

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below the mainstream news on Haiti for September 21- October 23, 2007.

Haitian legislative elections were indefinitely delayed due to corruption allegations filed against three electoral council members issued by two other electoral council members. Elections are expected to replace a third of the Senate seats. It is now impossible for new senators to take office by the January 14, 2008 deadline, as mandated in the constitution.

President Preval proposes a significant “overhauling of the country’s entire constitution to give the government more flexibility to promote development and fight corruption.” Recommendations include: consolidating national and local elections to be held on the same day every five years; creation of a constitutional court; giving the President, not the legislature, the power to dismiss the prime minister; and changing presidential term limits allowing a president to serve two back to back five year terms.

In late September, Preval named a seven member panel to study creation of a security force to eventually replace the UN troops. There are basically two options being studied: creation of a supplemental unit to the existing Haitian police force or restoration of an independent army. Numerous reports quote Preval’s opposition to a newly formed army.

On October 15, the UN peacekeeping mission received a unanimous approval by the UN Security Council for a one year extension. The Security Council noted some improvements in security over the past year, but stated the situation is still fragile and the Haitian government continues to depend on foreign forces for security. The resolution urges the UN mission to undertake more work to improve living conditions in addition to their security tasks. The UN Secretary General recommended a slight reduction of infantry troops and increasing police officers. More emphasis will be placed on strengthening border security and controlling the arms and drug trade. Brazil, along with other south American countries participating in the peacekeeping mission stated their support and eagerness to “stay in Haiti as long as it is necessary.” The Preval government is advocating for greater UN mission prioritizing of development needs and less on security.

Former rebel leader and presidential candidate, Guy Philippe, continues to broadcast his innocence and insistence of his political persecution on the radio. Philippe remains in hiding from US DEA agents and Haitian police pursuing him on drug trafficking charges. He maintains the drug accusations are a cover for a political plot resulting from his radio denouncements against certain Haitian elites and backers of the 2004 coup.

In late September several mainstream news reports covered the unusual radio apology by Jean Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier on broadcast on Haitian radio. Duvalier’s address appears to be an attempt to build Haitian support paving the way for his return to Haiti and possibly a future presidential candidate under the small National Unity Party. Duvalier apologized for the ‘wrongs’ of his regime, without specifying the estimated

40,000 deaths that occurred during his and his father's 29 year dictatorship. President Preval, like most Haitians, "rejected Duvalier's apology, said he could not prevent the former dictator from returning because Haiti's constitution prohibits the forced exile of any citizen." Preval insists that Duvalier will be tried for his regime's abuses and corruption. A Seattle Times editorial opposes Duvalier's return under the basic premise that Haiti has too many other unattended challenges and doesn't need yet one more destabilizing and controversial factor. Duvalier is reportedly broke and lonely in exile and thus anxious to return to Haiti. He and his supporters hold fast to the notion that the country descended into political and economic chaos following his departure. The Preval government is pursuing an estimated \$6.3 million of Duvalier's assets in a frozen Swiss bank account.

Coverage of Michigan Congressman and House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers' visit to Haiti with a delegation from New York was not widely covered by the mainstream media. Although there was one AP report quoting Conyers saying that the "U.S. government should allow more Haitian migrants to remain in the United States after dangerous ocean voyages."

