in May and that Caribbean officials planned to reopen their offices in Haiti.

**UN in Haiti accused of second massacre**  
**Horrifying evidence surfaces contradicting UN denials**  
**by Haiti Information Project -- HIP**  
**February 01, 2007**  
**ZNet Magazine**

HIP - Port au Prince, Haiti — A Cite Soleil community activist, Samuel Leconte, was arrested at gunpoint by Brazilian soldiers on Jan. 18th and was turned over to the Haitian police. The first questions posed to Mr. Leconte by the UN were whether he has information connecting former political prisoner Annette Auguste, aka So An, and exiled president Aristide to large demonstrations in the seaside shanty town of Cite Soleil. While Mr. Leconte has responded that he has no such information and that the demonstrations are taken at the initiative of the community, the information Mr. Leconte does possess is eyewitness testimony of the killings executed by UN forces in his community on December 22, 2006.

Weeks before his arrest, Mr. Leconte spoke at a funeral for the victims of what residents of Cite Soleil are calling a second massacre by UN military forces in their community. Mr. Leconte condemned the killings while sitting in front of a large banner that read "Thank you President Preval for this Christmas gift," an obvious reference to Preval's having reportedly approved the deadly raid. "They killed women, children and old people. They shot them like animals" states Mr. Leconte as he begins to weep into the microphone. He concluded, "They will never stop our demands for the return of President Aristide. We will keep demonstrating and will never stop until the land of Dessalines is truly free and independent!!" As of this writing, Mr. Leconte is being held without charges by the Haitian police in the notorious Delmas 33 prison which is called Fort Dimanche, alluding to a former prison run by the Duvalier dictatorship.

According to residents of Cite Soleil, UN forces attacked their neighborhood in the early morning hours of Dec. 22, 2006 and killed more than 30 people including women and children. For many this was a repeat of UN military operations on July 6, 2005 when more than 26 people were killed in a successful assassination attempt on Emmanuel "Dred" Wilmer and four of his closest followers. Wilmer was openly hostile to the UN military occupation of his country and opposed the ouster of the constitutional president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He led armed resistance and inspired others to do the same against the brutal Haitian police and the irreparably corrupt legal system.

This time the target was a purported kidnapping gang led by a young man named Belony. The military operation was said to have been personally sanctioned by President Rene Preval, who was elected last year with support from Aristide's Lavalas movement. Tens of thousands of Lavalas supporters paralyzed the capital for more than a week to challenge the 76 million dollar UN-sponsored elections fiasco. The UN-backed Provisional Election Council(CEP) attempted a ballot counting fraud meant to keep Preval from assuming office.

The irony is that the attack on Dec. 22 seems to have been triggered, not by a surge in kidnappings as claimed by the UN, but by another massive demonstration of Lavalas supporters that began in Cite Soleil.

About ten thousand people demonstrated a few days before for the return of president Aristide in a clear condemnation of what they called the foreign military occupation of their country. These huge demonstrations are not to be confused with smaller protests of the so-called "student demonstrations" of the "testicles up your derriere" movement or GNB that helped to oust Aristide on Feb. 29, 2004. The protesters in Cite Soleil were offered a far different treatment by the UN than the so-called "students."

Footage taken by HIP videographers shows unarmed civilians dying as a result of indiscriminate gunfire from UN forces on December 22, 2006.

Although the UN denied firing from helicopter gunships, an unidentified

28 year-old man dies on camera stating that he was shot in the abdomen from a circling UN helicopter raining death upon those below. This is not the first time the UN has denied murdering unarmed civilians in Cite Soleil. The occupation force also denied killing unarmed civilians on July 6, 2005. Eloufi Boulbars, a UN spokesperson stated on July 8, 2005, "We saw five people killed, that's what we could count. Armed bandits who had tried to resist were either killed or wounded."

Documentary evidence finally forced the UN to admit that unarmed civilians had been killed by UN forces despite their attempts to cover it up.

The scene December 22, 2006 was not all that different with the UN feeding the corporate media a story of military intervention against kidnappers and denying once again the disproportionate use of force resulting in the heavy loss of life among unarmed civilians. Another similarity was the UN's utter disregard in planning for civilian casualties. As in July 2005, not a single medical unit accompanied the UN forces as residents hit by indiscriminate and sustained gunfire bled to death in the middle of the street or managed to crawl back to their homes to die in the arms of their families.

"I couldn't count all the victims," states one survivor who asked to remain anonymous due to fears for her safety. "They came in shooting.

Look at that pregnant woman they just shot. Look at that young man. Are we all bandits? Are we all kidnappers?" Annette Auguste, who was a political prisoner in Haiti for more than two years added, "We saw young men and women gunned down by UN forces in Cite Soleil. Young people shot dead. Were they all kidnappers too?"

More than three hours of video footage and a large selection of digital photos, illustrate more than words ever could what the UN is doing in Haiti. The wounded and dying on the video tape all express horror and confusion at the reasons UN forces shot at them. A 16 year-old young man asks why UN forces shot him as he clearly realizes he is going to die. Less than an hour later we see his lifeless corpse replace what once was an animated and articulate young man. HIP Founding Editor Kevin Pina commented, "It is clear that this represents an act of terror against the community. This video evidence shows clearly that the UN stands accused, once again, of targeting unarmed civilians in Cite Soleil.

There can be no justification for using this level of force in the close quarters of those neighborhoods. It is clear that the UN views the killing of these innocents as somehow acceptable to their goal of pacifying this community. Every demonstration, no matter how peaceful, is seen as a threat to their control if it includes demands for the return of Aristide to Haiti. In that context it is difficult to continue to view the UN mission as an independent and neutral force in Haiti. They apparently decided sometime ago it was acceptable to use military force to alter Haiti's political landscape to match their strategic goals for the Haitian people."

