

Dear colleagues,

Please find below the mainstream news on Haiti for May 23 – June 15, 2007.

Haiti's biggest drug bust in over a decade seized 925 lbs. of cocaine near Leogane. Ten people, including four Haitian police officers and two Colombian nationals were arrested. Following the bust, Haitian authorities attempting to counter the recent surge in drug flights (up by 167% in 2006) publicly committed to increasing surveillance of a vast network of secret airstrips facilitating the transshipment of cocaine between South America and the U.S.

Alleged gang leader, Charles Junior Acdelhy, known as Yoyo Piman, was killed in an early morning raid in Cite Soleil by UN peacekeepers and Haitian police. "Acdelhy was wanted on international warrants for homicide, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy...including the January 2004 abduction and killing of Claude-Bernard Lauture, a French Businessman of Haitian descent."

A Chicago Tribune article covered the HOPE (Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity Through Partnership Encouragement) Act that was recently voted into law and in effect since March. The law's supporters claim the allowance of more Haitian-made apparel to be sold duty-free in the U.S. could create up to 50,000 factory jobs in Haiti over the next few years. This is a boon for factory owners such as George Sassine, of AG Textiles. HOPE critics, such as Dan Erikson, of the Inter-American Dialogue offer mild support for HOPE but believe Haiti "needs even broader tariff reductions for Haitian-produced garments like those recently granted by the U.S. to African nations." Professor Robert Fatton of University of Virginia claims that broad economic improvements will not occur from HOPE, rather Haiti needs agrarian reform, increased Haitian food production and investment in rural development to adequately support Haiti's rural population and slow the tide of rural to urban migration.

The Swiss government extended its freeze on former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's bank accounts. The Haitian government has an additional three months to prove to Swiss authorities that the money has criminal origin and should be returned to the Haitian people. A Haitian Central Bank official is apparently in Switzerland to make a final case for returning the money to Haiti.

Dr. David Walton of Partners in Health (PIH) was featured in a Chicago Tribune article about the Skokie, Ill native. Walton is in his fourth year of residency with Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital where he also works half the year at PIH's Lascahobas clinic. Walton's highly regarded "persistence and humility" and long term commitment to Haiti will be extended this month once he becomes an attending physician with the Brigham's Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities allowing him to spend up to nine months of the year in Lascahobas. Walton's and PIH's belief that "healthcare is a fundamental human right" are being borne out by PIH's new 50-bed Lascahobas hospital scheduled to open in December.

An AP/International Herald Tribune article “In Haiti, victims of ex-paramilitary look to U.S. for justice” on the Emmanuel “Toto” Constant mortgage fraud case before the New York Supreme Court presents a victim-centered viewpoint to the case. Victims under Constant’s FRAPH paramilitary still fear the FRAPH leader’s power and potential to ignite further repression in Haiti and voice their desire to see him justly tried and punished in a U.S. court. Constant’s victims, human rights proponents and the Preval Government all support seeing Constant tried in a U.S. court, not deported to Haiti and tried under Haiti’s precarious court system, where chances are high that he would evade justice.

A late May torrential downpour triggered flooding and mudslides resulting in three deaths in Port-au-Prince. Some of Haiti’s most destructive recent natural events have occurred during these spring floods, such as the 2004 Tropical Storm Jeanne that killed 3,000 Gonaives inhabitants. This Reuters report closes with the dilemma facing Haitian government officials acknowledging the thousands of people living in vulnerable hillsides and riverbeds, but are unable to take positive action to appropriately relocate them. As such, many Haitians are forced to live with significant vulnerability to the natural elements and little political action taken to reduce their risks.