**Contents:**

- 1. Haiti delays Senate elections amid infighting on electoral council, AP and IHT**
- 2. Corruption claims halt Haiti election for senators, Caribbean Net News, Reuters**
- 3. Haiti's Preval Seeks to Amend Term Limit, AP**
- 4. Haiti to study creation of force to replace UN peacekeepers, AP and The Jerusalem Post**
- 5. Haiti has long journey to stability – Brazil, Reuters**
- 6. Haitian rebel claims political persecution from hiding, dares US to kill him, AP and IHT**
- 7. U.N. Force to Remain in Haiti, AP**
- 8. UN force in Haiti to target arms, drugs smuggling, Reuters AlertNet**
- 9. Residents of once-violent Haitian slum welcome extension for UN peacekeepers, AP and IHT**
- 10. Haiti: Duvalier Could Face Justice, The Associated Press**
- 11. "Baby Doc" is wrong Rx for Haiti, Editorial, The Seattle Times**
- 12. Penniless in exile, Baby Doc asks Haiti to forgive him, The Guardian UK**
- 13. Haiti's 'Baby Doc' seeks forgiveness, The Telegraph, UK**
- 14. Haiti to go after former dictator's funds, USA Today**
- 15. Michigan's Conyers says immigration policy hurts Haitian migrants, Associated Press**

**1. Haiti delays Senate elections amid infighting on electoral council**  
**The Associated Press**  
**IHT**

**October 10, 2007**

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/10/11/news/CB-GEN-Haiti-Election-Delayed.php>

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Haiti is delaying legislative elections as it sorts out allegations of financial fraud and criminal activity within the nation's electoral council, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

The current Parliament was elected in 2006 after two dormant years in the wake of a 2004 uprising that toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and 10 out of 30 Senate seats were supposed to be up for election in November.

Government spokesman Joseph Jasmin said the election "is certainly not going to happen in November."

"I can't give you any estimate when it is going to happen but we will work so it can happen quickly," he said.

Jasmin said Rene Preval and leaders of Haitian political parties have reached a consensus to revamp the feuding election panel and replace some or all of its members.

The Provisional Electoral Council has long been criticized for votes plagued by ballot irregularities and fraud allegations.

Internal conflict reached a head when two members — Patrick Fequiere and Louis Jerson Richeme — accused commission President Max Mathurin, Secretary-General Rosemond Pradel and Treasurer Francois Benoit of embezzling an undisclosed amount of money for personal use and of trying to have Richeme killed.

"The (council) is broken in two. The members are fighting all the time," Jasmin said.

Mathurin declined to comment Wednesday, saying he would issue a statement later. Pradel and Benoit could not be contacted.

It was unclear how the announcement would affect current business in the Senate, which has the power to dismiss the country's prime minister and members of the Cabinet.

## **2. Corruption claims halt Haiti election for senators**

**Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

**By Joseph Guyler Delva**

**Caribbean Net News, Reuters**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Reuters): An investigation into allegations that members of Haiti's electoral council have misappropriated public funds forced authorities to abandon plans to hold elections next month for a third of the country's Senate seats, an electoral official said on Tuesday.

The president of the electoral council, Max Mathurin, said the first round of the ballot, due to take place on Nov. 25, and the second round on Dec. 2 would be postponed

because the council had stopped working while the members accused of corruption by their colleagues wait to know their fate.

"The decision to set a new date for the election is no longer in our hands ... President (Rene) Preval has to make a decision as to what will become of this electoral council," Mathurin told Reuters.

Haiti, long racked by political instability and bloodshed, was plunged into chaos after former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in an armed revolt in 2004.

A UN peacekeeping force struggled at first to rein in rampant kidnappings and violence. But the Caribbean country of 8.5 million has begun to edge slowly toward stability and social peace since Preval was elected last year.

Progress, however, is precarious and grinding poverty means many Haitians are growing impatient for more concrete results.

Jostling for political power is getting fiercer as political parties vie for control of the 30-member Senate, which has the constitutional power to fire the prime minister and government ministers.

Next month's election was to replace a third of the Senate and also find a replacement for an additional senator killed in an accident this year. The delay means it will not be possible for new senators to take office by the Jan. 14, 2008, deadline set in the constitution.

The corruption allegations against three electoral council members were filed by two other members of the nine-seat panel -- Patrick Fequiere and Louis Jerson Richeme.

Mathurin, Rosemond Pradel, the council's secretary-general, and Francois Benoit, its treasurer, who have been banned from leaving the country, are accused of misappropriating public funds. The amount allegedly embezzled was not disclosed.

