

## **HAITI NEWS ROUNDUPS: OCTOBER 21 -31, 2006**

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### **Haiti: Security and Reintegration of the State International Crisis Group October 30, 2006**

Port-au-Prince/Brussels, 30 October 2006: Security remains Haiti's top challenge, and the new president has only a small window of opportunity to re-establish the state's authority.

Haiti: Security and the Reintegration of the State,\* the latest policy briefing from the International Crisis Group, examines the security challenges facing René Préval, including youth gangs, drug trafficking, kidnappings and corruption in the Haitian National Police (HNP), and outlines what needs to be done to create a stable environment. The Préval administration must simultaneously tackle the pervasive violence while launching infrastructure and development projects to combat extreme poverty and give people reason to trust in government.

“Haiti will turn the corner only when citizens sense a reappearance of state sovereignty and the rule of law in daily life”, says Mark Schneider, Crisis Group Senior Vice President. “That will require cleaning up the HNP, wiping out the perception of the state as a means to personal enrichment and opening up opportunities for the poor”.

The state security apparatus is as much a source of the problem as the solution. Reform has been attempted and failed repeatedly since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship and the upheavals of the 1990s. Insecurity, violence and impunity continued after the turbulent departure of President Aristide in 2004, leaving a legacy of violence and poverty for the five-month old Préval government and the UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSTAH).

The HNP is spread thin, poorly equipped, minimally trained and unable to confront the smuggling of drugs, weapons, contraband and human beings through the country's porous ports and borders. While police and judicial incompetence and corruption and gang violence cannot be eradicated immediately, unambiguous steps are needed, including: vetting and retraining police officers, training and hiring new judges, securing ports and border crossings and vigorously enforcing with gang leaders and members alike the recently begun disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration initiative. All these measures must be formally announced, urgently implemented and transparently monitored.

The international community should reinforce the UN police with more security and anti-gang specialists, including SWAT teams and crime investigators, as well as finance highly visible infrastructure and jobs programs. And it must recognise that there are no quick fixes and commit for a least a decade to Haiti's recovery.

“The longer security remains an issue, the more it will be to the detriment of other much needed areas of socio-economic development which are essential to creating a stable environment in Haiti”, says Alain Deletroz, Crisis Group's Latin America Program Director.

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**\*Read the full Crisis Group briefing on our website: <http://www.crisisgroup.org>**

## **Haiti Makes Small Steps Toward Stability**

**By STEVENSON JACOBS**

**The Associated Press**

**Sunday, October 29, 2006**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/29/AR2006102900298.html>

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Young men with pistols roam the fetid slums of Haiti's capital but now many are looking for jobs instead of victims. Children in checkered uniforms walk to school on dusty streets where stray bullets used to whiz past.

Five months into Haiti's latest attempt at democracy, small but important improvements have pulled the Caribbean nation from the brink of collapse. Perhaps most notably, an unprecedented wave of kidnappings that terrorized Haitians rich and poor finally seems to be leveling off.

Only a year ago, Haiti was engulfed in violence that began with the February 2004 rebel uprising that toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Hundreds, possibly thousands, died in almost daily clashes among well-armed gangs, former rebels, rogue police and U.N. peacekeepers.

Today, a new government led by elected President Rene Preval has passed a budget, begun to collect taxes, raised \$750 million in foreign aid and launched a campaign to disarm hundreds of gangsters.

The economy is starting to show small but encouraging signs of life. Double-digit inflation that soared after the revolt is starting to fall, while vital cash sent home by Haitians working abroad has increased and overall growth is expected to reach 2.5 percent this year.

"It's a very different place today," U.S. Ambassador Janet A. Sanderson told The Associated Press. "There are some real accomplishments and some real things that, when looked at over a year, are encouraging."

Peace and stability are far from assured. Huge challenges remain, from employing hungry slum dwellers and rebuilding shattered infrastructure to equipping Haiti's outgunned police.

"This is a country where almost everything is broken," Sanderson said.

A drive across the capital, along streets cratered by giant potholes, underscores her point.

Street children with swollen bellies beg for money, crying "I'm hungry" in Creole as they cluster around stopped cars. Few Haitians have electricity or running water. Jobs are scarce. Acrid black smoke rises day and night from burning tires thrown on trash heaps.

Haiti ranked 153rd out of 177 countries in the U.N.'s most recent report on global quality of life, behind Sudan and Zimbabwe and ahead of countries including Nigeria, Congo and Sierra Leone. A recent World Bank report lists Haiti as one of 26 states at risk of collapse.

But buoyed by its modest progress, the government is wooing foreign investors, even touting Haiti as a Caribbean vacation spot.

"There is some kind of window of opportunity and the sense of stability that the country has some future," said Edmond Mulet, the U.N. special envoy to Haiti. "It's still a fragile situation. I wouldn't say we've turned a corner yet, but I think in the next months we'll be able to assume that, hopefully."

The key will be security.

After the revolt, gangs loyal to Aristide launched a wave of killings and kidnappings aimed at destabilizing a U.S.-backed interim government, which was accused of persecuting Aristide supporters. Everyone was a potential victim \_ from foreign missionaries to security guards to former first lady Lucienne Heurtelou Estime, an elderly widow shot to death at a jewelry store in May.

The number of reported kidnappings fell from about 80 in August to half that last month, Mulet said. Officials attribute the decrease to government-led negotiations with gangs and increased police and U.N. patrols.

Last month the government unveiled a U.N.-administered program to disarm up to 1,000 low-level gangsters in exchange for food grants, civics courses and training for such jobs as mechanics and electricians.

So far, 109 Haitians have been enrolled, Mulet said, and dozens of weapons recovered.

"We must disarm to have peace," said Alix Fils-Aime, who leads the national disarmament commission. "It's a make-or-break situation. If we don't do it, the whole country will drown in criminality."

But gang leaders wanted for murder and other serious crimes aren't eligible for the program, and Haitians fear gang members will return to kidnapping if they don't get jobs, which are scarce.

On a recent day in the sprawling Cite Soleil slum, three young gang members sat outside a squat cinderblock house, puffing on a huge marijuana cigarette and complaining.

"A lot of people here are hungry," Richard Jean-Baptiste said, adding that he'd like to work as a trucker. The other men nodded in agreement.

"We need jobs. The new government promised us help, but we're still waiting," said Joseph Jean, 27, who claimed to be broke even though he wore expensive sneakers and a cell phone clipped to his designer jeans.

He said he surrendered a pistol but has yet to hear if he will be accepted into the U.N. program.

"We're giving over the guns," he said. "Now we want peace."

## **Florida legislature approves \$1 million in aid to Haiti**

**Associated Press**

**Bradenton Herald**

**October 27, 2006**

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/15867338.htm>

CORAL GABLES, Fla. - Gov. Jeb Bush announced Friday that Florida has allocated \$1 million to help Haiti as it seeks to rebuild its economy and infrastructure.

The money, approved by the Florida Legislature, will be used to help implement a series of recommendations provided last year by the governor's Haitian Advisory Group. The state will work with a local nonprofit group to channel the money toward professional and technical exchange programs, as well as educational support, business development and educational programs.

"We hope that this money will be leveraged to generate lots of volunteer support and lots of private sector support, hopefully drawing down additional support from Washington," Bush said during a ceremony at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

Bush said part of the money would likely be used to continue federally funded training in Florida of Haitian law enforcement officers in areas such as crime-scene investigations.

Carolyn Rose-Avila, head of the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas, which will oversee the funds, said about \$150,000 of the money would be channeled toward micro-enterprise programs through partners on the ground in Haiti.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. A bloody 2004 rebel uprising toppled then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and pushed the country into chaos. President Rene Preval took power in May, pulling the Caribbean nation from the brink of collapse.

But in a recent report by the World Bank, Haiti was listed among 26 "fragile states" at risk of collapsing due to conflict, poverty and bad governance.

Last month, the U.S. announced \$492 million in aid to the Caribbean country.

The governor's initiative began following a 2004 trip he made to Haiti, which is Florida's 28th largest trading partner with \$813 million in trade during 2005.

## **Haitians Demonstrate Against U.N. Troops**

**By STEVENSON JACOBS**

**The Associated Press**

**The Washington Post**

**Friday, October 27, 2006**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/27/AR2006102701425.html>

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- Hundreds of protesters marched peacefully through Haiti's largest slum Friday to demand the withdrawal of U.N. peacekeepers, accusing the troops of killing civilians during gunbattles with street gangs.

Chants of "Down with the U.N.!" and "U.N. go home!" rose as marchers walked through Cite Soleil, a sprawling slum on the edge of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince.

The protesters came within a few feet of a U.N. military base, and shouted at Brazilian and Uruguayan troops standing guard at the entrance and atop six armored personnel carriers \_ rifles at the ready.