#### **Contents:**

- 1. Haiti makes biggest cocaine bust in over a decade, Reuters**
- 2. 4 Police Arrested in Haiti Cocaine Bust, AP and The Washington Post**
- 3. Haiti to target secret airstrips in drug-trafficking fight, AP and International Herald Tribune**
- 4. U.N. troops kill suspected gang leader, AP and Kansas City Star**
- 5. U.S. law helps mend Haiti's torn economy, Chicago Tribune**
- 6. Swiss government extends freeze on former Haiti dictator's funds, AP and International Herald Tribune**
- 7. Haiti Bids to Halt Return of Baby Doc's Millions, The Guardian**
- 8. 'I've seen more death than anyone should', Chicago Tribune**
- 9. In Haiti, victims of ex-paramilitary look to U.S. for justice, AP and International Herald Tribune**
- 10. Floods, mudslides kill three in Haiti's capital, REUTERS and San Diego Union Tribune**

#### **1. Haiti makes biggest cocaine bust in over a decade**

**Saturday, June 2, 2007**

**By Joseph Guyler Delva, Reuters**

**Caribbean Net News**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Reuters): Haiti has seized 925 pounds (420 kg) of cocaine in the impoverished country's biggest drug bust in more than a decade, authorities said on Friday.

Ten people, including four Haitian police officers and two Colombian nationals, were arrested, said Claudy Gasant, a top Haitian prosecutor.

The cocaine was discovered on Thursday near the town of Leogane, about 19 miles (30 km) south of the capital Port-au-Prince, Gasant said. It was stashed in three vehicles, including one with official license plates.

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, has long been billed as an increasingly important trans-shipment point for South American cocaine making its way into the United States and other markets.

Police spokesman Frantz Lerebours said Thursday's cocaine haul was the biggest in Haiti, which shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, since 1996.

## **2. 4 Police Arrested in Haiti Cocaine Bust**

**The Associated Press**

**The Washington Post**

**Thursday, May 31, 2007**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/05/31/AR2007053102707.html>

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Authorities arrested 10 people, including four police officers, who were allegedly transporting 925 pounds of cocaine in two vehicles with government license plates.

Acting on a tip, police discovered the drugs Thursday after stopping the cars in the rural town of Leogane, just west of the capital of Port-au-Prince, police spokesman Frantz Lerebours told reporters. It was one of the largest drug seizures in Haiti in years.

Eight Haitians were arrested, including four active members of the National Police, Lerebours said. Two Colombian nationals were later arrested on suspicion of involvement.

Both vehicles had government license plates although one was a rental car, Lerebours said. Police also seized three automatic rifles, five pistols and a shotgun.

President Rene Preval has pledged to clean up Haiti's notoriously corrupt police force, which has only a few thousand poorly paid officers to patrol this impoverished nation of 8 million people.

Haiti is a major transshipment point for South American cocaine bound for the United States.

## **3. Haiti to target secret airstrips in drug-trafficking fight**

**The Associated Press**

**International Herald Tribune**

**June 4, 2007**

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2007/06/04/news/CB-GEN-Haiti-Drugs.php>

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Haitian authorities are trying to root out a network of secret airstrips used to smuggle in South American cocaine bound for the United States, a top security official said Monday.

The effort comes days after Haitian police and U.N. peacekeepers intercepted 420 kilograms (925 pounds) of cocaine in a coastal town in the Caribbean country's biggest drug seizure in more than a decade.

Much of the cocaine entering Haiti arrives by plane, usually small, single-engine aircraft that land on remote airstrips hidden throughout Haiti's poorly guarded countryside.

"We want to identify these airstrips, find out who owns them and who they're associated with," Luc Eucher Joseph, Haiti's secretary of state for public safety, told broadcaster Radio Metropole.

Following last Thursday's cocaine seizure, police raided a suspected traffickers' hideout in an upscale Port-au-Prince area and found several high-powered weapons and a global positioning device believed to be used to help guide incoming drug planes, Joseph said. Two Colombian nationals, five Haitian policemen and three civilians were arrested for alleged trafficking.

Haiti is a major transshipment point for cocaine destined for the United States. According to a recent U.S. State Department report, the number of flights carrying drugs to Hispaniola, the island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic, increased by 167 percent in 2006.

U.S. authorities say those flights, largely from Venezuela, have nearly halted since the launch of an anti-drug operation in March.

**4. U.N. troops kill suspected gang leader**

**By STEVENSON JACOBS**

**Associated Press**

**Kansas City Star**

**June 12, 2007**

U.N. peacekeepers and Haitian police on Tuesday killed a suspected gang leader wanted in the kidnap-slaying of a French businessman.