Fequiere told Reuters he and Richeme had filed documents proving the allegations but declined further comment because the accusations were being investigated by a prosecutor.

Mathurin denied the allegations and said Fequiere and Richeme were trying to destroy the electoral council's reputation because of personal conflicts with other members.

"All they want is to destroy this council and to get rid of the other members, hoping they'll keep a seat on the next panel," Mathurin said.

Benoit is also the subject of a separate criminal investigation over allegations he tried to kill Richeme.

In a complaint filed with prosecutors, Richeme said Benoit pulled a gun on him during a recent discussion at the council's headquarters.

### **3. Haiti's Preval Seeks to Amend Term Limit**

**By JONATHAN M. KATZ**

**The Associated Press**

**October 17, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian President Rene Preval on Wednesday called for a constitutional amendment to allow presidents to serve consecutive terms — a change he said would bring more stability to a country frequently mired in political chaos.

Preval, in a speech at the National Palace, proposed overhauling the country's entire constitution to give the government more flexibility to promote development and fight corruption.

He suggested holding all national and local elections on the same day every five years, and recommended creating a constitutional court to interpret the nation's laws. He also said the president should have the power to dismiss the prime minister — who is now appointed by the executive, but can only be ousted by parliament.

Current rules limit Haitian presidents to two terms, with at least a five-year break in between. Preval's initial proposal, which spokesmen said he would refine before submitting to parliament, would allow future presidents to serve those terms back-to-back.

Preval, who won his second nonconsecutive term last year, assured legislators he could not, and would not, seek office again.

"I know that as soon as the president asks to reflect on the constitution, it gives rise to suspicion," Preval said. "I repeat once again for everyone: My tenure comes to end on Feb. 7, 2011, period."

Haiti's current constitution was signed in 1987 after 29 years of dictatorship and was intended to impede any return to authoritarian rule.

Preval urged lawmakers to work with him to overhaul the document, which he called the single greatest threat to Haiti's long-term stability.

Preval said the amendment process is slow, needing the approval of two-thirds of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies and requiring they then wait until the next session of parliament to implement the changes.

### **4. Haiti to study creation of force to replace UN peacekeepers**

**By ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**The Jerusalem Post**  
**October 10, 2007**

Haiti's president appointed a commission of academics and ex-military officers Tuesday to study the creation of a security force to one day replace UN troops in the restive Caribbean country.

An 8,800-member UN peacekeeping force, deployed in 2004 after an uprising toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has provided the only real security Haiti has seen since Aristide disbanded the army in 1995.

The new seven-member panel named by President Rene Preval will decide whether to create a unit to supplement the impoverished nation's overwhelmed and outgunned police forces, or to restore the army, which orchestrated several coups throughout Haiti's history.

**5. Haiti has long journey to stability – Brazil**

**Reuters**

**Wed Oct 3, 2007**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/americasCrisis/idUSN03195916>

SAO PAULO, Oct 3 (Reuters) - Countries in the U.N. peacekeeping force in Haiti are eager to stay until the job of bringing security to the impoverished country is done, Brazil's ambassador to Haiti said.

The mandate of the U.N. mission dispatched to Haiti in 2004 and led by Brazil is up for renewal on Oct. 15.

Haiti's path to stability will take more time, Ambassador Paulo Cordeiro de Andrade Pinto said in telephone interview from Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince on Tuesday night.

Andrade Pinto, who met with officials from countries in the U.N. force last week, said they showed enthusiasm for continuing the mission.

However, the renewal resolution should also change the mission's priorities to focus less on security and more on helping development, he said.

"This peacekeeping effort must be well-formed and stay in Haiti as long as it is necessary," he said, adding that he believed most Haitians want the nearly 9,000-strong force to stay.

Haiti has been relatively stable in recent months following more than two years of political and gang violence before and after the fall of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the former president ousted in a bloody rebellion in February 2004.