The people of Cite Soleil now view president Preval as having the blood of innocent victims on his hands along with UN Special Envoy to Haiti Edmond Mulet and the recently replaced Brazilian General Jose Elito Carvalho de Siqueira. In the minds of the survivors they now join the ranks of General Heleno Ribera, former UN Envoy Juan Gabriel Valdes and the former US-installed prime minister Gerard Latortue all of who are implicated in ordering and covering up the first massacre of July 6, 2005.

## **U.N. official says world body must show staying power in Haiti**

**The Associated Press**

**January 31, 2007**

**International Herald Tribune**

WASHINGTON: The top United Nations official in Haiti said Wednesday the Caribbean nation can overcome rampant crime and chronic poverty only if the international community shows more determination to do an effective job in Haiti than it has to date.

United Nations missions To Haiti tend to "fade away" rather than stay long enough to build "permanent and solid institutions" in Haiti, said Edmond Mulet, who heads the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti and is also the special representative there of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Speaking at a forum sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Mulet said Haitians living in some poor neighborhoods are "terrorized by thugs, criminals and kidnappers," with rapists preying on girls as young as six.

The deprivation in the country is such that entire cities are without electricity. A once adequate road network has fallen into disrepair, he said, adding that big hospitals and clinics are no longer functioning. Factories that once produced goods for the U.S. market are closed and decaying.

The U.N. Security Council has authorized up to 7,200 troops in Haiti and a police component of up to 1,951 officers. The great majority are from Latin America.

Today in Americas

Bush sends budget to Congress Immigrants' DNA to flood U.S. database FBI agent clarifies some of her testimony in Libby leak trial

"We are under fire every day," said Mulet, alluding to the climate of violence in Haiti.

Asked to name his top priority for Haiti, Mulet said reform of the judiciary. Until stability is restored, he said, foreign investment will be meager and the 83 percent of the Haitian work force living outside the country will not return.

Another priority, he said, is to pressure international assistance groups to coordinate more to eliminate project overlap.

Mulet, a Guatemalan who assumed his duties in Haiti seven months ago, said one hopeful sign is that Haiti has an elected government with a five-year mandate. This has given the country a stable political environment that it has often lacked, he said. As a result, he said, the business community is showing more interest in investing in Haiti.

Mulet's appearance coincided with a new report by the International Crisis Group, which said "violent and organized crime threatens of overwhelm Haiti."

The Brussels-based group, which provides analysis and recommendations for global hotspots, said Haiti's justice system is "weak and dysfunctional, no match for the rising wave of kidnappings, drug and human trafficking, assault and rapes."

It added that while the international community has an important role to play, the Haitian government bears the prime responsibility for achieving progress.

**Haiti: Justice Reform and the Security Crisis**  
**Press Release - International Crisis Group**  
**Harold Doan and Associates**  
**February 1, 2007**

Port-au-Prince/Brussels, 31 January 2007: Haiti could be overwhelmed by violent crime unless the Préval government and the international community take immediate steps to reform the police and judiciary systems.

Haiti: Justice Reform and the Security Crisis, the latest briefing from the International Crisis Group, warns that the rising wave of violence and organised crime threatens to swamp the state unless urgent changes are made to establish rule-of-law and reform the judiciary system. Crime has surged, and prisons are overrun with inmates, many in prolonged pre-trial detention because of the deteriorating criminal justice system. The judiciary is encumbered by incompetence and corruption, the legal code is antiquated, judges are not independent, case management is poor, and indigent defendants rarely have counsel.

Donor aid that poured in after the democratically-elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned from exile in 1994 was slowly withdrawn as the international community became disillusioned with his government. The new administration of René Préval and the UN Mission (MINUSTAH) face daunting challenges in building a new justice system.

“The justice system is weak and dysfunctional and is no match for the wave of kidnappings, drug trafficking and organised crime perpetrated by armed gangs”, says Damien Helly, Crisis Group Senior Analyst. “The Haitian government, with help from the international community, has to demonstrate genuine political will and urgently tailor strategies to address the crisis”.

Significant material and budgetary support by government and donors is required to improve the judiciary, repair infrastructure damaged in the wake of Aristide’s departure and reform a system which remains dysfunctional. Building a sustainable criminal justice system requires a short-term strategy to cope with the crime wave and long-term institution building.

“The need is to establish, staff and equip two special courts: a domestic criminal chamber to handle major crimes, and a joint Haitian/international tribunal for transnational, organised crime”, says Mark Schneider, Crisis Group Senior Vice President. “Their success will depend on ensuring the security of witnesses and personnel, the appointment of competent judges, prosecutors and police and payment of adequate salaries”.

“Ten years of failed justice is increasingly impacting the daily lives of Haiti’s citizens”, says Alain Délétroz, Director of the Latin America/Caribbean Program. “Bold measures are needed now, or organised violence and crime will overwhelm Haiti”.

Source: International Crisis Group (ICG)  
Date: 31 Jan 2007  
Haiti: Justice reform and the security crisis  
Latin America/Caribbean Briefing N°14

## Overview

Violent and organised crime threatens to overwhelm Haiti. The justice system is weak and dysfunctional, no match for the rising wave of kidnappings, drug and human trafficking, assaults and rapes. If the efforts of the last three years to establish the rule of law and a stable democracy are to bear fruit urgent action is needed. Above all the Haitian government must demonstrate genuine political will to master the problem. But the international community also has a major support role. The immediate need is to establish, staff and equip two special courts, one a domestic criminal chamber to handle major crimes, the other a hybrid Haitian/international tribunal to deal with cases of transnational, organised crime that the country can not tackle on its own.