Charles Junior Acdelhy was shot to death after he opened fire on Brazilian peacekeepers and police as they tried to arrest him during an early morning raid in Port-au-Prince's notorious Cite Soleil slum, U.N. spokeswoman Sophie Boutaud de la Combe said. No peacekeepers or police were injured.

Acdelhy, known as Yoyo Piman, was accused of helping lead a Cite Soleil gang blamed for a wave of kidnappings and killings that engulfed the impoverished Caribbean nation after the bloody 2004 uprising of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Acdelhy was wanted on international warrants for homicide, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy, Boutaud said, including the January 2004 abduction and killing of Claude-Bernard Lauture, a French businessman of Haitian descent.

Boutaud said peacekeepers had surrounded a section of Cite Soleil when Acdelhy ran out and began shooting. She said peacekeepers warned Acdelhy to put down his gun before they shot him "in legitimate self defense."

The 8,800-strong, Brazil-led U.N. peacekeeping force once waged daily gunbattles with armed gangs in Cite Soleil, Haiti's largest and poorest slum, but has seen the number of confrontations fall sharply since a U.N. gang offensive earlier this year that left several top gang leaders dead or in jail.

## **5. U.S. law helps mend Haiti's torn economy**

**By Gary Marx**

**Tribune foreign correspondent**

**Chicago Tribune**

**May 30, 2007**

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-haiti\\_marxmay30,1,7079451.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-haiti_marxmay30,1,7079451.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed)

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Six months after closing his garment factory and laying off 800 workers, Georges Sassine is preparing to reopen the plant thanks to a recent U.S. law allowing more Haitian-made apparel into the American market duty-free.

The law, the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity Through Partnership Encouragement Act, or HOPE, could create 50,000 jobs in Haiti in the next few years and provide a boost to the hemisphere's most impoverished nation, diplomats and industry leaders say. The law went into effect in March.

It's great," said Sassine, owner of AG Textiles and vice president of the Haitian Manufacturers Association. "It's permitting us to move forward after 20 years of moving backwards."

One small step

The HOPE Act is one small step for a nation that has endured a legacy of coups, dictatorships and crushing poverty and still faces huge obstacles to recovery.

Dan Erikson, head of Caribbean programs at the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington think tank, said Haiti's economy registered growth last year for the first time in years but it was largely due to foreign aid. Formal unemployment remains close to 70 percent.

While describing the HOPE Act as "a shot in the arm" for Haiti's sagging textile sector, Erikson said the country needs even broader tariff reductions for Haitian-produced garments like those recently granted by the U.S. to African nations.

Reforming Haiti's collapsed judicial system and creating laws that better protect private property also are needed to draw investment, according to diplomats and experts.

"Companies like stability and knowing the rules of the game," said Erikson.

Robert Fatton, a University of Virginia professor of government and foreign affairs and an expert on Haiti, said Haitian President Rene Preval's top priority should be agrarian reform and boosting investment in the countryside to increase food production and rural incomes and slow a devastating rural-to-urban migration.

Reasons for optimism

"I don't think that you can have lasting peace in Haiti without resolving the critical problem of rural development," said Fatton.

Still, there are reasons for optimism. Fatton credits Preval for easing political tensions that could have plunged Haiti into further bloodshed.

Security also has improved in Port-au-Prince after an offensive by United Nations forces destroyed the city's once-powerful gangs.

The U.S. and other major donors have taken advantage of the relative calm to begin paying for repairs to roads and other infrastructure.

Once employing some 100,000 workers, Haiti's light manufacturing sector prospered from the 1960s through the 1980s because of the island nation's proximity to the U.S., its abundance of cheap labor and Haitians' strong work ethic.

Among the well-known products made in Haiti were Rawlings baseballs, Haggard slacks, Wilson golf clubs, Sperry boat shoes and stuffed toys such as Care Bears, according to Sassine and other factory owners.

But the bottom fell out in 1991, when economic sanctions were imposed on Haiti after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a coup.

Maxim Conde, a textile manufacturer who closed his factory last November, said he was general manager of Wilson Sporting Goods' operations in Haiti when the company pulled out in 1991. Wilson employed 2,000.