The demonstration was one of the largest displays of defiance toward U.N. troops in months and underscored rising opposition toward the international force sent to quell violence in the impoverished Caribbean country after a 2004 revolt.

"We are really tired of hearing the U.N.'s bullets. The people are suffering," said marcher Samuel Jean-Baptiste, 38.

As the crowd swelled, a U.N. soldier tossed two smoke canisters into the street, scattering protesters in every direction.

U.N. troops say they only fire when attacked. A U.N. spokeswoman in Haiti declined to comment on the march, the second anti-U.N. demonstration this week.

On Wednesday, dozens of university students took to the streets and lit flaming tire barricades during another protest to demand peacekeepers' withdrawal.

The U.N. Security Council in August extended the force's mandate for another six months.

President Rene Preval, who took power in May, has said troops should stay as long as needed, since it will take Haiti years to rebuild its battered police force.



**Thousands protest near Haitian capital against UN presence**  
**Caribbean Net News**  
**Monday, October 30, 2006**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP): Thousands of Haitians protested Friday in the streets of a Port-au-Prince district demanding the withdrawal of United Nations forces.

The demonstration, in the huge Cite Soleil shantytown, one of the most dangerous districts of the capital, was peaceful. The UN has a base there but does not control the neighborhood, which is run by armed gangs.

The protest follows a violent student demonstration Tuesday against the UN forces.

Dozens of demonstrators, some shouting "Down with the UN," threw stones, broke UN vehicles' windshields, and burned a US flag near Haiti's presidential palace.

Since mid-2004 the UN has maintained more than 7,000 troops and 1,200 police in Haiti to help stabilise the poorest country in the Americas.



**Guatemala sends 20 more soldiers to UN mission in Haiti**  
**People's Daily Online**  
**October 31, 2006**

Guatemala sent 20 more soldiers to join the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti, Guatemalan army spokesman Jorge Ortega said on Monday, according to news from Guatemala City, capital of the Central American nation.

The dispatchment came at the request of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti, Orgega said.

With their arrival, the number of Guatemalan soldiers deployed in Haiti has reached 100.

Former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide went into exile in February 2004 amid threats of an armed rebellion after the opposition accused him of corruption and dictatorship.

After his fall, the United States, France and Canada sent troops to the country. The United Nations in June 2004 dispatched a peacekeeping force which groups some 6,000 troops and 1,000 civilian policemen to replace the mixed foreign force and restore Haiti's stability.

**Haiti militiaman ordered to pay £10m for rapes**  
**Duncan Campbell**  
**Friday October 27, 2006**  
**The Guardian, UK**

One of Haiti's most notorious paramilitary leaders has been ordered to pay \$19m (£10m) in damages to three women who were gang-raped by members of his militia.

Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, 49, was the leader of Fraph, one of Haiti's most ruthless rightwing paramilitary units, which pursued supporters of the deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide during the so-called reign of terror in the early 1990s. He escaped to the US in 1994 when Mr Aristide returned to power and avoided deportation the next year because, he has claimed on American television, he had been working for the CIA.

Three victims of Fraph brought a civil action last year against Constant, who has been working as an estate agent in the New York area. One woman gave evidence that her husband, a prominent Aristide supporter, had been "disappeared" in 1992. After she protested in public, she was gang-raped in front of her children.

This week, US district judge Sidney Stein ruled that the three women were each entitled to \$1.5m in compensatory damages and \$5m in punitive damages.

In his written judgment, the judge said Constant "founded and oversaw an organisation that was dedicated principally towards terrorising and torturing political opponents of the military regime".

Constant is in jail on Long Island awaiting trial on unrelated charges. He told CBS's 60 Minutes in 1995: "If I am guilty of those crimes ... the CIA is also guilty."

## **Judge rules against Haitian strongman**

**By Herbert Lowe**

**Newsday**

**South Florida Sun Sentinel**

**October 26 2006**

A New York federal judge has ordered Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, the former Haitian strongman being held in a Long Island jail on mortgage fraud charges, to pay \$19 million in damages to three women raped and tortured by paramilitary soldiers under his command.

In a written ruling issued late Tuesday, U.S. District Court Judge Sidney Stein found that Constant, convicted of leading the massacre of hundreds in his home country, was "liable for torture, attempted extrajudicial killing and crimes against humanity" for the acts against the three women.

The women sued Constant, 49, last year and accused him of sanctioning rapes in the early 1990s to silence slum-dwellers still devoted to ousted former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Constant is the admitted former head of the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti, which is accused of slaughtering masses of Aristide supporters. After Aristide's U.S.-backed return to power, Constant fled to New York in 1995, where he has been allowed to remain, despite a deportation order, because of concern he would not be treated fairly in Haiti because of its unstable political climate.

Stein ordered that Constant pay each of the plaintiffs, who were granted anonymity during a hearing in August, \$5 million each in punitive damages and \$1.3 million each in compensatory damages.

Material from The Associated Press was used in this report. Newsday is a Tribune Co. newspaper.

## **US judge orders Haitian strongman to pay \$19.5 million to rape victims**

**The Associated Press**

**The International Herald Tribune**

**October 25, 2006**

NEW YORK A judge has ordered an elusive former Haitian strongman to pay \$19.5 million (€15.5 million) in damages to three women who claimed they were systematically gang-raped by paramilitary soldiers under his command.

A written decision by U.S. District Judge Sidney Stein found that Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, once the feared leader of a right-wing paramilitary group, was "liable for torture, attempted extra-judicial killing and crimes against humanity."

The women had sued Constant last year in federal court in Manhattan. They accused him of sanctioning rapes in the early 1990s to silence slum-dwellers still devoted to the ousted former Haitian president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Constant's militia had helped block the return of the exiled Aristide in 1994. After Aristide's U.S.-backed return to power late that year, Constant fled to New York, where he has fought deportation ever since.

The ruling issued Tuesday said each of the plaintiffs was entitled to \$1.5 million (€1.19 million) in compensatory damages and \$5 million (€3.97 million) in punitive damages.

"Constant's conduct was clearly malicious," the judge wrote. The defendant, he added, "founded and oversaw an organization that was dedicated principally toward terrorizing and torturing political opponents of the military regime."

An attorney praised for the plaintiffs on Wednesday for going public with their accusations against Constant, the 6-foot-4 son (1.93 meters) of a military officer who once boasted that voodoo and the CIA shielded him from trouble.

"The courageous women who brought this case have sent a message that torturers cannot live freely in the United States and will be held accountable," said Jennie Green, a senior attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights who represented the women along with the San Francisco-based Center for Justice and Accountability.

It is unclear whether Constant, who never responded to the lawsuit, has the means to pay the damages.

He remains in jail on Long Island, New York, after being charged in July with mortgage fraud in an unrelated case. His attorney in that case has declined to comment.

The decision this week followed a hearing in August where the judge heard emotional testimony from two of the plaintiffs. They were granted anonymity based on fears they could still be targeted for retribution.

One testified that her ordeal began when her husband, a taxi driver and fierce Aristide supporter, vanished in 1992. She described taking to the streets and voicing her despair.

Even after being jailed and beaten, she remained vocal until five men arrived at her door in April 1994. They beat up her 8-year-old son and took turns raping her, she said. Two months later, the nightmare was repeated.

The five small children "were, with their own eyes, looking at everything that was being done to me," she testified through an interpreter.

Three months later, she saw a doctor who delivered some shocking news: She was pregnant by one her attackers. A son was born on Feb. 12, 1995.

## **Haitian warlord ordered to pay \$19 mln to victims**

**By Matthew Verrinder**

**Reuters**

**The Washington Post**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006**

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A Haitian warlord who had been living in New York City as a real estate agent was ordered by a U.S. court on Tuesday to pay \$19 million to three women who say they were raped and had their breasts slashed by his men.

U.S. District Judge Sidney Stein found that Emmanuel "Toto" Constant was "liable for torture, attempted extrajudicial killing and crimes against humanity," court documents showed.

Constant founded a paramilitary group in Haiti in 1993 to torture supporters of overthrown president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He fled Haiti in 1994 when Aristide regained power, becoming a real estate agent in New York's borough of Queens.

Many Haitian immigrants in Queens recognized Constant at bars and nightclubs from newspaper clippings and news reports as the vicious warlord, but were fearful of confronting him.

Constant is in jail on Long Island after being charged in a \$1 million mortgage fraud scheme last July. It is not known if the women will ever see any of money, said Jennie Green, senior attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights.

The three women sued Constant last year in a U.S. court in Manhattan, claiming he authorized the attacks.

"Constant's conduct was clearly malicious," Stein wrote in the ruling. The organization he founded "was dedicated principally toward terrorizing and torturing political opponents of the military regime," the judge wrote.

Constant's leadership of the group "constitutes an inexcusable violation of international law and merits a stiff punishment."