Crime has surged since courthouses and prisons were looted and many of them destroyed in the lead-up to former President Aristide's departure in March 2004. The judiciary is encumbered by incompetence and corruption, partly due to inadequate pay, infrastructure and logistical support. The legal code is antiquated, barely modified since Napoleon bequeathed it to the one-time French colony, judges are not independent, case management is poor, and indigent defendants rarely have counsel. The state is able to guarantee neither the security of its citizens nor the rights of defendants. When arrests are made, the system is virtually incapable of conducting trials. Prisons become more crowded, and street crime escalates daily, while court procedures move at a snail's pace. The results are prolonged pre-trial detention – some 96 per cent of the inmates of the National Penitentiary have not been tried – lack of due process and near total absence of public confidence in the criminal justice system.

In the optimistic days after the democratically elected Aristide returned from exile in 1994, donors poured more than \$43 million into justice reform. By 2000, when Aristide was re-elected, they had withdrawn almost all such support because they were convinced the government lacked political will. Aid has begun to flow again since Aristide's ouster but the obstacles are the same. The UN Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the new Préval government want to build a new justice system but corruption remains pervasive, including within the police and the judiciary. Organised crime has put down roots, and urban gangs have yet to be disbanded.

Haitians and internationals need to take a sober look at past failings and devise, fund and implement a comprehensive rule-of-law strategy. Police reform will not succeed without parallel court reform. Building a criminal justice system that is sustainable requires a dual track effort: short-term actions to cope with the current crime wave and longer-term institution building.

In the short term, i.e., in 2007, the government and parliament need to:

- enact into law a code of ethics for judges and an independent judicial council to enforce its provisions against corrupt judges;

- authorise a special serious crimes court chamber with a vetted corps of judges, prosecutors and defence counsel and permit plea-bargaining with appropriate oversight; and
- provide witness protection and better pay for judges;
- while donors and MINUSTAH should coordinate with the ministry of justice's national strategy and provide trainers and funding for infrastructure, witness protection, forensic capabilities and legal aid.

In the longer term, the government and parliament need to:

- amend the constitution to establish a more rational and effective procedure for appointing higher-level judges;
- modernise the code of criminal procedure, establish a permanent panel to review cases of lengthy pre-trial detention and expand the use of fast-track procedures for prosecution of relatively minor crimes; and
- build civil society support for justice reform;
- while donors and MINUSTAH should ensure their programs extend for at least five years and, together with the government and other members of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom), should create a hybrid court with Haitian and other judges and personnel from the region to try transnational crime cases.

Port-au-Prince/Brussels, 31 January 2007

Full\_Report (pdf\* format - 180.5 Kbytes)

**Reporters without Borders**  
**February 1, 2007**  
**Haiti - Annual report 2007**

Haiti

Area : 27,750 sq.km.

Population : 8,530,000.

Languages : Creole, French.

Head of state : President René Préval.

No journalist was killed in 2006 and physical attacks on the media declined after the February elections despite continuing lawlessness. The new government has not put an end to impunity however.

The more positive press freedom situation, with very few physical attacks on journalists, was surprising in view of the high level of violence in the country (mostly in the capital, Port-au-Prince) and in view of recent history, when journalists were liable at any moment to be the target of reprisals by gangs, often linked with former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's Lavalas Movement. Lawlessness is an urgent issue for President René Préval, who took office on 14 May, but attacks on journalists for doing their job fell sharply during the year.

An attack by armed bandits on two journalists of Radio Kiskeya, Liliane Pierre-Paul and her brother Stéphane Pierre-Paul, the station's editor, on 14 September in Port-au-Prince's eastern suburb of Pétionville, came amid a new wave of ransoms for money. Journalist Lydie Bain Abdon, of Radio Lumière, narrowly escaped being kidnapped on 26 May in an attack apparently unrelated to her job.

The media also suffered at the hands of the authorities. Police broke the arm of Ernst Cadichon, of Radio Galaxie, in October after he identified himself to them as a journalist while reporting on a student demonstration in the capital. A photographer from the daily paper Le Nouvelliste, François Louis, was roughed up by UN stabilisation force (Minustah) soldiers during clashes between them and Aristide supporters in the capital on 3 November. A UN military spokesman formally apologised to the paper five days later.

The media has a long way to go before it recovers from the trauma it suffered during Aristide's rule and the subsequent interim government. Impunity may continue if Préval's government fails to build a proper justice system. The national police takes part in the lawlessness and judges still have no means of investigation. Gang leaders suspected of killing journalists are also still walking free in broad daylight. François "Bibi" Daniel, a gang leader in the Solino neighbourhood of the capital and suspected of the July 2005 kidnapping and killing journalist Jacques Roche, head of the culture desk at the daily Le Matin, even tried to buy his immunity by handing over weapons to the national disarmament and retraining commission on 12 September.

New investigating judges have still not been appointed in the enquiries into the murders of Jean Dominique, head of Radio Haïti Inter, and Brignol Lindor, of Radio Echo 2000. Two gang leaders suspected of killing of Dominique in 2000 are living in Martissant, a southern suburb of the capital, where they have reportedly resumed their criminal activities, and a third has fled abroad. The supreme

court, where the case of Lindor (killed by Aristide supporters in the southern town of Petit-Goâve in 2001) has been stuck for the past two years, ruled in 2006 against the family's bid to become a civil party in the case.