"There were two reasons for it," Conde said. "The situation of the coup against Aristide and the bad publicity, and management was afraid that they were not going to get the goods on time."

The UN tightened sanctions against Haiti in 1994 but lifted them a year later after Aristide's return from exile.

Still, the garment industry never fully recovered because U.S. discounters turned to cheaper suppliers.

It's very hard work," said Marie Elvius, 30, a textile employee who earns \$4.50 a day, more than twice Haiti's minimum wage. "I have no choice not to like it because I've never found any other job. Nothing is available."

Other factors hurting Haitian manufacturers were the country's violence and instability.

One day last month, Sassine toured his idle factory and pointed to a dozen bullet holes in the roof. Stray bullets fired by gang members hit three of Sassine's workers on the job.

Financing still an obstacle

"Every single one of these [incidents] cost me two days' work," said Sassine, holding up a jar full of shattered bullets.

Experts say the origin of the fabric used to assemble garments is crucial to success.

Before the HOPE Act, Haiti was mainly limited to exporting duty-free into the U.S. garments made of usually more expensive American fabric.

The HOPE Act allows duty-free entrance to Haitian-produced garments that use fabric only from countries with free-trade agreements with the United States.

"The best thing for Haiti is to be allowed to export garments duty-free into the U.S. from third countries' fabric without serious limitations," said Stephen Lande, president of Manchester Trade, a Washington firm specializing in trade. "The U.S. allows that for Africa."

Still, with the gangs cleared out and the HOPE Act in place, Sassine has hired workers to clean his factory in anticipation of reopening later this year.

The biggest obstacle now for Haitian textile owners is securing credit and financing for working capital and purchasing new equipment.

"If we don't have financing it's going to be very, very difficult to reap the benefits from HOPE," Conde said

## **6. Swiss government extends freeze on former Haiti dictator's funds**

**The Associated Press**

**International Herald Tribune**

**June 1, 2007**

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/06/01/europe/EU-GEN-Switzerland-Haiti-Baby-Doc.php>

BERN, Switzerland: The Swiss government has extended a freeze on bank accounts linked to former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, an official said Friday.

The accounts will remain blocked for a further three months, government spokesman Oswald Sigg told The Associated Press.

The money had been due to be released in two days' time, which would have given Duvalier's family access to some 7.6 million Swiss francs (US\$6.2 million; €4.6 million).

Earlier this week, a Swiss lawyer asked the government to extend the freeze, first imposed in 2002.

Marc Henzelin, who acts on behalf of Haitian taxi driver Etzer LaLanne and priest Gerard Jean-Juste, obtained an order from the Geneva cantonal (state) court on Wednesday blocking one of Duvalier's accounts in Switzerland.

But he said unless the government acted to block the others, any money held there would be lost and could be returned to Duvalier's family via a complicated chain of trusts and companies.

LaLanne and Jean-Juste were awarded damages against Duvalier worth US\$750,000 (€58,000) and US\$1 million (€744,000) respectively by a U.S. court in 1988.

The U.S. District Court in Miami at the time also ordered US\$504 million (€375 million) to be paid to the Haitian people under the Alien Tort Claims Act, according to Miami attorney Ira J. Kurzban, who represented the claimants in the case.

Henzelin and his fellow lawyer Patrice Le Houellier welcomed the decision Friday and said they hoped it would give enough time for other victims of the regime to make their case.

"Our goal is to find a good solution for the Haitian people," Swiss Foreign Ministry spokesman Lars Knuchel said.

A Haitian government attempt to recover the funds after Duvalier was ousted in 1986 was halted by the chaos that engulfed the Caribbean country during the years that followed.

But the Swiss government blocked the accounts in 2002 in the hope that the legal process could be restarted or a deal reached with the family which would avoid the embarrassment of handing over money that many in Haiti consider to have been stolen from public funds — allegations Duvalier has always denied.

The Haitian government has yet to prove that the money was of criminal origin, a necessary step for Switzerland to confiscate it, officials said.

Switzerland's supreme court ruled last year that an indefinite freeze on privately owned funds was unconstitutional. The case involved 8 million francs (US\$6.5 million; €4.8 million) deposited in Swiss banks by the former Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko,

Even before the Swiss government acted, a Geneva court had already blocked an account at the Geneva branch of Swiss bank UBS AG, Henzelin said.