Each of the women was awarded \$5 million in punitive damages. Two of them were awarded \$1.5 million in compensatory damages while the third was awarded \$1 million.

Two of the three unnamed women or their spouses were involved in Haitian pro-democracy groups after Aristide was ousted and said Constant's death squads regularly appeared at their doors in the middle of the night to silence them.

One of the women, whose husband was an activist involved in local politics, repeatedly demanded information about him when he vanished in 1992, according to court documents.

Because of her persistence, she was gang-raped in front of her three children during one attack and her left breast slashed open in another, the documents show. She became pregnant as a result of the rapes and later gave birth.

Another plaintiff whose husband was an activist but did not support the coup was also raped in front of her three children by masked men in 1991 and later shot in the leg.

## **Former Haitian Death Squad Leader Ordered to Pay Damages**

**By Cindy Saine**

**VOA News**

**Miami**

**25 October 2006**

A U.S. district court judge in New York has ordered the former leader of a right-wing Haitian paramilitary death squad to pay \$19 million in damages to three women who survived torture and rape committed under his command. During Haiti's military rule from 1991 to 1994, the Haitian armed forces and the death squad known as FRAPH sponsored the systematic rape of pro-democracy women as a way to stifle dissent.

For many Haitians and Haitian Americans, the name of Emmanuel Toto Constant is a curse. He is the son of the late army chief of staff for Haiti's notorious dictator, Papa Doc Duvalier.

When Haiti's democratically-elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was forced from office in 1991, Constant organized a brutal paramilitary group called FRAPH.

Armed men belonging to the group systematically invaded homes of Aristide supporters, abducting men and raping women. Their rape victims ranged in age from 10-year-old-girls to women as old as 80.

The Center for Justice and Accountability and the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a lawsuit on behalf of three survivors of the vicious attacks, all Haitian women in their forties. Pamela Merchant is Executive Director of the Center for Justice and Accountability, based in San Francisco.

"This marks the first time that anyone has been held to account for the campaign of systematic rape that Constant and his paramilitary death squads FRAPH led against the women who were pro-democracy activists in Haiti, or the wives and mothers of pro-democracy activities during the period of 1991 to 1994. It is an extraordinary day for accountability for these women," he said.

The United States intervened in Haiti in 1994, putting an end to FRAPH and military rule. Much to the outrage of the Haitian community, Constant made his way to the United States, where he had been living and working in New York City as a mortgage broker.

He is currently in jail on charges of grand-larceny, forgery and falsifying business records in connection with a mortgage fraud scheme in New York. He was sentenced in absentia in Haiti in connection with command responsibility for a massacre.

The Center for Justice and Accountability approached San Francisco\* attorney Ivor Samson to ask if he would help them sue Constant. Samson explains why he agreed. "It seemed like an interesting case. Our firm has a long history of involvement in pro-bono political activities and this was really a chance to try and vindicate a terrible wrong by representing people that normally wouldn't have a day in court."



Under two federal laws, the Alien Torture Statute and the Torture Victims Protection Act, foreign nationals who committed crimes against humanity abroad can be subject to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts in the district where they live.

The three women who filed the lawsuit did so anonymously. They currently reside in the United States, but still fear reprisals for their children and families who live in Haiti.

\* Report corrected to clarify attorney is from San Francisco, not New York - 10/26/2006

## **Laurelton's 'Toto' Constant ordered to pay women \$19 million**

**By: Craig Giammona**

**Flushing Times Ledger**

**10/26/2006**

Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, a brutal former Haitian paramilitary leader, who had been living in Laurelton for about a decade, was ordered to pay \$19 million to three Haitian women whom a judge found had been raped and tortured by forces under his command.

Constant, who remains jailed on Long Island in connection with an alleged real estate scam, is the former leader of FRAPH, a notorious paramilitary force that brutalized Haitians in the aftermath of the overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

In September, a federal judge found Constant guilty of raping and torturing three anonymous women, after determining that he had "command and control" of FRAPH, or Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti.

The case was brought on behalf of the women by the Center for Justice and Accountability, a San Francisco-based nonprofit, under two statutes - the Alien Tort Statute and Victims of Torture Act - that allow foreign nationals accused of crimes alleged to have occurred outside the United States to be tried here.

Constant never responded to the suit and Thursday a judge awarded the three defendants \$19 million. It remains unclear how much of the money will be recouped.

Constant fled Haiti in 1994 and began living in Laurelton after Aristide returned to power

## **The Coup Connection**

**News: How an organization financed by the U.S. government has been promoting the overthrow of elected leaders abroad**

**By Joshua Kurlantzick**

**Mother Jones Magazine**

**November/December 2004 Issue**

In early 2004, chaos overwhelmed Haiti. In January, a rebellion erupted against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the former slum priest who had frequently angered the United States with his leftist rhetoric. Aristide had twice been elected, but he had alienated many Haitians with his increasing demagoguery and use of violence against the opposition. Yet polls showed that Aristide remained relatively popular, so even experienced Haiti watchers were surprised when, in late February, armed militias marched on the nation's capital while demonstrators shut down the streets. In the violence, some 100 Haitians were killed. At dawn on February 29, with the militias closing in, Aristide left Haiti on a U.S. government plane.

But did the rebellion really spring from nowhere? Maybe not. Several leaders of the demonstrations -- some of whom also had links to the armed rebels -- had been getting organizational help and training from a U.S. government-financed organization. The group, the International Republican Institute (IRI), is supposed to focus on nonpartisan, grassroots democratization efforts overseas. But in Haiti and other countries, such as Venezuela and Cambodia, the institute -- which, though not formally affiliated with the GOP, is run by prominent Republicans and staffed by party insiders -- has increasingly sided with groups seeking the overthrow of elected but flawed leaders who are disliked in Washington.

In 2002 and 2003, IRI used funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to organize numerous political training sessions in the Dominican Republic and Miami for some 600 Haitian leaders. Though IRI's work is supposed to be nonpartisan -- it is official U.S. policy not to interfere in foreign elections -- a former U.S. diplomat says organizers of the workshops selected only opponents of Aristide and attempted to mold them into a political force.

The trainings were run by IRI's Haiti program officer, Stanley Lucas, the scion of a powerful Haitian family with long-standing animosity toward Aristide -- Amnesty International says some family members participated in a 1987 peasant massacre. "To have Lucas as your program officer sends a message to archconservatives that you're on their side," says Robert Maguire, a Haiti expert at Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

IRI's anti-Aristide focus appeared to have support from the Bush administration. The former U.S. diplomat in Haiti says Lucas was in constant contact with Roger Noriega, the administration's top Latin America official, who had previously worked for Senator Jesse Helms and had long sought to oust Aristide. Noriega and conservative Republican congressional staffers kept in close touch with IRI-trained opposition leaders and pushed for additional funding for IRI's Haiti activities. "The USAID director in Haiti was under enormous pressure [from Congress] to fund IRI," says the former diplomat.

According to an internal report by the USAID inspector general obtained by Mother Jones, in July 2002 the U.S. Embassy in Haiti protested that IRI's actions were undermining the official U.S. policy of working with all sides in Haiti and that Lucas was spreading unsubstantiated rumors about the U.S.

ambassador. In response, USAID barred Lucas from running the IRI program for 120 days. Lucas, according to several observers, threatened to use Bush administration connections to have embassy officials fired. He continued to essentially run the IRI Haiti program while serving as a “translator,” in what IRI officials acknowledged was a violation of USAID’s ban, according to the inspector general’s report.

In 2004, several of the people who had attended IRI trainings were influential in the toppling of Aristide. Among them, according to Kim Ives, a journalist with the newspaper *Haiti Progres*, was André Apaid, a conservative Haitian politician who had backed a previous anti-Aristide coup in 1991. Apaid became one of the leaders of the Group of 184, which organized the street demonstrations against Aristide. Other members of the group trained in the Dominican Republic were in close contact with the thuggish armed opposition -- participating in rebel meetings, serving as liaisons between the armed groups and foreign embassies, and negotiating for the militia leaders. Among them was Paul Arcelin, a leading member of the opposition who had served as an ambassador under Haiti’s previous military junta. Arcelin told Canadian reporters that he and other opposition leaders frequently met with Guy Philippe, the leader of the armed rebels, to “prepare for Aristide’s downfall.”

When the uprising against Aristide began in late 2003, the White House did little to stop it. In February 2004, as the militias were marching on Port-au-Prince, President Bush issued a statement blaming Aristide for the violence. In late February, the administration urged Aristide to leave Haiti, and on February 29 he was flown into exile in the Central African Republic on a U.S. plane dispatched by the Pentagon. Today, conservative politicians and the military are reinstalling themselves in power, Haiti experts report; the country’s infamous intelligence services are being re-created, and violence against Aristide supporters is commonplace.