-----

## **Haiti: World Bank Announces New Interim Strategy and Approves US\$28 Million to Enhance Economic Governance and Improve Water and Sanitation**

**Press Release - World Bank**

**January 31, 2007**

January 30, 2007 – The World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors today discussed a new Interim Strategy for Haiti which projects financial assistance of up to US\$82 million in grants over the next 18 months to support the country’s development agenda. In addition, the Board of Directors approved two grants for a total of US\$28 million to support economic governance reform (US\$23 million) and water and sanitation in rural areas (US\$5 million).

“The Bank’s interim strategy supports the Haitian Government’s efforts to strengthen governance and deliver quick and visible benefits to the Haitian people,” said Caroline Anstey, World Bank Director for the Caribbean. “Without good governance and improvements in basic services in both urban and rural areas, development will not fully take hold.”

The strategy focuses on selective interventions in areas where the Government has requested support from the World Bank Group, where the Bank has a comparative advantage and where Bank action can either complement or leverage support from other donors. The Bank Group’s program of new activities for the next 18 months focuses on three of the four key pillars of the Government’s development strategy:

- i) support to improve economic governance by promoting efficiency, transparency and accountability in the use of public resources;
- ii) support to promote economic growth, through sustainable improvement in the quality of electricity services; and
- iii) support for improving access to primary education, and potable water and sanitation services, especially in rural communities.

### **Improving Economic Governance in Haiti**

The Economic Governance Reform Operation II (US\$23 million budget support) approved today by the Board will support institutional development and good governance by:

- a) promoting public financial management and procurement reforms;
- b) strengthening public sector human resource management and employee accountability;
- c) improving efficiency and transparency in public infrastructure management; and
- d) supporting governance reforms in the education sector to promote accountability and transparency in the use of public funds.

### **Improving Water and Sanitation Services in Rural Areas**

In addition, the Rural Water and Sanitation Project (US\$5 million, investment grant) aims at increasing access to water supply and sanitation services in participating rural communities by:

increasing the sustained and effective use of safe drinking water;  
improving use of effective sanitation and hygiene practices; and  
strengthening the capacity of the implementing agency, local water committees, and professional operators in cooperation with local government.

For the first time in rural water supply and sanitation in Haiti, the project will help to build a close partnership between a public entity (SNEP) as the implementing agency and a service provider (an NGO or a firm) working under the direction and leadership of the public entity. This approach is being promoted both at the national and departmental level.

## **U.N. Sends More Peacekeepers to Haiti**

**By TRENT JACOBS**

**AP**

**Washington Post**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- The United Nations said Tuesday it will send 350 more peacekeepers to Haiti in the latest effort to flush out armed gangs from the capital's slums.

The light infantry battalion of Nepalese soldiers began arriving this week and will be fully deployed by early March, the U.N. mission said in a statement.

Maj. Gen. Carlos Alberto Dos Santos Cruz, the Brazilian commander of the 9,000-strong U.N. force, said some of the Nepalese troops will be deployed as early as this week in Cite Soleil, a gang-controlled slum on the edge of the capital of Port-au-Prince.

"I am determined to increase the pressure on the gangs who have been holding the innocent people of Haiti hostage for so long," Santos Cruz said in the statement. "We must not give the gangs time to relax."

Peacekeepers arrived in Haiti in July 2004 to quell violence after a bloody revolt toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected leader and a champion of the poor.

U.N. troops in recent weeks have stepped up offensives against armed gangs blamed for a wave of killings and kidnappings in the Caribbean nation's capital.

Since their arrival, peacekeepers have made several attempts to secure the slum but have struggled to root out the gangs, which often shoot at passing U.N. patrols and then retreat deep within the sprawling, mazelike shantytown.

Residents of Cite Soleil have accused the force of killing civilians during nighttime raids in the densely populated area of flimsy wooden shacks. The U.N. says its troops only fire when attacked on and try to limit civilian casualties.

**UN 350-Member Mission Arrives in Haiti**  
**Prensa Latina**  
**January 30, 2007**

United Nations, The arrival of an advanced 350-member UN Peacekeeping Mission to Haiti has been explained as an anti-crime drive.

UN Special Representative to Haiti Guatemalan Edmont Mulet told the UN Security Council that the soldiers are part of the second Nepalese contingent, to be fully deployed in Haiti in March.

The official said that despite difficulties, such as crime and Haiti 's use as a drug traffic route, there has been some progress.

In addition to the high levels of violence, 83 percent of the educated population has fled the country and investments are nil, so the UN diplomat stressed the need for foreign aid, which accounts for 55 percent of the domestic budget.

The Security Council is to extend the MINUSTAH mandate in Haiti before February 15, but there is disagreement among its members on how long the troops should stay.

## **Amnesty International's Track Record in Haiti since 2004**

**Written by Joe Emersberger**

**Upside Down World**

**Tuesday, 06 February 2007**

The coup that ousted Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide on February 29, 2004 led very predictably to the worst human rights disaster in the Western Hemisphere over the following two years.[1] It is worth reviewing how the world's most famous human rights group, Amnesty International, responded.