Duvalier had at least two further accounts, in Lausanne and Zurich, though the latter could have been closed, Henzelin said.

Haitian Foreign Minister Jean Renald Clerisme has said a Central Bank official is coming to Switzerland to make a final attempt at recovering some or all of the money.

## **7. Haiti Bids to Halt Return of Baby Doc's Millions**

**The Guardian**

**June 2, 2007**

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/140079.html>

The Haitian government is making frantic efforts to stop millions of pounds held in Swiss bank accounts being handed over this weekend to the former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

The Haitian government is making frantic efforts to stop millions of pounds held in Swiss bank accounts being handed over this weekend to the former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier. They claim that "Baby Doc" looted the money from Haiti when he fled to exile in France in 1986.

The money, 7.6m Swiss francs (£3.1m), has been frozen for the past five years as the Haitian government has argued for its release but it is due to be surrendered to Duvalier tomorrow. He is believed to have other hidden bank accounts elsewhere.

"We are going to do our best to get the money back," said the Haitian foreign minister Jean-Rénald Clérismé. "It's important to us because we need the money to develop the country."

A spokesman for the Swiss foreign ministry said that there had already been two extensions to the freezing of the funds. "Unfortunately, we cannot block the funds for an

unlimited time," he said. "Now there is a deadline - that is the law." The money cannot be returned to Haiti without proof that it has been illegally obtained.

A number of NGOs and human rights organizations have called for the Swiss government to intervene to stop the payment.

"This is a scandal," said a joint statement signed by Christian Aid, the Haiti Support Group and others. "Two years ago, the Swiss government signed an agreement for the repatriation of US\$458m to Nigeria in assets stolen by the late head of state, General Sani Abacha. When the agreement was signed, the Swiss government stated that 'Switzerland is open and committed ... to making the return of these funds established international practice'. This new development shows that Switzerland is not able to fulfil such a commitment."

Mr Duvalier's lawyer in Switzerland, Alain Macaluso, said: "Mr Duvalier is happy that after five years the Swiss government, which had made a political decision to freeze his funds, has now finally conformed with the law." But he added that it was unlikely Mr Duvalier would be able to access the funds in the immediate future.

Duvalier became president for life at the age of 19 in 1971 after the death of his notorious father, Francois, or "Papa Doc", as he was known. He fled into exile in 1986, taking with him, according to the current Haitian government, tens of millions of dollars looted from the national treasury. Initially, he lived with his then wife and family in a villa in Mougins, near Cannes, driving a Ferrari Testarossa and indulging in playboy prodigality in Paris hotels and jewelry stores. An expensive divorce and his own extravagance are believed to have already used up many millions.

He has denied stealing the money and organizing the murder of opponents. "If I were dictator, I would have done everything in my power to stay in power," he told the Wall Street Journal in 2003. "I laugh when I hear the amounts: \$400m, \$800m. It's a lot of blah, blah, blah ... There were the children to care for, school expenses, other bills." He added: "We were not perfect - perhaps I was too tolerant."

Duvalier is thought to be living in an apartment in Paris with his French fiancée, Veronique Roy, who traveled to Haiti this year to attend a meeting of a handful of die-hard supporters on the island who campaign for the dictator's return.

Haiti is one of the world's poorest countries, with 78% of the population living on less than £1 a day.

By Guardian Unlimited © Copyright Guardian Newspapers 2006

**8. 'I've seen more death than anyone should'  
Despite the sickness and tragedy, a Chicago-born doctor wouldn't want to be  
anywhere but in desperate Haiti  
By Gary Marx**

**Chicago Tribune**

**June 3, 2007**

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/newspaper/premium/printedition/Sunday/chi-haiti\\_doctor\\_bdjun03,0,139227.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/newspaper/premium/printedition/Sunday/chi-haiti_doctor_bdjun03,0,139227.story)

LASCAHOBAS, Haiti -- With only a stethoscope in hand, David Walton hustled out into the darkness to save another life.

Heading down a muddy path, the Chicago-born, Skokie-raised physician arrived at a wood shack where 6-year-old Roodensky Camille was gasping for breath. The boy's face and belly were grotesquely swollen by kidney failure.