Haiti is not unique. In Venezuela, Cambodia, and other nations, IRI—unlike other government-funded democratization groups—has increasingly focused on training opposition parties intent on toppling elected governments. The institute is one of several democracy-promotion groups financed by USAID and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED); others include the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the AFL-CIO’s international wing. Under their bylaws, the groups are supposed to work with actors across the political spectrum in democracies. In Haiti, for example, NDI, which is controlled by Democrats, worked with members of Aristide’s party as well as opposition parties, and was lauded for its grassroots efforts.

IRI, by contrast, has increasingly come under attack for choosing sides. In Venezuela, the institute dramatically expanded its presence in 2001 and 2002 as President Hugo Chavez ratcheted up his anti-U.S. rhetoric. IRI’s Latin America program was led by Georges Fauriol, who had previously worked at a conservative Washington think tank alongside Otto Reich, who has been Bush’s closest adviser on Latin America policy. Reich, who according to Congress’ Government Accountability Office conducted “prohibited covert propaganda” on behalf of the Nicaraguan Contras in the 1980s, is a former ambassador to Venezuela who had frequently denounced Chavez.

In Venezuela, IRI staffed its program with Bush allies and campaign supporters; in turn, in 2001 the administration increased funding for IRI’s activities in Venezuela sixfold, from \$50,000 to \$300,000 -- the largest grant any of NED’s democracy-promotion organizations received that year.

At the time, all the major U.S. democracy-promotion groups were active in Venezuela, including both IRI and NDI. But documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show that while NDI worked with parties across the political spectrum, IRI staffers spent much of their time cultivating the opposition. IRI worked closely with Acción Democrática, a group that, IRI's own documents acknowledge, "refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Chavez presidency." IRI also tutored opposition figures, including Caracas mayor Alfredo Peña, an outspoken Chavez critic, on how to create a political party. And despite a warning from the National Endowment for Democracy not to take sides in Venezuela, IRI also used its own money to bring opposition figures to Washington, where they met with top U.S. officials.

In April 2002, a group of military officers launched a coup against Chavez, and leaders of several parties trained by IRI joined the junta. When news of the coup emerged, democracy-promotion groups in Venezuela were holding a meeting to discuss ways of working together to avoid political violence; IRI representatives didn't attend, saying that they were drafting a statement on Chavez's overthrow. On April 12, the institute's Venezuela office released a statement praising the "bravery" of the junta and "commending the patriotism of the Venezuelan military."

That drew a sharply worded email from NED president Carl Gershman, a copy of which was obtained by Mother Jones. Gershman wrote: "By welcoming [the coup] -- indeed, without any apparent reservations—you unnecessarily interjected IRI into the sensitive internal politics of Venezuela."

At roughly the same time that IRI issued its statement, Reich announced that Chavez had resigned -- though he had not -- and said the United States would support the new government in Venezuela. But within a day, Chavez was restored to power by popular demonstrations, the presidential guard, and segments of the army. At least 40 people were killed in the violence surrounding the coup.

IRI's selective approach to democracy-building has also been in evidence in Cambodia, where it has thrown its support behind the Sam Rainsy Party, an opposition group led by a former banker who is popular in conservative Washington circles. Institute staff members have written speeches and managed campaigns for Rainsy, according to several sources. "IRI people were part of the [Rainsy] machine," says one human rights expert who focuses on Cambodia.

Cambodian prime minister Hun Sen, like Chavez and Aristide, is no saint. He has been linked to political violence and has little respect for civil liberties. "In some ways, IRI [is] leveling the playing field," says the Cambodia expert. Similarly, in Haiti, says another observer, there was a legitimate need to help the opposition organize because Aristide was becoming so abusive of his power.

Yet IRI's singular focus on groups seeking to overthrow leaders seen as hostile to the United States can sometimes harm American diplomatic efforts. In Cambodia, notes one official with considerable experience in the country, "it hurt the U.S. government's credibility as an honest broker in the election processes." In Haiti, IRI has had a similar impact, experts say, by unbalancing an already volatile situation and causing people to wonder what the United States' true agenda was. In 2003, after being threatened by IRI's Stanley Lucas, the departing U.S. ambassador, Brian Dean Curran, gave a farewell speech to the Haitian chamber of commerce. "There are many in Haiti who prefer not to listen to me," he said, "but to their own friends in Washington—the sirens of extremism." Then he added, using the Haitian word for "thugs": "I call them the chimères of Washington."

## **Rift with China puts U.N. aid to Haiti at risk**

**By Jacqueline Charles**

**Miami Herald**

**October 27, 2006**

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Foreign diplomats say they are feverishly working behind the scenes to mend a Haitian flap with China that could jeopardize the U.N. peacekeeping force deployed here.

The diplomats said China, which has veto power in the U.N. Security Council, is threatening to veto the renewal of the U.N. peacekeeping operations in Haiti when it comes up for a vote in February. China also has 130 police officers serving in Haiti as part of the U.N. mission.

The Haitian government sparked the threat when it unsuccessfully attempted in September to put a pro-Taiwan proposal on the U.N. General Assembly's agenda.

Haiti has long favored Taiwan in its struggle for recognition against Beijing, and Taiwan has provided massive financial aid for development and anti-poverty programs.

"It's a serious threat," said a foreign diplomat familiar with the incident. The diplomat asked for anonymity because of the sensitivity of the dispute.

The Chinese delegations at the United Nations and in Port-au-Prince declined comment on the issue.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice showed concern, calling Haitian President René Prével to ask why his government would risk angering Beijing.

Prével, who confirmed the phone call in an interview with The Miami Herald, said he plans to discuss the issue with China in hopes of mending fences. He added that Haiti believes that all problems between nations, including those between China and Taiwan, should be discussed at the United Nations.

"We told China, we will always have the same position we've always had. That position is . . . -- we are not saying we are going to take sides between Taiwan and China -- but let's discuss the problem," he said. "If they are upset with us all the way up to preventing [the U.N. peacekeepers from renewing their mandate, then it is unfortunate."

Prével added that the United States, France and Canada -- key players in efforts to restore Haiti's stability following the 2004 ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide -- should also work to ease the tensions between Haiti and China.

While some diplomats say they don't believe China will use its veto, others are not willing to wait until February to find out. They plan to talk to both sides, telling the Chinese that no harm was done since the Haitian proposal on Taiwan was rejected and telling Prével that regardless of Haiti's long running ties with Taiwan, he cannot afford such diplomatic blunders.

## **Haiti: humanitarian situation report, Sep 2006**

**Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**

**26 Oct 2006**

### **I. OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY SITUATION**

1. According to MINUSTAH and UNDSS reports the security situation improved in the whole country, with only minor security incidents. Nevertheless in Port au Prince the violence intensified since July and, despite the joint efforts of the MINUSTAH and the Haitian National Police (HNP), the scene of routine murders in some areas of the capital along with kidnapping randomly occurring in different parts of the town, even during daily hours, continue to be high risk factors.

2. As per request of Haitian Government, MINUSTAH had to give priority to improve the security in the capital, deploying military staff from the different regions and concentrating them in some strategic areas. At the same time MINUSTAH and the HNP have increased their presence around Cite Soleil and other neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince (Simon-Pele, Cite Militaire) as well as in other provincial cities, and a significant number of alleged criminals and weapons was arrested/seized.

3. The resources of MINUSTAH remain focused on securing the environment and increasingly participating in joint operations within the framework of the announced “campaign against criminality”. Escorting humanitarian operations has been reduced / reviewed on a case by case basis depending on security environment, purpose of the mission and available MINUSTAH resources.

4. Concerning the electoral process, in September 2006, the President of Haiti officially announced the local elections, scheduled for the 3rd December 2006, for which it will be required a total budget of US\$ 16, 9 million. Some donors have already confirmed their contributions: USAID – US\$ 4 millions; EU – US\$ 5 millions; Canada – US\$ 4 millions; Japan – US\$ 0.8 millions. Nevertheless, it is neither yet clear which will be the contribution of the Government of Haiti nor of other donors.

5. The Provisory Electoral Committee (CEP), the Organization of American States (OAS) and MINUSTAH work together to facilitate the electoral process. In this sense, the Electoral Assistance Section of the UN peace-keeping mission works, in coordination with the CEP, in order to give a technical, logistic and security support.

### **II. HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION**

6. A two-day workshop (19 and 20 September) on the UN Humanitarian Reform was organized by the OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean area (RO-LAC), the OCHA Office in Haiti and the UNDP and attended by UN Agencies’ representatives and focal points of the peace-keeping mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), as well as members of International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). The head of RO-LAC presented the main components of the reform, such as the cluster approach, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the strengthening of humanitarian coordinators’ capacities. This workshop, lead by the OCHA RO-LAC, was the first at country level in the whole region. Afterwards on September 21st, during the bi-weekly Humanitarian Forum, OCHA shared the main goals of UN Humanitarian Reform with NGOs, donors and international organizations.