The U.N. force and Haitian police have managed this year to rein in rampant kidnapping that threatened to undermine the government of one-time Aristide protege, President Rene Preval, who was elected last year.

"If compared to when I arrived here, security has improved significantly," said the ambassador, who has been in Haiti since 2005.

He acknowledged that the crime rate is still high.

"It is a country that used to solve its differences with bullets and knives. How can we change a century of culture in one day?"

The U.N. force, drawn from countries including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Canada, France and the United States, has suffered 31 deaths among troops, police and civilian staff.

## **6. U.N. Force to Remain in Haiti**

**By EDITH M. LEDERER**

**The Associated Press**

**October 15, 2007**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Monday to extend the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti for a year, noting significant improvements in security in recent months but saying the situation remains fragile.

The U.N. force of more than 7,000 troops and 2,000 international police replaced a U.S.-led force deployed after an uprising toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004.

More than 400 people died in clashes involving pro- and anti-Aristide street gangs, police, peacekeepers and ex-soldiers who helped oust Aristide.

Haiti experienced relative calm after President Rene Preval's election in February 2006, but violence flared several months later. A U.N. crackdown on gangs launched late last year has led to a sharp reduction in shootings, but many people still live in squalor and are in desperate need of jobs, hospitals and schools.

In Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, some political leaders and residents of the country's largest slum seemed to welcome the extension, saying a crackdown earlier this year has made life easier in a neighborhood previously run by gangs.

"Last year we couldn't have sat here playing dominoes" because it was so dangerous, 27-year-old construction worker Jean-Baptiste Venel said in the seaside slum of Cite Soleil. "If the U.N. is here for another year it's a good thing for the country and Cite Soleil."

Residents say that Cite Soleil — where people live in rows of bullet-scarred hovels with no electricity or running water — is currently safer than it has been since Aristide's departure.

Senate President Joseph Lambert praised the U.N. resolution but said Haiti must restore its national sovereignty after years of security provided by U.N. troops.

In its resolution, the Security Council acknowledged significant improvements in the country's security situation in recent months, but noted it remains "fragile," in part because of continuing drugs and arms trafficking.

Ban said in a report to the council following his visit to Haiti in August that despite "marginal improvements," the Haitian police force "remains unable to undertake crucial security tasks" without help.

The force's mandate covers mainly Haiti's security needs, but Preval's government has been pressuring the U.N. to funnel more resources into development projects.

The resolution urged the U.N. country team and all humanitarian and development organizations in Haiti to complement security operations by undertaking activities to improve living conditions in the country.

## **7. UN force in Haiti to target arms, drugs smuggling**

**Mon Oct 15, 2007**

**Reuters AlertNet**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 15 (Reuters) - The Security Council renewed the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Haiti for another year on Monday but reconfigured it to try to strengthen the country's borders against arms and drugs smuggling.

A unanimously passed resolution noted "significant improvements" in the security of the turbulent Caribbean state but said "international illicit trafficking of drugs and arms continues to affect the stability of Haiti."

U.N. troops and police were dispatched to Haiti in 2004 after a revolt that toppled former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They have only recently brought relative calm to the poorest country in the Americas, rife with violent gangs, killings sparked by turf wars in teeming slums and a rash of kidnappings.

The resolution took up a recommendation by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who visited Haiti in August, to reduce the number of troops by 140 to a maximum of 7,060, decreasing infantry and reorganizing the remainder.

Ban's Aug. 22 report said soldiers should be taken from calmer areas and redeployed to establish patrols along the coast and Haiti's land border with the Dominican Republic.

The report said that, with its 1,600 miles (2,560 km) of unprotected coastline, unguarded seaports and numerous clandestine airstrips, Haiti was wide open for arms and drugs smugglers.