Aristide was twice elected President (in 1990 and in 2000). His first government was overthrown in a coup in 1991. The outcome of the 1991 coup was horrific and well documented. Thousands were murdered; tens of thousands were raped and tortured; hundreds of thousands were driven into hiding. The victims were overwhelmingly supporters of Aristide and his Lavalas movement. The 1991 and 2004 coups were both the work of the US government, Haiti's elite and their armed servants. Canada and France collaborated extensively with the planning and execution of the second coup.[2]

By mid April of 2004, three organizations had sent delegations to Haiti to investigate the aftermath of the coup: the Quixote Center based in Maryland, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and the Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean (EPICA). All drew very similar conclusions.[3]

They uncovered a massive terror campaign waged by the de facto government in collaboration with the UN forces in Haiti (later to be known as MINUSTAH) against Lavalas partisans. They reported that some Haitian human rights groups in particular the National Coalition for Haitian Rights (NCHR) were unreliable due to their hostility towards Lavalas. The NLG and Quixote Center delegations observed "wanted" posters in NCHR offices which identified Aristide and other Lavalas officials as criminals. Both delegations reported that NCHR refused to carry out investigations in Lavalas strongholds such as Cite Soleil. Even at this early stage the NLG uncovered evidence in the state morgue of the huge death toll that was being exacted on Lavalas supporters. The state morgue reported that 1000 bodies had been disposed of a month after the coup - most obvious victims of violence. The morgue typically disposed of only 100 bodies a month.

The EPICA delegation suggested that people contact Amnesty to alert them of the unreliability of NCHR. It was a good suggestion because Pierre Esperance, NCHR's director, had boasted in 2002 that

"I am a primary source of information for international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Most recently, I was invited to address the US State Department in a roundtable forum to discuss the human rights situation in Haiti." [4]

His statement does not seem to have been much of an exaggeration. During the first four months after the coup Amnesty failed to call attention to the evidence that a massive assault on Lavalas was well underway. Amnesty's statements suggested equivalence between armed Lavalas partisans and their opponents. For example, on April 8, 2004 Amnesty would state that

"...a large number of armed groups continue to be active throughout the country. These include both rebel forces and militias loyal to former President Aristide." [5]

Amnesty criticized the de facto government for arresting "only Lavalas leaders" but it did not condemn the arrests, many of them made illegally. It expressed no doubts about the legal authority of the de facto government to make any arrests at all. Moreover, by April 8, 2004, many Lavalas officials such as Jocelerme Privert and Amanus Maette had been imprisoned without charge for longer than the 48 hours allowed by the Haitian Constitution. Amnesty had frequently protested violations of this nature in the past even in the case of Roger Lafontant, head of Duvalier's infamous Tonton Macouts, who was arrested by Aristide's first government in 1990 but in 2004 Amnesty was silent as the constitutional rights of elected officials were violated. [6]

It was not until a report issued in June of 2004 that Amnesty mentioned some of the facts other investigators had uncovered months earlier. It finally acknowledged that a " large proportion of the victims of violence were Aristide supporters, including members of grassroots organizations and their relatives" It finally stated that "some human rights organizations who have been active in denouncing abuses committed under the Aristide period do not seem inclined to investigate abuses committed against pro-Aristide groups". However, Amnesty failed to name any of those groups. The omission was harmful to the victims because NCHR, the most prominent Haitian human rights groups, was not only willfully blind to the campaign against Lavalas. It eagerly assisted with the campaign. On March 6, the de facto government made an agreement with NCHR to file criminal charges against anyone NCHR denounced. NCHR eventually changed its name to RNDDH at the request of its parent organization in New York, who wished to distance itself from its Haitian associates. Nevertheless, NCHR/RNDDH continues to be frequently and uncritically cited by the international press. [7]

Amnesty's report of June, 2004 denounced the brutality of US marines who arrested Annette Auguste ("So Ann"), a popular folk singer and Lavalas activist. Her family members, including her 5 year old grandson, were handcuffed by the marines. However, Amnesty suggested that arresting her was justified by hastening to add "those suspected of responsibility for human rights abuses must be brought before a court of law." Kevin Pina, a US filmmaker who worked with Haitian journalists to capture images of the post coup terror, pressed Amnesty to recognize So Ann as a political prisoner. Amnesty's responded that it had "reliable information" that So Ann was guilty of crimes. Amnesty would not tell Pina who their sources were, but NCHR had publicly "saluted" So Ann's arrest. She would remain imprisoned for 20 months without being charged before Amnesty would finally concede that she was arrested "solely for her political views." She finally had her day in court in August, 2006 and was acquitted because no evidence was presented against her. [8]

Amnesty also continued to use the word "Chimere" as if it were a term accepted by all Haitians to refer to armed Lavalas partisans. In fact, it was a term used by elites and the de facto government to stigmatize Lavalas supporters as criminals. Kevin Pina explained

"This word was a highly partisan term used by those who supported Aristide's ouster, especially NCHR, to create a climate of terror and fear after Feb. 2004. Anyone accused of being a 'chimere' was marked for death or imprisonment without trial. Yet here was AI, a purportedly independent human rights organization, using the same politically charged language. I found it disgraceful." [9]

The partisan language Amnesty used was indicative of other failings that would mar this report and their future work.