7. To start implementing the Humanitarian Reform in Haiti, the UN Technical Committee for the preparation and the response to natural disasters has submitted a proposal to the UNCT, concerning the cluster approach, that having to be validated. This draft proposes to give the leadership of the cluster on water and sanitation to PAHO/WHO, with the collaboration of UNICEF, in order to continue the current coordination structure in this sector. IOM have confirmed its close support to the clusters concerning shelter, early recovery and protection (emergency education).

8. Regarding the MINUSTAH Task Force on Martissant (a poor slum of Port-au-Prince), a meeting was held between community leaders and MINUSTAH representatives. The improving of security situation is mandatory in order to continue development activities in the zone.

9. Concerning the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS), a specific committee has to be set up in each department. In this sense, the Tables de Concertation, which currently exists in some departments, could be enlarged to form these committees. For those departments not currently having this coordination mechanism, Civil Affairs Section and HDCS, of MINUSTAH, have submitted a joint project proposal on the capacity-building under the UN Transitional Appeal.

10. A meeting organized by the Delegation and the Directorate of Planning and External Cooperation for the West Department met around the same table, for the first time in many years, the majority of departmental authorities in this Department. The aim of the meeting, supported by the Humanitarian and Development Coordination Section (HDCS) of MINUSTAH was to bring together the departmental authorities to discuss the implementation of two coordination mechanisms:

a) The Technical Council, as a monthly meeting for departmental directors chaired by the departmental delegate.

b) The Table de Concertation, as a monthly meeting to coordinate the provision of basic services and development activities which also includes UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations.



## **Top Haitian police officer indicted for kidnapping**

**27 Oct 2006**

**Reuters AlertNet**

**By Joseph Guylor Delva**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - One of Haiti's top police officers will face arrest if he does not turn himself in after his indictment for complicity in kidnappings, a prosecutor said on Wednesday.

Inspector-General Michael Lucius, head of the police agency that investigates kidnappings, has refused to appear before investigative Judge Napela Saintil, who issued warrants against him and two other police officers last month.

Lucius, who is barred from leaving the troubled Caribbean nation, has denied the allegations and said Saintil is biased against him.

Haiti's ill-trained police force was decimated by a violent rebellion that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004. It has been unable to contain political and gang violence, despite the presence of thousands of U.N. peacekeeping troops sent to help with security after the rebellion.

Dozens of people have been kidnapped for ransom during the crime wave.

Prosecutor Claudy Gassant said Lucius must appear before the judge or he will face arrest.

"Our position is clear and firm," Gassant said. "Mr. Lucius has to comply with the judge's order or he will be arrested."

An investigative judge is forbidden by law from revealing details of an inquiry. But sources familiar with the case said jailed suspects and others had provided evidence that Lucius had aided kidnappers who claimed they were working for him.

"I can't understand that the judge wants to arrest me on the basis of false accusations brought by criminals I have arrested," Lucius, director of Haiti's Judicial Police, said recently.

Gassant and Police Chief Mario Andresol had deferred the execution of the warrants after Lucius decided to challenge Saintil's allegations before the Supreme Court. But the high court last week rejected Lucius' appeal, which obliges him to appear before Saintil.

((Writing by Jim Loney))

**Dominican Government must comply with verdict favoring 2 girls of Haitian descent**  
**The Dominican Today**  
**October 27, 2006**

SANTO DOMINGO. - The Dominican Government would have to abide by the Inter-American Court for Human Rights sentence which condemned the country for denying birth certificates to two Dominican girls of Haitian ancestry, said Executive Branch Legal advisor Cesar Pina Toribio, in reference to the verdict handed down more than a year ago.

The official said the Government would have to "simply obey the law" when asked about the sentence, adding that it's the Foreign Relations Ministry which must comply with the ruling.

For his part, the attorney Julio Cesar Castaños, who represented the Dominican State before the Inter-American Court in the trial, said that "the Dominican State was defended at the last hour and without giving it the importance that it had."

"I thought that it was going to be worse, that (the sentence) could have cost 20 million dollars" to the Dominican State," he said.

Over one year later the Court's sentence favoring Dilcia Yean and Violeta Bósico has yet to be complied with, which orders the State to make a public apology to the girls, as well as to pay them 22,000 dollars in damages.

Recently the University of California's Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and the Movement of Dominican-Haitian Women (MUDHA) asked the Government to comply with the sentence, a request also made by non-government entities British Christian Aid, the Haiti-Dominican Republic International Action Aid, the Haiti Support Group, Minority Rights Group International, Oxfam GB, Plan UK and Tearfund.

## **HAITI/U.S.: Govt Corruption Suit Stalls for Lack of Funds**

**Lucy Komisar\***

**Inter Press Service News Agency**

**October 26, 2006**

NEW YORK, - The U.S. Justice Department is withholding agreement to share assets seized from Haitian drug traffickers to finance a lawsuit by the Haitian government charging former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide with taking bribes.

The suit is based on allegations by a former executive of the telecom company IDT that before Aristide left the country in 2004, he took hundreds of thousands of dollars in kickbacks from IDT, which is connected to prominent U.S. Republicans.

IDT is a billion-dollar enterprise that is the world's third-ranked international phone company. It is run by James Courter, a former Republican congressman from New Jersey. Its board includes Jeane Kirkpatrick, the former U.S. ambassador to the U.N. under President Ronald Reagan (1981-1989); former Republican vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp; former Virginia governor James S. Gilmore III; and former Minnesota senator Rudy Boschwitz.

IDT also counts as a friend U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney. When Net2Phone, an IDT internet phone company, went public in 1999, Cheney bought 1,000 initial shares at the insider price of 15,000 dollars, and then sold them the same day for 26,574 dollars, a neat profit of 77.2 percent.

IDT's former lawyer was Alice Fisher, now head of the Justice Department Criminal Division, which routinely shares seized drug money with other governments based on a judgment of how much help they have given.

The suit says that IDT diverted payments that should have gone to the Haitian company Teleco into a secret offshore bank account controlled by Aristide. These allegations came to light when Michael Jewett, a former IDT executive, said he refused to go along with the deal, was fired, and in October 2005 sued the company in U.S. court for wrongful dismissal.

Jewett alleged that in May 2004, Teleco signed contracts with IDT and several other North American companies that let them pay the Haitian phone company a cut-rate fee of nine cents a minute for calls into Haiti, with three cents kicked back to Aristide via a Turks and Caicos shell company called Mont Salem. Under U.S. regulations, they should have paid Haiti 23 cents a minute. These companies then allegedly resold the minutes to U.S. customers for 16 or 18 cents.

Looting of the telecom fees would have been a significant problem for the Haitian government, since phone fees generated by the large Haitian diaspora in the U.S. are a major source of revenue. Haiti's telecom sector is worth about 48 million dollars a year.

Such actions would also be a violation of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

The government that succeeded Aristide in 2004 claims it found other evidence in the central bank and elsewhere of Aristide's corruption. In November 2005, Haiti and Teleco filed a RICO (Racketeer

Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act) lawsuit in Miami against the former president and his alleged collaborators.

It says that in one six-month period, February to April 2004, IDT paid 302,588 dollars in kickbacks to the Aristide group. The lawsuit alleges that using this and other scams, Aristide and others sent at least 19 million dollars in illicit funds to the United States.

In a statement last year, Aristide's lawyer, Ira Kurzban, said, "The lawsuit is a political document more than a legal one. It's based on a highly charged political investigation that occurred in Haiti by the de facto government's so-called Central Unit on Financial Information (UCREF). The de facto government published a report in July through a commission headed by a current presidential candidate of a rabidly-anti-Aristide political party."

"None of these reports have ever said that money was taken for some illicit purpose," he said. "The United States government is also spending millions of dollars investigating President Aristide including a battery of FBI, DEA, and Treasury agents as well as a staff of people at the United States Attorneys Office in the Southern District of Florida."

"Despite these efforts, initiated by [U.S. President George W.] Bush and [Vice President Dick] Cheney after directing the coup against the President, no wrongdoing, of any kind, has been found. Although they and scores of Haitians directed by the illegal coup government have been working day and night to find the money that the President supposedly took, it's now obvious, there is none."

Last fall, Haiti hired the Philadelphia law firm of Winston Strawn with the understanding that it could pay legal fees from its share of some of 36.8 million dollars in assets belonging to seven Haitian drug traffickers convicted in the U.S. The U.S. had targeted the money and was in the process of attempting to obtain it through the courts.

The Haitian government made a request to use forfeited drug money for the RICO case, which costs about three million dollars a year. Timothy Carney, U.S. ambassador to Haiti from 1998-99 and then U.S. chargé in 2005 until February this year, who supports granting the funds, said the three million dollars was significant because, "Cash flow for Haitian governments is a problem". Aristide left the Haitian public treasury empty, according to Carney.