"He's dying," the doctor said, pressing the stethoscope to the boy's chest.

For the next two hours, Walton worked methodically to save Roodensky. He had the boy carried several blocks to a medical clinic, where he was given oxygen and drugs to make him urinate and expunge the fluid that was killing him. Having done all he could, the doctor stepped back to see if the medicines would work.

"I'm 30 and I've seen more death than anyone should see," he whispered. "Kids. Adults. It's awful."

Yet despite the sickness and tragedy and loss of life, the Harvard-trained doctor made clear that he wouldn't want to be anywhere but in desperate Haiti, in this isolated little town, where he has spent five years helping transform a nearly dysfunctional clinic without even an X-ray machine into the area's most important medical facility.

While Walton could have sought out a comfortable practice somewhere in the U.S., he works 16-hour shifts and eats mostly rice and beans while tending to peasants who travel by bus or on foot for a half day or longer to be cared for by the physician known here simply as "Dr. David."

When the patients can't come to Walton, he goes to see them.

Walton spends weekends in blistering heat hiking across Haiti's mountainous Central Plateau, past naked children bathing in streams and barefoot peasants lugging firewood, to care for Haitians with AIDS, malnutrition and other ailments. He carries only his stethoscope.

"My belief is that health care is a fundamental human right," he said, "and when people don't have access to health care it's an egregious abuse of human rights."

Walton's care is free, but his impoverished patients try to pay him back any way they can.

Marie Marthe Dine, a 32-year-old infected with HIV, sent a relative 20 feet up a tree to knock down a few coconuts after Walton paid a house call at her mountainside hut. Two

men hacked open the coconuts with machetes so Walton could quench his thirst on the liquid inside.

"He's bon bagay," said Celeste Gislene, a 52-year-old Lascahobas resident, using the Creole phrase for "good guy." "The people love him here."

### His journey

The son of a physician, Walton was born on Chicago's South Side and raised by his divorced mother in north suburban Skokie, a place Walton still considers home even if it was there that he "learned to deal with being different."

"When we first moved there in 1977 we were one of the few non-Jewish families around, let alone being black," Walton said. "As I got older, the complexion of the neighborhood changed. Skokie is now a very different place."

A 1994 graduate of Niles North High School and later Augustana College in Rock Island, Walton has a concern for the poor that is rooted in youthful travels with church and school groups to Africa and Latin America.

One pivotal experience took place in La Paz, Bolivia, where Walton entered a spectacular building housing a brain surgeon and other doctors treating the wealthy while, nearby, a long line of impoverished Bolivians waited for care at a decrepit public clinic.

"This juxtaposition, this differential access to care, really, really affected me," he said. "Somehow, some way, I wanted to deal with these access-to-care issues."

Two weeks after starting Harvard Medical School, Walton met Dr. Paul Farmer, a professor and a founder of Partners in Health, a Boston-based non-profit organization credited with improving the treatment of HIV/AIDS patients in Haiti, Rwanda and other countries.

Walton became Farmer's research assistant and in 1999 traveled with Farmer to Haiti to work at the PIH medical center in Cange, a squatter settlement about 12 miles northwest of Lascahobas.

### 'One in a thousand'

Walton has returned to Haiti each year since. He now works half the year at the organization's clinic in Lascahobas through a special residency program at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital that pays him \$50,000 a year and allows him to split time between Boston and Haiti.

Farmer described Walton as "one in a thousand" for his "persistence and humility" -- two qualities he said are rare yet vital in successfully practicing medicine in impoverished Haiti.

"Haiti is a tough assignment," Farmer said. "You've got to have a lot of patience and perseverance, and you've got to be willing to go back [to Haiti] again and again. Over the years, his commitment to Haiti has shown."

After Walton's four-year residency ends in June, he will become an attending physician at Brigham's Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities. He will be able to spend up to nine months a year in Lascahobas, where he lives in tough conditions.

Walton shares a house with nine clinic employees and bathes using a bucket of cold water. He eats mostly rice and beans because that's the local cuisine. PIH pays for Walton's food and housing.