The background Amnesty provided to the situation in Haiti did not put the human rights record of the Aristide government in proportion to those of his opponents. This had been done by Peter Hallward, a UK based researcher who had used Amnesty's reports, but coming from Amnesty the analysis would have been more difficult to ignore. It would have helped refute articles in the international press which consistently equated Aristide's government to the murderous regimes of the past. These distortions greatly diminished international support for Aristide's government while it was in power and for the victims of the 2004 coup. [10]

Hallward's analysis showed that the record of the Aristide's government was vastly superior to any run by his adversaries. After a month the abuses of the de facto government had already dwarfed anything that took place under Aristide. Hallward's analysis was indirectly supported by opinion polls and elections results since 1990. In 2002 a USAID commissioned poll found that Aristide remained - by a wide margin- the most popular politician in Haiti. The results of presidential elections of 2006, where the presidential candidate endorsed by the Lavalas movement won by a landslide for the fourth consecutive time, also confirmed that Haiti's poor majority, if not the international press and various NGOs, did not equate Lavalas governments to the despised regimes of the past. [11]

On August 16, 2004 Amnesty condemned the sham trials that acquitted Jodel Chamblain and Jackson Joanis - two death squad leaders who played a key role in the coup. The outcome was hardly surprising. Gerard Latortue, head of the de facto government, had publicly praised the armed leaders of the coup as "freedom fighters".[12]

On October 8, 2004 Amnesty expressed concern about "the disregard for the lives and safety of the people" shown by the Haitian police in poor neighborhoods that were Lavalas strongholds. [13]

On October 19, 2004 Amnesty expressed concern about the arrest of Reverend Gérard Jean-Juste, a prominent Lavalas supporter, whom they said "may" be a prisoner of conscience. The statement was issued days after the arrest, which was encouraging given Amnesty's failure to defend other political prisoners, but the tentativeness of its criticism was inexplicable given the record of the de facto government.[14]

Amnesty's press release of November 11, 2004 condemned more police repression in Lavalas strongholds but the following outlandish statement was also made.

"Amnesty International recognizes the difficulties currently facing the transitional government, many of which are the legacy of the actions of the previous government of Jean Bertrand Aristide."

The main "difficulty" the de facto government faced was eliminating Haiti's most popular political movement. That was clear even from a careful read of Amnesty's reports. The "difficulty" was, in one sense, a legacy of Aristide's government, and of the 200 year struggle by Haitians for democracy, but that is not what Amnesty meant. It was commiserating with the elite over their "difficulties".[15]

I had donated to Amnesty for many years, but as 2004 came to a close I began writing to them often to complain about their work on Haiti.

I received gracious replies to my letters from Linn Kingston, Amnesty International Canada's Caribbean Coordinator at the time. It quickly became clear that it was Amnesty's UK office that was responsible for reports about Haiti. Kingston told me that a detailed report was to be published about Haiti "early in 2005" and that my concerns would be "passed on". Repeated delays to the report's publication eventually exasperated Kingston. She wrote to me in May of 2005 saying she was "mystified" by the delays given the dire situation in Haiti. She told me she had "protested and have asked the Canadian Secretary General, Alex Neve and the Directeur General, Michel Frenette of the Francophone Canadian Section to protest as well."

The report would not be published until the end of July, 2005. [16]

Several months before Amnesty's report was finally available, the University of Miami School of Law's Center for the Study of Human Rights, published a detailed report about the human rights situation Haiti. Harvard Law School had also put out an extensive report shortly after. [17]

The University of Miami report summarized conditions in Haiti as follows:

"...the police, backed by UN forces, routinely carry out indiscriminate and unprofessional killing operations. The undisciplined army is back, protecting the rich and attacking the poor. The justice system is twisted against poor young men, dissidents and anyone calling for the return of the constitutional government."

The report conservatively estimated that 700 political prisoners were jailed by the de facto government. It shed considerable light on the close working relationship between NCHR, the Haitian government, and officials linked to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and USAID.

The Harvard School of Law report was more focussed on the role of the UN forces (MINUSTAH) in Haiti but would reach similar conclusions:

"MINUSTAH has effectively provided cover for the police to wage a campaign of terror in Port-au-Prince's slums. Even more distressing than MINUSTAH's complicity in HNP abuses are credible allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by MINUSTAH itself..."

Amnesty's report of July 28, 2005 again failed, unlike other investigators, to clearly put the violence of Lavalas partisans and the government in proportion. It did, belatedly, defend Yvon Neptune, the former Prime Minister under Aristide, whose illegal detention NCHR had caused with its groundless allegations of a "massacre" in Saint Marc. Amnesty finally stated that Yvon Neptune was a "political prisoner" after he had already spent a year in jail. Amnesty said that a "local human rights organization" had accused him. Again, it failed to name NCHR. [18] Neptune was finally released provisionally in August, 2006, but he must still fight NCHR's allegations in court.

On July 6, 2005 MINUSTAH forces and the Haitian police carried out a massacre in Cite Soleil a slum where support for Lavalas runs especially deep. At least 23 people were killed. The consequences of the raid were extremely well documented. It was captured on film by Haitian journalists working with Kevin Pina. The evidence of MINUSTAH's criminality was so compelling that MINUSTAH stated shortly afterwards that it "deeply regrets any injuries or loss of life during its operation." [19]

Weeks after the massacre Lucile Robinson, Amnesty's UK based researcher for Haiti at the time, explained Amnesty's silence to me as follows.

""We are aware of the situation and are currently gathering information from a variety of sources in order to gain a balanced and informed view on the subject before we react to these events. As I am sure that you are aware, in order to maintain the good reputation that AI depends on to produce effective actions, we do need to make very certain of our facts before acting upon them."