But the U.S. Justice Department has stalled on reaching an agreement on sharing the forfeited drug loot. Justice officials told Carney when he was chargé that they were unhappy about private lawyers getting money that ought to go to the Haitian Treasury, although the U.S. does not normally try to determine what such shared funds will be spent on.

The lawyers had planned to add IDT to the list of defendants, and expected that if they won, the triple damages under the U.S. RICO statute would more than pay for the case.

IDT's CEO Courter and the company's attorney in the Jewett case, Leslie Lajewski of Grotta, Glassman & Hoffman, both declined to return phone calls and emails seeking comment. However, Courter has been quoted publicly as saying that Jewett is a disgruntled ex-employee with no evidence.

Before she took the Justice post, Alice Fisher was a partner in IDT's Wall Street law firm, Latham & Watkins. After the Jewett charges, she ran an internal investigation and wrote an exculpatory letter that IDT used in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing stating that, "Neither the Company's nor the Audit Committee's investigation has found any evidence that we made any such improper payments to foreign officials."

Fisher has since officially "recused" herself from the matter. U.S. Justice spokesperson Bryan Sierra said in an email, "It means that Alice Fisher is in no way involved in any decision-making, discussion or deliberation of any matter having to do with IDT, or related to IDT -- including the dispersal of any seized forfeiture assets (which is a premature discussion anyway since money is NOT available until appeals are exhausted)."

Sierra said that "any conversation about asset sharing is premature". He indicated that less than three million dollars had actually been seized. He declined to allow Fisher or the officials involved in the question of sharing seized drug funds to be interviewed. He said, "We will not comment before then on initial discussions or reports of lower-level conversations."

Strapped for cash, Haiti suspended the suit on Jun. 30, to prevent it from being thrown out for want of prosecution. It can be re-filed any time, but the lawyers -- who continue to be retained by President Rene Preval -- cannot wait much longer as the statute of limitations might start limiting their ability to prosecute.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the United States Attorney in Newark, New Jersey, and a U.S. federal grand jury are investigating the charges. Aristide is in exile in South Africa; most of the other defendants live in the U.S.

\*Lucy Komisar is a New York-based investigative journalist writing a book on the international impact of the offshore bank and corporate secrecy system. (END/2006)

## **IADB loans Haiti \$17.8 mln for farm development**

**25 Oct 2006**

**By Gilbert La Gras**

**Reuters**

WASHINGTON, Oct 25 (Reuters) - The Inter-American Development Bank approved a \$17.8 million loan to Haiti to help it boost productivity through research and training as well as pest and disease control, the lender said on Wednesday.

Farm production has fallen dramatically over the past 20 years, increasing poverty levels in the countryside, home to some 5 million of the country's 8 million people.

Agriculture accounted only for about 27 percent of gross domestic product in 2004 and that sector employs two thirds of the labor force, an earlier IADB study found.

The new loan is for 40 years, with a 10-year grace period. Annual interest rates will be 1 percent during the first decade and 2 percent thereafter, the IADB said.

The loan is part of a broader Interim Cooperation Framework which was topped up with \$750 million in July when 26 donor countries and agencies met to extend the two-year-old fund for 13 more months after the first \$1.1 billion package expired.

One part of the loan is to rehabilitate four Agriculture Ministry extension centers and equip and train staff to implement research and education programs from controlling coffee pests and diseases to disease-resistant bananas.

Coffee production, in decline because of a downtrend in world prices and domestic instability, is still one of the turbulent Caribbean country's key cash crops.

Soil content in Haiti can yield high-quality coffee that could command premium prices on world markets but obstacles to growth include infrastructure, market data and phytosanitary controls, an IADB research report said.

Another part of the loan aims to bolster Haiti's ability to detect and control pests and diseases affecting plants and animals, it said.

**International press-freedom report: Haiti's up; the U.S., France and Japan are down**  
**The San Francisco Gate**  
**October 25, 2006**

The France-based, international media-rights monitoring organization Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) has issued its annual Press Freedom Index describing conditions journalists face around the world as they try to do their jobs. Some struggling or strife-worn countries like Haiti (now in 87th place on RSF's list) and Togo (66th place) have improved their rankings. Of Haiti, the organization notes: "Several murders of journalists remain unpunished, but violence against the media has abated."

In May, Ethiopian journalists called for the release of jailed colleagues

Reporters Sans Frontières reports: "Unfortunately nothing has changed in the countries that are the worst predators of press freedom, and journalists in North Korea, Eritrea, Turkmenistan, Cuba, Burma and China are still risking their life or imprisonment for trying to keep us informed. These situations are extremely serious, and it is urgent that leaders of these countries accept criticism and stop routinely cracking down on the media so harshly."

Although some countries in "less-developed parts of the world move up the Index to positions above some European countries or the United States" each year, the organization's latest report points out that "the steady erosion of press freedom in the United States, France and Japan is extremely alarming."

Notes Reporters Sans Frontières: "The United States [now only 53rd place on its list] has fallen nine places since last year, after being in 17th position in the first year of the Index, in 2002. Relations between the media and the Bush administration sharply deteriorated after the president used the pretext of 'national security' to regard as suspicious any journalist who questioned his 'war on terrorism.' The zeal of federal courts which, unlike those in 33 U.S. states, refuse to recognize the media's right not to reveal its sources, even threatens journalists whose investigations have no connection at all with terrorism."

RSF Web site

Logo of the international, press-freedom monitoring organization

Meanwhile, China is clamping down on bloggers. Chinese authorities claim that bloggers "use anonymity to disseminate false and irresponsible information" and that they have a "bad influence" on those who read the material they place on the Internet. (Libération)

**Florida legislature approves \$1 million in aid to Haiti**  
**The Associated Press**  
**South Florida Sun Sentinel**  
**October 27 2006**

CORAL GABLES -- The Florida Legislature approved \$1 million to help Haiti as it seeks to rebuild its economy and infrastructure, Governor Jeb Bush announced Friday.

The money will be used to help implement a series of recommendations provided last year by the governor's Haitian Advisory Group. The state will work with a local nonprofit group to channel the money toward professional and technical exchange programs, as well as educational support, business development and educational programs.

"We hope that this money will be leveraged to generate lots of volunteer support and lots of private sector support, hopefully drawing down additional support from Washington," Bush said during a ceremony at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

Bush said part of the money would likely be used to continue federally funded training in Florida of Haitian law enforcement officers in areas such as crime-scene investigations.

Carolyn Rose-Avila, head of the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas, which will oversee the funds, said about \$150,000 of the money would be channeled toward micro-enterprise programs through partners on the ground in Haiti.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. A bloody 2004 rebel uprising toppled then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and pushed the country into chaos. President Rene Preval took power in May, pulling the Caribbean nation from the brink of collapse.

But in a recent report by the World Bank, Haiti was listed among 26 "fragile states" at risk of collapsing due to conflict, poverty and bad governance.

Last month, the U.S. announced \$492 million in aid to the Caribbean country.

The governor's initiative began following a 2004 trip he made to Haiti, which is Florida's 28th largest trading partner with \$813 million in trade during 2005.



**Préval maps out road to improvement**  
**BY JACQUELINE CHARLES**  
**Miami Herald**  
**October 23, 2006**

"This," Préval says, standing in front of one map of the country showing a meager few red lines, "represents the roads, those with asphalt, currently in Haiti." He points out the pink lines. "These are the roads currently under construction."

Then he pauses, as if to give his point time to sink in, before showing a second map with a much larger web of red lines covering Haiti -- roads the president, only five months into his five-year term, hopes to build. "This is what Haiti should look like," he said. "Without roads, there cannot be development."

For Préval, roads have become the cornerstone of his quiet -- some say too quiet -- but determined effort to bring economic prosperity and political stability to a nation of eight million people racked by abject poverty and barely recovering from a revolt in 2004 that saw President Jean-Bertrand Aristide toppled, hundreds of people killed and dozens of businesses destroyed.

"The people are not looking for a miracle," Préval, 63, told The Miami Herald in an interview last week. "They only want to see an improvement in their lives."

**NO SMALL FEAT**

But achieving even this minimal objective will be no easy feat even though Préval was reelected in February -- in 2001, he was the first president in Haitian history to finish a full term and hand over power to an elected successor -- with the overwhelming support of the poor.

He has raised great expectations, but the reality is one of unprecedented crime; poor government services; the stench of corruption; and tepid enthusiasm among foreign investors and aid donors. Nearly everything, from medical care to hot meals for schoolchildren to security in the streets, is being provided by the international community.