The police component of the U.N. force will be increased by 140, to a maximum of 2,091, to help Haitian police in urban areas, compensate for the shift of troops and help with border monitoring.

Ban's report said the Haitian National Police, "despite marginal improvements ... remains unable to undertake crucial security tasks unaided."

Monday's resolution welcomed "continuing achievements in Haiti's political process," including peaceful local elections in April, but said the situation "continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security."

The U.N. force, drawn from countries including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Canada, France and the United States, has suffered 31 deaths among troops, police and civilian staff.

#### **8. Residents of once-violent Haitian slum welcome extension for UN peacekeepers AP and International Herald Tribune October 15, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Political leaders and residents of Haiti's biggest slum largely welcomed news that the U.N. has extended its peacekeeping mission for another year, saying a crackdown earlier this year has made life easier in a neighborhood previously run by gangs.

"Last year we couldn't have sat here playing dominoes" because it was so dangerous, 27-year-old construction worker Jean-Baptiste Venel said in the Port-au-Prince's seaside slum of Cite Soleil. "If the U.N. is here for another year it's a good thing for the country and Cite Soleil."

Earlier Monday in New York, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to extend through at least October 2008 the mission by the multinational force, known as Minustah from its initials in French.

Cite Soleil — where people live in rows of bullet-scarred hovels with no electricity or running water — is currently safer than it has been in the years since a 2004 revolt toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and prompted the deployment of the 9,000 U.N. peacekeepers.

But its inhabitants remain desperately poor and some residents criticized the peacekeepers, saying Haiti needs development and jobs, not more security forces.

"The U.N. didn't come to do anything," said Aristide Idore, an unemployed 29-year-old. "I hope when I wake up tomorrow they've packed their things and gone."

Senate President Joseph Lambert praised the U.N. resolution but said Haiti must restore its national sovereignty after years of security provided by U.N. troops.

"We need to create a culture of peace," Lambert said, "and from there we can decide how long Minustah is going to be around."

### **9. Haitian rebel claims political persecution from hiding, dares US to kill him**

**The Associated Press**

**International Herald Tribune**

**October 10, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: A fugitive Haitian rebel leader and former presidential candidate told a local radio show Wednesday that he was the victim of a political plot and dared U.S. agents to kill him.

Guy Philippe, who went into hiding after U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and Haitian police raided his home in July, told the hosts of Signal FM's "Haiti Today" that the raid in the coastal city of Les Cayes was political payback.

"This is a political plot. I have no problem with them accusing me of something, but they should tell me what it is and base it on the law," said Philippe, 39, who helped toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004.

Philippe is being sought in connection with a pending drug trafficking indictment in U.S. federal court, said Alicia Valle, special counsel to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami. She declined to provide specifics.

In his message from hiding, Philippe told the radio program that U.S. agents had opportunities to catch him before. He said he spent two hours in a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince in 2005, and that in 2006 he was issued a U.S. visa.

"What I have been saying about my political views I will continue saying: Foreign aid is not going to help Haiti. If they want to kill me for this statement, they just have to do it," he said.

The army veteran and former Cap-Haitien police chief led a 2004 uprising that claimed credit for ousting Aristide. He later gave up his arms to a U.N. peacekeeping force and ran for president in 2006, but finished a distant ninth.

Earlier this year, Philippe denounced several powerful Haitians on local radio, an act some Haitians speculate convinced well-connected people to seek his arrest.

### **10. Haiti: Duvalier Could Face Justice**

**By ALEXANDRA OLSON**

**The Associated Press**

**Sep 28, 2007**

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jGvTRr6fGDAMG0fB-UUS8hx7PdGQD8RURUIG0>

NEW YORK (AP) — Haiti's president said Friday that former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier would have to face justice for his regime's corruption and abuses if he returns to the Caribbean country from exile.