Amnesty's reluctance to comment even to call for an investigation despite overwhelming evidence contrasted starkly with its swift response to unsubstantiated reports of police beheadings by Lavalas supporters. Amnesty finally made brief reference to the July 6 massacre in a statement it published six months after it took place. [20]

Lucile Robinson also defended Amnesty's work by saying that "there are actions which we take which will not always be visible to the general public". However, it was obvious that public exposure was desperately needed. I cited various, far too typical, press reports that obscured the campaign against Lavalas, and thereby minimized the political price paid by the governments of US, Canada, and France (among others) for siding with the oppressors. [21]

Amnesty redeemed itself somewhat by responding quickly, and this time decisively, to the second arrest of the Reverend Gerard Jean-Juste. In a statement of July 25, 2005 it designated him as a "prisoner of conscience." Despite Amnesty's public action, Jean-Juste remained imprisoned for six months after Amnesty took his side. He was provisionally released to have chemotherapy and has still not been cleared. [22]

In January of 2006, Amnesty co-authored a report with OXFAM and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) about the progress of disarmament in Haiti since the coup. The report was entitled "The call for tough arms controls:Voices from Haiti", but some voices were conspicuously absent. After reading the report, I posed questions to Amnesty to which they never responded. Among those questions were

\*Why are none of the victims of MINUSTAH's raids into poor neighborhoods quoted in this report?

\*Why, in the section entitled "What needs to be done", was discussion dominated by foreign officials and representatives of the de facto government? There was one brief quote from a Bel Air resident but nothing from the well known and highly respected political prisoners: Gerard Jean Juste, So Ann, Yvon Neptune who had been interviewed by journalists and activists. [23].

Despite the elections of February 2006, the Haitian government remains penetrated by appointees of the de facto government. Judge Peres Paul responsible for the incarceration of Gerard Jean-Juste and Kevin Pina remains on the bench. In December of 2005 the regime stacked the judiciary in a brazen

abuse of executive power. It fired five supreme court justices and replaced them with their allies. As a result, at least 100 political prisoners jailed by the de facto government remain in prison. Police hired by the de facto government, and vetted by NCHR/RNDDH, are still on the job. [24]

MINUSTAH continues to patrol slums like Cite Soleil on behalf of Haiti's elite and their foreign allies. On December 22, 2006 MINUSTAH and the Haitian police perpetrated yet another massacre in this neighborhood. Nearly a month later, Amnesty has yet to publicly comment. [25]

On December 13, 2006 Jean Candio, a former Lavalas parliamentarian, became a political prisoner of the Canadian government. He was imprisoned for two weeks in a Windsor Ontario jail due to his association with Aristide's government and spurious allegations by NCHR/RNDDH that in 2001 he had used violence to disrupt a church meeting. Both Amnesty and the UN had published NCHR's allegations against Mr. Candio, but never mentioned later investigations that exonerated him.

The Canada Haiti action Network (CHAN) has expressed its dismay at Amnesty's response to the case of Jean Candio. CHAN summed up Amnesty's track record in Haiti: "Amnesty has been outperformed in Haiti by investigators with far fewer resources and much less stature." [26]

#### FOOTNOTES

[1] As measured by political killings (4000 over two years) relative to the population the Haitian de facto regime and its allies surpassed Colombia's military and paramilitary groups. This according to the findings of the Kolbe/Hutson study published in the Lancet Medical journal in August, 2006. <http://www.ijdh.org/pdf/Lancet%20Article%208-06.pdf> However, it should be noted that a scientific survey of political killings in Colombia has never been carried out. The "passive surveillance" figures for Colombia are likely to be low. For discussion of passive surveillance versus random sampling see [http://web.mit.edu/CIS/pdf/Human\\_Cost\\_of\\_War.pdf](http://web.mit.edu/CIS/pdf/Human_Cost_of_War.pdf)

[2] For consequences of 1991 coup see <http://www.hrw.org/>

[reports/pdfs/h/haiti/haiti948.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/reports/pdfs/h/haiti/haiti948.pdf) For Canada's role in 2004 coup see "Canada in Haiti: Waging war on the poor majority" by Yves Engler and Anthony Fenton for discussion of Canada's role.

[3] Tom Reeves, a Quixote delegation member, discusses findings here: <http://www.zmag.org/content>

[/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=5335](http://www.nlg.org/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=5335) NLG sent two separate delegations see <http://www.nlg.org/programs/>

[international/Haiti\\_delegation\\_report1.pdf](http://www.nlg.org/news/international/Haiti_delegation_report1.pdf) And <http://www.nlg.org/news/>

[delegations.htm](http://www.nlg.org/news/delegations.htm) The Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean. A People's Fact Finding Investigation to Haiti: April 18-24, 2004. (EPICA: Washington, D.C., 2004)

[4] See <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/>

[platform/1323](http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/platform/1323) for the Esperance quote

[5] <http://web.amnesty.org/library/I>

[ndex/ENGAMR360302004?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360302004?open&of=ENG-HTI)

[6] Amnesty International: The 1992 Report on Human Rights Around the World (covers events in 1991)

[7] Amnesty; June, 2004; <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360382004?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360382004?open&of=ENG-HTI) On agreement between NCHR and de facto regime see <http://www.ijdh.org/pdf/>

Yvon Neptune IACHR Petition\_ENU.pdf For uncritical citation of NCHR/RNDDH see the lengthy Toronto Star article "Crime & Chaos in Haiti" by Tim Harper (Nov 11, 2006) which describes the National Human Rights Defense Network (RNDDH) as the "the leading Haitian human rights organization." NCHR-New York, publicly distanced itself from NCHR-Haiti in March, 2005, and asked it to change its name. Soon after, NCHR changed its name to RNDDH. See <http://www.nchr.org/hrp/>

[neptune%202005311.htm#The\\_Haitian\\_judicial](http://www.nchr.org/hrp/yon-neptune%202005311.htm#The_Haitian_judicial)

[\\_system\\_delivers\\_little\\_other\\_than\\_injustice](http://www.nchr.org/hrp/yon-neptune%202005311.htm#The_Haitian_judicial)

[8] For Amnesty's defense of So Ann. See <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360032006?open&of](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360032006?open&of)

[=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360032006?open&of) For NCHR's "salute" of So Ann's arrest see <http://www.rnddh.org/>

[breve.php3?id\\_breve=13&var\\_recherche=](http://www.rnddh.org/breve.php3?id_breve=13&var_recherche=)

[annette+auguste Pina interview http://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=](http://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=)

[modload&name=News&file=article&sid](http://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid)

[=5965&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0](http://www.pej.org/html/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid)

[9] For Pina interview see link provided note 8

[10] The left leaning UK Independent stated in an editorial of March 1, 2004 - one day after the coup - that Aristide's ouster would be "mourned by few Haitians" and that Aristide was "just another dictator in a region where he'd once been the great democratic hope."