With only 10 working state-owned garbage trucks in the capital, streets are littered with trash. After a relative calm, fighting erupted again last week between gangs and U.N. peacekeepers in the volatile slum of Cité Soleil. Government workers fired by the interim government that replaced Aristide took to the streets again last week to demand their jobs back.

Critics also note that Préval's low-key leadership style is creating frustration among Haitians who do not see him wielding power. Even foreign diplomats have expressed concern to him about his refusal to hire an official spokesman to publicize what the government is doing.

"I thought things would have moved faster," said 33-year-old Excelent Jean-Baptiste during a Préval visit last week to the central town of Marchand Dessalines, the country's first capital. "We are waiting for several promises, and we don't see anything happening."

During the visit, the crowd surged toward the president, who, in turn, waded into their waiting arms -- evidence that despite the frustrations with the slow pace of progress and other complaints, Préval remains personally popular.

Foreign diplomats living in Haiti and others who have visited recently indeed give Préval and Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis high marks for the strides they have made in returning a sense of order and putting the country on what everyone hopes will be the path to reconstruction.

"I'm very encouraged by the way things are going on," said Edmond Mulet, head of the overall United Nations mission in Haiti, noting that Préval has delivered on vows to form a coalition government and to rule by consensus. In response, Mulet said, the attitude of Haiti's political leadership has improved.

"I think they are kind of tired of all the squabbling and the infighting and not moving forward," Mulet added. "And I think they do have a sense of a window of opportunity, and are putting aside many of their differences and histories and making an effort to work together."

The president now meets routinely with lawmakers and members of various political groups. But Préval, who wound up dissolving a hostile parliament during his first presidential term, will need to maintain that rapport if he is to accomplish some of the major tasks on his agenda.

None are easy, and almost all will generate some controversy, perhaps even violence.

Earlier this summer, Préval and Alexis canceled all foreign travel to focus on the country's security problems, meeting with commanders of the 9,067-strong U.N. force and 4,000-member Haitian police force to coordinate efforts to reduce a spate of for-ransom kidnappings and disarm or crack down on the armed gangs terrorizing the capital.

Among other critical tasks: judicial and police overhauls; downsize and partially privatize the government-owned telephone company, a major source of public revenue; require anyone handling government money to disclose personal assets annually; change the constitution to give Haitians living abroad a voice in public affairs; and crack down on corruption and contraband.

Préval also has been preparing for a conference in Spain next month of Haiti's main foreign aid donors, at which his government will push to win a stronger voice in all decisions, rather than allowing foreign governments and nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs, to set the agenda and spending plans.

"Haitian law says when a nongovernmental organization does something, it needs to do it with the government. But we've yet to achieve that," he said. "Eventually, the government needs to take control of the NGOs . . . so that people are not doing a bunch of things without oversight. They have to do things in conjunction with the government."

## BUILDING TRUST

Préval says he remains optimistic, despite the challenges.

"There is an atmosphere of trust from the side of the international community and the Haitian population," he said. "They see the government isn't practicing partisan politics, and they see this is a government pushing transparency."

Foreign observers in Haiti tend to agree.

"There is a strong commitment on the part of the leaders of this country and a strong will; the vision is clear, they want to reconstruct on a strong basis," said Canadian Ambassador Claude Boucher. "Now the challenge is to get the critical mass to mobilize behind them and implement the vision."

But that implementation will depend to a large degree on foreign aid -- and not just promises of aid, but money actually delivered.

The Bush administration has asked Congress for \$198 million as part of a \$500 million, multiyear commitment of aid to Haiti. And in July, a group of donors meeting in Port-au-Prince pledged \$750 million over the next 14 months to help rebuild the dilapidated infrastructure. The government's current one-year budget, which includes the pledges, is \$1.6 billion.

At the donors conference in Spain, Haiti plans to ask for an additional \$180 million for road construction. So far, there's \$210 million worth of road construction already taking place, and another \$280 million in financing pledged. The new roads will not only make traveling faster in this country, where the roads have Jacuzzi-size potholes, but also allow farmers to get their crops to market faster -- and make a better living.

Haiti, about one-third the size of Florida, has about 626 miles of paved roads, according to the World Factbook, a Central Intelligence Agency compilation of data.

Meanwhile, Préval keeps plodding along in his low-profile style, even refusing to campaign on behalf of his Lespwa Party members running in the Dec. 3 municipal elections, because he doesn't want to create unnecessary political frictions.

"The people don't want to hear what you will do, they want to see you doing," Préval said during the interview with The Miami Herald, still energetic after a 12-hour workday despite speculation about ill health.

More public appearances will come, he said, when he has results to show, like those spreading red lines on his road maps.

"The other day I was reading a U.S. newspaper article, and it said . . . there was nothing happening in Haiti," he said. "The fact there is nothing happening in Haiti is a good thing. It means there is no coup d'état, no protest. But it also means you've yet to feel like something [good] is going to happen in Haiti."

Then, indicating that something is cooking, he said, "When a chicken sits on an egg . . . one day -- a month, 26 days later -- a little chick appears, beautiful and young."

## **The time bomb in our backyard**

**By NICHOLAS EBERSTADT, LEO HINDERY, WILLIAM LANE & MARTY LaVOR**

**The New York Daily News**

**October 23, 2006**

We recently visited Haiti as members of the ongoing U.S. commission to "Help Enhance the Livelihood of People" and render advice on U.S. foreign assistance. What we observed was truly alarming.

Haiti's almost complete loss of personal security has brought the country nearly to the point of no return. The country will be lost without an inspired global effort that goes far beyond the traditional pathways of better education and agriculture.

Haiti is beyond agricultural resuscitation to any meaningful national effect, though with fertilizers and advance seeds Haiti could be modestly productive. As for the imperative of improving an education system in which fewer than 50% of children complete primary school, those necessary fixes will take decades.

The fact is, today Haiti is a "failed" state - not a "fragile" or "failing" state - with a higher human misery index and more dismal urban and rural poverty than almost any other country in the world. Progress from billions of dollars of nonhumanitarian aid to Haiti spent over decades is scarcely observable, and the only functioning social activity in Haiti appears to be the efforts of the various nongovernmental (or NGO) health-care initiatives, which to their credit have kept the misery index from falling even further.

Except for spotty electricity, there is not a single identifiable functioning municipal-type service in place to any meaningful degree. Not police, fire, solid waste disposal, sewage, potable water or education. In the cities, fetid trash lines the streets, and untreated human waste flows freely in the canals area where the poverty is the most extreme.

And yet not one of these problems can be seriously addressed until domestic security is first restored in Haiti. Every day, a few hundred extremely violent thugs supported by a few thousand acolytes hold this nation of 8 million people completely hostage to fear and, consequently, inaction. During our visit, at 9 a.m. on a sunny Monday morning only one block from the U.S. ambassador's well-guarded residence, a woman in her 60s walking her dog was swept up and kidnapped for ransom, and her unarmed husband, who naturally resisted, was literally beheaded.

Instead of the 50,000 or so trained and honest police which the country needs for civil order, there are only about 5,000, many of whom are corrupt, abetted by a largely ineffective judiciary. The 7,000 UN peacekeepers in Haiti must spend much of their efforts simply protecting foreign service staff, and when they do attempt to control the gangs, they are impeded by very confusing "command and control" directives.

Haiti's President, Rene Preval, has laudable goals for his country: jobs, health care, education and roads. But it is nearly impossible to foresee these goals being achieved without immediate and decisive redress being paid to the country's terrifying security situation.

Compounding this incredibly difficult task is the reality that many of the potential security solutions, because they will demand often strong and always decisive actions, will be challenged by the pressure to maintain an open, independent and functioning democracy. The practices and behaviors of nascent democracies, it is unfortunate to say, can often make implementing quick, large-scale security responses harder to effect, not easier - Haiti may well be such a place in point.

There are many well intentioned nations, individuals and overseas Haitians wanting to help this beleaguered country. But right now, the absence of domestic security overwhelms everything, even the delivery of basic humanitarian and health-care assistance which cannot get to the people under the overhang of the unbridled pervasive physical violence.

To address this enormous challenge, the United States and the other supporters of Haiti simply must, in the short term, substantially bolster their international peacekeepers, and, beyond that, help accelerate the installation of a large-scale honest national police force.

Eberstadt, Hindery, Lane and LaVor are each appointed members of the United States' "Help Enhance the Livelihood of People" (HELP) Commission.

**Press Release Source: Eurasian Minerals Inc.**

**Eurasian Minerals Inc.: Gold-Silver Enriched Epithermal Systems Confirmed at La Miel and La Mine Projects in Haiti**

**Monday October 23, 2006**

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(CCNMatthews - Oct. 23, 2006) - Eurasian Minerals Inc. (the "Company" or "EMX") (TSX VENTURE:EMX - News) is pleased to announce encouraging exploration results from initial reconnaissance level geological mapping and geochemical sampling programs at the La Miel and La Mine gold projects in Haiti. These results confirm that both properties host high sulfidation epithermal systems with enriched levels of gold, silver, and copper mineralization and include a rock channel sample interval from La Miel of 18 meters grading 3.00 g/t gold. The geology and mineralization of La Miel and La Mine are similar to that found at the world-class Pueblo Viejo gold-silver deposit in the neighboring Dominican Republic.