At night, Walton's sparsely furnished bedroom is swarming with mosquitoes, and he takes medicine to prevent malaria. There are few diversions other than reading or, as he did on a recent evening, cracking open a beer and watching the movie "Blood Diamond" on his laptop computer.

"I don't have an emotional outlet," said Walton, who is single. "I see death. I see illness. I see terrible things every day. I just keep it to myself. It's hard."

Yet Walton says he would "never give up this work."

Where needs are greatest

One reason Walton has chosen to practice medicine in Haiti, where the public health system has collapsed and private care is out of reach for most Haitians, is that the needs here are so great.

He also feels exhilarated working independently, even though it can be scary.

Last month, Fanor Roland, a 42-year-old with HIV and tuberculosis, came into the clinic struggling to breathe. After taking an X-ray, Walton determined that Roland had fluid pressing against his heart. He decided to drain it using a 2-inch needle.

In Boston, Walton would have been able to consult with a cardiologist and use special equipment to see inside the chest cavity and ensure he was plunging the needle in the right place. But in treating Roland in Haiti, Walton was on his own.

"I was scared I was going to kill him," Walton said. "I could have stuck the needle in the ventricle, and that would have been catastrophic."

Fortunately, Walton hit the right spot. "If it hadn't been for the doctor, I'd be dead," Roland said several days after the procedure.

Still, Walton is often frustrated. It took months for the clinic's broken X-ray machine to be replaced this year because none was available in Haiti. And Walton has to make gut-wrenching decisions about who is admitted to the clinic's 15-bed in-patient ward because it is usually full.

That problem, however, should be resolved in December when PIH is scheduled to open a 50-bed hospital outside Lascahobas with a \$469,000 grant from AmeriCares, a U.S.-based disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization.

'Failure of public health'

Many of Walton's patients suffer from preventable illnesses. As he went on his rounds at the in-patient clinic, he stopped at the bedside of Mikaelle Louis Jeune, an emaciated 9-year-old girl with typhoid.

"Every case of typhoid is a failure of public health," Walton said. "That girl, if she had clean water, wouldn't be in the position that she's in."

Walton often tackles what he calls the "non-medical" causes of disease rooted in Haiti's poverty.

Patients come to him requesting help with everything from repairing a shack's leaky roof to purchasing seeds to starting a little business. PIH covers most of the costs, but Walton often digs into his own pocket to help out.

Dine, the woman infected with HIV, told Walton that her business went under last August. She had been selling peas in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, but the vehicle she was transporting them in crashed and the food was stolen.

On top of that, Dine's boyfriend abandoned her in January after learning of her medical condition.

Without his financial support, Dine's four children were going hungry, including an 8-year-old daughter who also is HIV-positive.

She asked Walton for \$170 to get back on her feet.

"Why didn't you come to me before?" Walton asked.

"Because I was ashamed," Dine said.

"Come see me at the clinic," Walton responded. "I'll see what I can do."

Later Walton said: "There is no magic pill. I don't elevate people from abject poverty to middle class. We don't have a lot of money, but day by day things are getting slightly better."

Roodensky, the boy with kidney failure, also was improving under Walton's care. Three days after he was rushed to the clinic, the swelling was down and he was breathing easier.

"How are you, chief?" Walton asked the 6-year-old during morning rounds.

"I'm not bad," the boy whispered, slowly lifting his left arm to shake his doctor's hand.

## **9. In Haiti, victims of ex-paramilitary look to U.S. for justice**

**AP**

**International Herald Tribune**

**May 24, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Malya Villard was laying in bed when masked killers from the hated FRAPH paramilitary group kicked down her door and gang-raped her. Fifteen years later, Villard is still looking for justice.

But on Tuesday, when a New York judge rejected a plea deal in a fraud case that would have deported former FRAPH leader Emmanuel "Toto" Constant to face murder and torture charges in Haiti, Villard was pleased. She and other victims of the group fear that if Constant is sent back to Haiti, he would escape from prison or simply walk free.

"There's no justice in Haiti, only impunity," said Villard, a widow and mother six from Port-au-Prince's rough Martissant slum. "At least in America, he might be punished."