[11] Below from "Option Zero in Haiti" by Peter Hallward: "Amnesty International's reports covering the years 2000-03 attribute a total of around 20 to 30 killings to the police and supporters of the FL a far cry from the 5,000 committed by the junta and its supporters in 1991-94, let alone the 50,000

usually attributed to the Duvalier dictatorships..... Amnesty International reports indicate that at least 20 police officers or FL supporters were killed by army veterans in 2001, and another 25 in further paramilitary attacks in 2003, mostly in the lower Central Plateau near the US-monitored Dominican border." See <http://www.zmag.org/content/>

[showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=5806](http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=5806) for the full article Hallward's numbers are confirmed by Justin Podur - who took a very detailed look at a book published by a rabidly anti-Aristide author See <http://www.zmag.org/>

[content/showarticle.cfm?](http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?)

[SectionID=55&ItemID=9706](http://www.zmag.org/content/SectionID=55&ItemID=9706) For information on USAID commissioned polls in Haiti see <http://www.zmag.org/content/>

[showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=8940](http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=8940) For probing analysis of Haiti's 2006 presidential elections by Brian Concannon see [http://haitiaction.net/News/BC/2\\_14\\_6/2\\_14\\_6.html](http://haitiaction.net/News/BC/2_14_6/2_14_6.html)

[12] <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360532004?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360532004?open&of=ENG-HTI) Amnesty's June, 2004 report mentioned Latortue's "Freedom fighter" remark. See note 7

[13] <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360542004?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360542004?open&of=ENG-HTI)

[14] <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360562004?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360562004?open&of=ENG-HTI)

[15] <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360602004?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360602004?open&of=ENG-HTI)

[16] Human Rights Watch, in contrast, never replied to a single email or phone call of mine about Haiti. Their response to the 2004 coup was even worse than Amnesty's. See <http://www.zmag.org/content/>

[showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=10011](http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=55&ItemID=10011)

[17] Miami report at <http://www.law.miami.edu/cshr/>

[CSHR\\_Report\\_02082005\\_v2.pdf](http://www.law.miami.edu/cshr/CSHR_Report_02082005_v2.pdf) Harvard report at <http://www.margueritelarent.com/>

[campaigns/campaignone/](http://www.margueritelarent.com/campaigns/campaignone/)

human\_rights\_reports/harvard.html

[18] For details about the "massacre" in Saint Marc see <http://www.zmag.org/>

[content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=8142](http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=8142)

[19] Independent: Andrew Buncombe: "Peacekeepers accused after killings in Haiti" :  
<http://news.independent.co.uk>

[/world/americas/article302259.ece](http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/article302259.ece)

[20] Amnesty's brief mention of July 6, 2005 massacre is here <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360042006?open&of](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360042006?open&of)

[=ENG-HTI Amnesty's response to the "beheadings" story is here http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index)

[/ENGAMR360542004?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360542004?open&of) Amnesty said it "condemns in the strongest terms the beheading of National Police officers, supposedly by Lavalas supporters." Brain Concannon discusses the unsubstantiated "beheading" reports here <http://www.ijdh.org/articles/>

[article\\_violence-in-haiti-kboo-portland-radio.html](http://www.ijdh.org/articles/article_violence-in-haiti-kboo-portland-radio.html) Investigations in the Port-au-Prince morgue by the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) turned up no evidence that the beheadings took place.

[21] See FAIR; Jeb Sprague "Invisible Violence" for detailed look at the corporate media's Haiti coverage after the coup;

<http://www.canadahaitiaction.ca/article.php?id=218&PHPSESSID=22c1451fade7191bea9212da47c8ef98>

[22] <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360082005?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360082005?open&of)

[23] The Control Arms report is here <http://web.amnesty.org/library/>

[Index/ENGAMR360012006?open&of=ENG-HTI](http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR360012006?open&of) Some of my letters to Amnesty (and Human Rights Watch) are archived here <http://www.medialens.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=842> An interview Justin Podur did with So Ann while she was in prison is here <http://www.killingtrain.com/>

[archives/000464.html#more](http://www.killingtrain.com/archives/000464.html#more)

[24] See <http://www.ijdh.org/pdf>

/humanrightsreport6-19-06.pdf for discussion of judiciary The de facto government's hiring of police , and the NCHR/RNDDH role, is discussed in The University of Miami report. See note 17. For an updated list of political prisoners see <http://www.ijdh.org/pdf/headline1-10-07.pdf>

[25] For graphic images from the 12/22 massacre see the following Democracy Now segment. <http://www.democracynow.org/>

[article.pl?sid=07/01/04/159201](http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=07/01/04/159201) which is an interview with So Ann

[26] First open letter from CHAN to Amnesty is here Second open letter is here <http://www.canadahaitiainaction.ca/article.php?id=228>