Duvalier, whose rule came to an abrupt end in February 1986 when he fled during a popular uprising, ended years of silence over the weekend with a Haitian radio address in which he apologized for "wrongs" committed under his rule. He did not say whether he would return to Haiti, but his unexpected address came amid a quiet campaign by some of his hardcore supporters to bring him back from in France.

President Rene Preval, who earlier this week rejected Duvalier's apology, said he could not prevent the former dictator from returning because Haiti's constitution prohibits the forced exile of any citizen.

Asked if Duvalier would be brought to trial, Preval said his "dictatorship killed thousands of people" and stole millions of dollars.

"There is also the clamor of the people ... I think justice has to have its say," Preval told a news conference in New York, where he was attending the U.N. General Assembly.

Earlier this week, Preval said his government was preparing a case to recover \$6.3 million in Duvalier-linked Swiss bank accounts. Many Haitians believe the money was stolen from public funds. Duvalier has denied illegally taking money.

Named president for life at 19 following the death of his father in 1971, "Baby Doc" now reportedly supports himself with handouts from friends. An estimated 60,000 people were killed during the 29-year father-and-son dictatorship, while many others were maimed by the dictatorship or forced into exile.

Preval also said he saw no reason to restore the Haitian army that was disbanded in 1995 by Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the president toppled in a 2004 uprising. An 8,800-member U.N. force has provided the only real security in the impoverished Caribbean nation since Aristide's ouster.

In July, the government said it would study the creation of a security force to one day replace the U.N. peacekeepers, and that a special commission named by Preval would decide whether it should take the form of a reconstituted army or a supporting unit of Haiti's outgunned police.

## **11. "Baby Doc" is wrong Rx for Haiti**

**Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier wants another shot in Haiti.**

**Editorial**

**The Seattle Times**

**September 28, 2007**

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/editorialsopinion/2003908739\\_haitied28.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/editorialsopinion/2003908739_haitied28.html)

A Tree Grows in Issaquah

International efforts to stabilize and rebuild Haiti are greatly compromised by Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's quiet grab for power in the Caribbean island.

Haiti has long been one of the most corrupt and unstable nation in the Western Hemisphere. But since the election last year of President René Préval, the island has enjoyed a measure of peace and stability. Gone are the daily clashes between armed thugs, protesters and United Nations peacekeepers

Inflation is falling. Haitian currency is rising.

This is no time for Duvalier to emerge from the rock under which he has long resided. The former Haitian leader is widely remembered for presiding over a brutal kleptocracy for 15 years before being ousted in a popular uprising in 1986.

Until then, many Haitians had known no life other than one under the brutal hand of a Duvalier. Before the younger man, his father, known as Papa Doc, had ruled in an equally harsh fashion.

After years of silence in exile in France, Duvalier and a few supporters have launched a quiet campaign to return him to power. A public-radio address by Duvalier acknowledged his regime's many "mistakes" and asked Haitians for forgiveness. Reported to be penniless and unhappy in exile, Duvalier is pushing for his small National Unity Party to have a hand in Haitian politics.

Thanks, but no thanks. Haiti is on an admittedly long road to recovery. It must still tackle a 70-percent unemployment rate and a ruined environment. It doesn't need Duvalier to add to its tall list of challenges.

## **12. Penniless in exile, Baby Doc asks Haiti to forgive him**

**The Guardian UK**

**Rory Carroll, Latin America correspondent**

**Wednesday September 26, 2007**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,2176967,00.html>

Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, Haiti's former dictator, has broken years of silence to apologise for his regime's mistakes and to request his people's forgiveness.

The 56-year-old recorded a message from his exile in France accepting responsibility for "wrongs" committed during his 15-year rule over the Caribbean island. It has been broadcast around Haiti in the recent days.

The broadcast appeared aimed at softening up public opinion for an unlikely political comeback. That Duvalier is said to be penniless may be relevant.