In the gallery of Haitian human rights abusers, few are as feared as Constant, whose Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti, or FRAPH, waged a campaign of terror during the 1991-94 military regime that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a coup. Human rights groups claim FRAPH raped, tortured and killed Aristide supporters by the thousands.

"I would like him to pay for what he did, but if he comes back here, they'll put him in jail for a little while and then let him out," said Eramithe Delva, who was raped in 1992 by five FRAPH soldiers who also severely beat her husband.

The mortgage fraud charge against Constant carries a maximum penalty of five to 15 years in New York state prison, meaning he would not return to Haiti for some time. Even if he does, few believe the burly 50-year-old would receive punishment commensurate with his alleged crimes under Haiti's broken and corrupt court system.

"There's a little chance of the Haitian justice system being able to try Toto Constant," said Anne Sosin, director of Haiti Rights Vision, a local human rights group. She noted that past figures from Haiti's bloody coup period have walked free.

But others are urging President Rene Preval's government to speed Constant's return, arguing his case could benefit the judiciary. A successful prosecution of Constant, some

say, could boost Haitians' confidence in a justice system burdened by bribe-taking judges and an enormous case backlog.

"Toto Constant should be tried in Haiti so that the Haitian people can regain trust in the judicial system," said Pierre Esperance, director of Haiti's National Human Rights Defense Network.

Preval's government so far has shown little interest in trying Constant on Haitian soil.

"For us it's not one of the biggest priorities. We have so many things to do in this country that ... it's not a big preoccupation," Haitian Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Renald Clerisme told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Constant initially proclaimed he had no fear of coming back to Haiti but later told the judge he would likely be assassinated at the airport.

Asked why it's taken so long for Constant to be deported, Clerisme replied: "I don't know, maybe he's powerful."

The son of a military officer, Constant emerged as FRAPH's leader after Aristide was toppled in 1991. Constant says he worked for the CIA.

After U.S. forces restored Aristide to power in 1994, Constant fled to the United States and was allowed to live freely, despite Haitian efforts to have him face justice for leading FRAPH's terror campaign. Haitian officials suspected the United States did not deport Constant because he knew too much about CIA activities in Haiti, but the U.S. intelligence agency has publicly denied any role in antidemocratic actions in this country.

Villard said she is still haunted by her ordeal and wants to see Constant rot in prison — an American one.

"Every time I see his face I relive what happened to me," she said from a Port-au-Prince outreach center where she counsels other rape victims. "If he comes back to Haiti, he could rejoin his supporters and the repression will start all over again."

## **10. Flood, mudslides kill three in Haiti's capital**

**By Joseph Guyler Delva**

**REUTERS**

**San Diego Union Tribune**

**May 25, 2007**

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20070525-0906-weather-haiti.html>

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti – Torrential rains triggered flooding and mudslides that killed three people in Haiti's capital, officials said Friday, raising fears of more destruction during the coming hurricane season.

“Three people were killed and 11 injured and several houses have been destroyed,” Dieufort Deslorge, a spokesman for the civil protection office, told Reuters.

Hardest hit were the poor Carrefour-Feuille, Jacquet and Morne Lazarre neighborhoods. Deslorge urged residents living in flimsy huts on riverbeds and hillsides to take precautions.

“Those killed and injured were living in areas at risk,” he said.

Torrential rains often turn deadly in impoverished and mountainous Haiti, especially in sprawling shantytowns.

Many Haitians are worried about the upcoming hurricane season. In 2004, spring flooding killed 2,000 people in the southern part of the country in May and flooding from Tropical Storm Jeanne killed 3,000 more in the port city of Gonaives in September.

“I’ve been living here for 10 years now in permanent fear of being one day taken away by floods,” said Mariline Gustave, 27, who lives in the Port-au-Prince slum Cite Leternel. “But I have no where else to go, so I leave it up to God.”

A senior advisor to the interior minister, who did not want to be named, said the government was contemplating measures to fight haphazard construction and to force residents to leave homes built in vulnerable areas.

Some said those steps were overdue.

“The government has to destroy those flimsy shacks built on riverbeds and on the hillsides,” said a Port-au-Prince foreman, Joseph Lajoie. “Politicians just don’t want to take unpopular actions.”