"If, during my presidential mandate, the government caused any physical, moral or economic wrongs to others, I solemnly take the historical responsibility ... to request forgiveness from the people and ask for the impartial judgment of history," Duvalier said. For most Haitians there is no if. Duvalier is remembered for presiding over a murderous kleptocracy for 15 years until being ousted in a popular uprising in 1986.

A chaotic legacy endures in the form of extreme poverty, lawlessness and political turmoil which makes Haiti one of the worst places to live in the western hemisphere.

That desperation, however, has allowed Duvalier to claim things have deteriorated since he left and that the country would benefit from his political resurrection.

The phrasing of the statement from Paris was more aspirational than penitential and cast the former playboy in the role of democratic saviour-in-waiting.

"The watchword is already launched, the instruction is given. Militants and militant sympathizers of the National Unity party be ready. We live in waiting of the revival," Duvalier said.

The NUP claims to have recruited thousands of new members in Haiti on the back of nostalgia for the deposed dictator. They launched the François Duvalier Foundation, named after Jean-Claude's father, in 2006 to remind people that he was once considered a champion of the island's black underclass.

In the broadcast Duvalier said he was "broken by 20 years of exile" but "reinvigorated" by what he claimed was growing support among younger Haitians.

A 9,000-strong UN peacekeeping force has restored some order on the island, giving President René Préval's government a breathing space to fight poverty and crime. Analysts warn that the current calm is fragile.

The chances of a Baby Doc comeback are remote. The "Duvalierists" seldom gather in public because of enduring hostility. They did not contest the most recent election, and so have no seats in parliament.

Bobby Duval, a former football star and human rights advocate who was starved and tortured under the Duvalier regime, said the former dictator's apology did not go far enough. "He killed thousands of people, stole money and destroyed the psyche and heart of a people. This guy should be in jail and I'm just waiting for him to come back so that can happen," he told the Associated Press.

Baby Doc, so-called because he inherited power from his father François "Papa Doc" Duvalier, a doctor-turned-tyrant, lacks the common touch. His address was in French, not Creole, the language spoken in the slums where most Haitians live.

The father and son reign of 29 years left at least 40,000 political opponents dead, many of them at the hands of the Tontons Macoutes militia. Baby Doc is also remembered for presiding over embezzlement which is reputed to have drained £250m from the impoverished treasury.

When he fled to France he lived a luxurious life on the Riviera, driving a Ferrari, shopping in designer boutiques and shuttling between his chateau and several apartments. The money appears to have run out several years ago after a costly divorce from Michelle Bennett Pasquet.

Duvalier's inability or unwillingness to get a job has forced him to rely on handouts from friends. He reportedly lives in a one-bedroom flat in Paris. Last month Switzerland extended a freeze on a Duvalier-linked bank account containing £3.1m.

Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's spectacular rise and fall was a Haitian tragedy. Anointed president for life aged 19 in 1971, the playboy continued the tyranny of his late father, François "Papa Doc".

The long-suffering population plunged deeper into poverty while Baby Doc's family and cronies looted the treasury. Dissenters were jailed, shot and hacked to death. His glitzy multimillion dollar wedding underlined the dictator's aloofness. Trafficking in drugs and cadavers (for foreign medical schools) further tainted the regime.

An uprising in 1986 prompted exile to France. Baby Doc's expensive lifestyle and costly divorce drained his fortune. He now lives modestly in Paris and claims to be broke. The island he left behind is the poorest, and according to social indicators the most wretched, in the hemisphere.

### **13. Haiti's 'Baby Doc' seeks forgiveness**

**By Tom Leonard in New York**

**The Telegraph, UK**

**27/09/2007**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/09/26/whaiti126.xml>

Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, the exiled former dictator of Haiti, has belatedly asked his countrymen to forgive "wrongs" committed by his regime in an apparent bid to soften opposition to him returning there.

In a speech recorded in Paris, where he has reportedly been living in growing poverty, Duvalier urged supporters to rally around his small political party.

It was Duvalier's first public address in years and the speech was broadcast across the impoverished Caribbean country that he and his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, did so much to ruin.

Duvalier, 56, took over as ruler of Haiti from his father in 1971 when he was just 19.

As "president for life", he continued in the family tradition of torturing and murdering political opponents, and pilfering the state coffers.

When he fled to France in 1986 following a popular uprising, he left a country racked by violence, and economically and politically on its knees.

In the radio address, Duvalier described himself as "broken by 20 years of exile" but "reinvigorated" by what he claimed was growing support among younger Haitians for his small National Unity Party.

"The watchword is already launched, the instruction is given. Militants and militant sympathisers of the National Unity Party be ready. We live .... in waiting of the revival," he said. Duvalier made no direct mention of planning to return. Last year, supporters set up the Francois Duvalier Foundation to promote supposedly positive aspects of his rule.

In his speech, Duvalier said history would be the judge of his regime. "If, during my presidential mandate, the government caused any physical, moral or economic wrongs to others, I solemnly take the historical responsibility ... to request forgiveness from the people and ask for the impartial judgment of history," he said.

Bobby Duval, a former football star who was starved and tortured under the Duvalier regime for speaking out against human rights abuses, said it was the first time he could recall the former dictator apologising for his regime's atrocities.

"He killed thousands of people, stole money and destroyed the psyche and heart of a people. This guy should be in jail and I'm just waiting for him to come back so that can happen," said Mr Duval.

Duvalier's party has no seats in parliament, although the party did not contest seats in the most recent elections.

His address was timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of his father's election.

Haiti's constitution outlaws the forced exile of any Haitian citizen.

#### **14. Haiti to go after former dictator's funds**

**USA Today**

**September 25, 2007**

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-09-25-haiti-funds\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-09-25-haiti-funds_N.htm)

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitian President Rene Preval on Tuesday rejected an apology from former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier and said the government would ask a court to recover millions in state funds allegedly stolen during the 15-year regime.

Preval, speaking before leaving for the U.N. General Assembly in New York, said Duvalier's surprise apology for past abuses was welcome but inadequate.

"An apology is one thing, justice is another thing," Preval, a former anti-Duvalier activist who was elected president last year, told reporters. "It will be up for the Haitian people to decide if there will be forgiveness."

Preval said his government had asked Swiss authorities to freeze Duvalier-linked bank accounts containing \$6.3 million — money many Haitians believe was stolen from public funds. Duvalier has denied illegally taking money and the Swiss government has said the funds would remain frozen for at least another year.

The president said his administration is preparing a case to "recuperate the funds," without providing details.

Duvalier, whose regime came to an abrupt end in February 1986 when he fled the country during a popular uprising, ended years of silence over the weekend with a Haitian radio address in which he apologized for "wrongs" committed under his rule.

The address coincided with the 50th anniversary of the election of his father and predecessor, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier. It also came amid a quiet campaign by die-hard allies to see him return from exile in France.

Duvalier did not say whether he would seek to return to his homeland, but claimed younger Haitians are beginning to mobilize in support of his small National Unity Party, which plans to run candidates in a parliamentary election this year.

Named president for life at 19 following the death of his father in 1971, "Baby Doc" now lives in France and reportedly supports himself with handouts from friends.

Copyright 2007 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

## **15. Michigan's Conyers says immigration policy hurts Haitian migrants**

**WLNS TV 6 Lansing, Michigan**

**Associated Press**

**October 8, 2007**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - Michigan Congressman John Conyers says the U.S. government should allow more Haitian migrants to remain in the United States after dangerous ocean voyages.

The Detroit Democrat and House Judiciary Committee chairman spoke today while visiting the troubled and impoverished Caribbean country.

Conyers had praise for the island's improving security after meeting with President Rene Preval and parliament members.

His visit was led by the New York-based Haiti Support Project and aimed at promoting trade, tourism and U.S.-Haitian relations.

Copyright 2007 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.