#### La Miel Project

The 278.38 square kilometer La Miel property is located near the border with the Dominican Republic, and covers a 35 km long segment of the prospective Massif du Nord geologic terrain. Historic United Nations Development Program (UNDP) work summarized in 1980 identified three areas of alteration and anomalous gold mineralization. The alteration signatures of these areas are characteristic of high sulfidation epithermal systems, including argillization, brecciation, and silica cap development. Reconnaissance field mapping and geochemical sampling at La Miel has confirmed and expanded the areas of alteration and gold mineralization defined by the UNDP.

EMX's sampling has delineated a 15 square kilometer area hosting strongly anomalous gold-silver mineralization within altered and brecciated volcanic rocks. EMX's work totals 147 channel, grab, and float rock samples. A total of 109.6 meters of channel sampling at various outcrop locations on the property returned gold assays ranging from 0.001 to 6.82 g/t, and averaging 0.79 g/t gold. Channel sampling of the discovery outcrop mineralized zone yielded a continuous interval of 18 m averaging 3.00 g/t gold (individual 2 m channel samples ranged from 0.88 to 6.82 g/t gold), with a higher-grade subinterval of 10 m averaging 4.45 g/t gold. This zone remains open in all directions due to surrounding soil cover. In addition to the above samples, 101 rock grab samples from limited outcrop exposure and nearby float elsewhere on the property have yielded seven gold assays greater than 1 g/t gold, with assays up to 26.6 g/t gold and 345 g/t silver.

#### La Mine Project

The 99.5 square kilometer La Mine property is located approximately 50 km west of the port city of Cap Haitien, and in the western region of the Massif du Nord terrain. The property hosts epithermal and porphyry-style mineralization initially identified and sampled by the UNDP. EMX's work at La Mine confirms the targets delineated by the UNDP.

Reconnaissance exploration to date consists of geologic mapping and 15 rock grab samples that returned anomalous levels of gold, silver, and copper mineralization. The gold assays averaged 0.71 g/t, and one sample taken from a silica cap outcrop returned 6.49 g/t gold and 238 g/t silver. Another silica cap sample yielded 0.30% copper, 2.49 g/t gold, and 40.4 g/t silver. Mapping has delineated over

500 meters of vertical extent and 1.7 km of strike length to the high-sulfidation epithermal alteration, and suggests that La Mine has the potential to host a significant gold, silver, and copper mineralized system.

### EMX Follow-up Program

EMX's initial surface exploration results from La Miel and La Mine clearly demonstrate the presence of extensive epithermal gold-silver-copper enriched systems. EMX is systematically collecting additional rock samples, to further define the areas of outcropping mineralization. Soil geochemical surveys will be completed to define covered targets for trenching. The mapping and geochemical results will be utilized to delineate targets for drilling.

### Corporate Update

The Company is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. William Sheriff to the board of directors. He has over 25 years of mineral industry experience as a geologist and businessman, with an established reputation as a successful independent prospect developer and entrepreneur. Mr. Sheriff is President of privately held Platoro West Inc., a western U.S. based minerals exploration and prospect generation company he founded in 1985. He is also the President of Pacific Intermountain Gold Corporation, a Nevada advanced gold project company owned by Seabridge Gold Corporation (TSX:SEA - News; AMEX:SA - News). In addition, Mr. Sheriff's western U.S. uranium property portfolio provided the nucleus for co-founding Energy Metals Corporation (TSX:EMC - News) in 2003, a company which has grown into an industry leading uranium property explorer and mine developer with a current market capitalization of over \$400 million CDN. In addition to Mr. Sheriff's newly appointed position on EMX's board, he also serves on the board of directors for EMC and Pan Nevada Gold Corporation (TSX VENTURE:PNV - News).

The Company also reports that Mr. Borden Putnam has resigned from the Board of Directors. The Company thanks Mr. Putnam for his valued input while serving on the board, and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

### Comments on Sampling, Assaying, and QA/QC

EMX's geochemical samples were collected in accordance with accepted industry standards and procedures. The samples were submitted to the ISO 9001:2000 accredited ALS Chemex laboratories in Reno, Nevada and Vancouver, Canada for analysis: gold was analyzed by fire assay with an AAS finish, and multi-element analyses were determined by ICP MS/AAS techniques. EMX conducts routine QA/QC analysis on all assay results, including the systematic utilization of certified reference materials, blanks, field duplicates, and umpire laboratory check assays.

Mr. Keith A. Laskowski, a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and consultant to the Company, has reviewed and verified the technical information contained in this news release.

### Forward-Looking Statement

Some of the statements in this news release contain forward-looking information that involves inherent risk and uncertainty affecting the business of Eurasian Minerals Inc. Actual results may differ materially from those currently anticipated in such statements.

The TSX Venture Exchange does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

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Source: Eurasian Minerals Inc.  
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## **Internal, external strife hurts Haiti**

**By GEORGE E. CURRY**

**The Philadelphia Tribune**

**October 23, 2006**

PORT-AU-PRINCE , Haiti – The first sentence of the U.S. Department of State’s Consular Information Sheet quickly sums up a widely held perception of Haiti. It begins, “ Haiti is one of the least developed and least stable countries in the Western Hemisphere.”

Even though Haiti is awash in poverty, that terse description does not begin to explain the role of Spain, France and the United States in destabilizing the small country to the south of us or its valiant struggle to gain independence. And we certainly can’t expect to read about it in our textbooks. So I offer you an abbreviated version, with the hope that you’ll be inspired to do additional reading on your own.

Before his non-discovery discovery of the modern-day United States, Christopher Columbus stopped in 1492 on the island of Hispaniola. Like this country, indigenous people already populated it. In the early 17th century, the French established a presence on the island. In 1697, the countries struck a deal whereby France would control the western third of the island, now known as Haiti, and Spain would retain the eastern section, now the Dominican Republic.

With its thick forests and sugar industry, Haiti became one of France’s wealthiest colonies. But that wealth came at a high price, necessitating the importation of 500,000 African slaves. There were scattered and uncoordinated slave revolts. Francois Macandal led one of the best-known early rebellions. His rebellion from 1751-57 was said to have left 6,000 dead. Macandal used voodoo and African traditions to motivate his followers. When the French burned him at the stake in what is now Cap-Haitien, it was reported that the stake snapped, which only added to his mystique and reputation.

But Toussaint L’ouverture led the mother of all slave revolutions. Under his leadership, a half-million slaves defeated French colonists. But instead of being able to celebrate the victory, Napoleon pretended to be interested in signing a peace accord with L’ouverture and in 1802 tricked him into surrendering. But L’ouverture was betrayed and died in a French prison.

But the yearning to be free was not limited to one person, as the French would soon learn.

L’ouverture’s capture only inspired Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christophe, leaders of different military factions, to continue the struggle. Dessalines’s troops defeated the French Nov. 18, 1803, at the Battle of Vertieres. On Jan. 1, 1803, Haiti declared its independence, the second independent country in the New World, behind the 13 colonies.

Dessalines became Haiti’s first ruler.

In a move that would cripple the new nation’s economy, France refused to recognize Haiti until it paid the former colonial ruler reparations in 1833 to compensate for the losses of French planters.

For different reasons, the U.S. also sought to isolate Haiti. Correspondence during that era shows that presidents and other government officials feared that the Haitian Revolution might inspire other slave uprisings, threatening its source of free labor.

Like others nations – including Spain and France – the U.S. occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934. U.S. officials, wary of growing German influence, were said to be upset by a mob lynching of President Guillaume Sam.

The exit of the U.S. after 19 years was followed by a series of coups and the corrupt leadership of Francois Duvalier (Papa Doc) and his son, Jean-Claude Duvalier (Baby Doc). Papa Doc was known for the Tonton Macoutes, his secret police that squashed dissent and inflicted violence on his political opponents. The dictator declared himself president for life. Upon his death in 1971, his 19-year-old son succeeded him. The younger president for life was deposed in 1986, forcing him to flee the country.

Things seemed to take a turn for the better in 1991 when Jean-Bertrand Aristide became the first democratically elected president. True to Haiti's political upheaval, he, too, was soon deposed in a coup. A military junta controlled by Raul Cedras ruled the country until the U.S. invaded the country, returning Aristide to power and dissolving the military. After his term, Rene Preval, his prime minister, succeeded Aristide in 1996. After his term, Aristide was elected again in 2001, an election marred by charges that Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas party improperly counted votes. In 2004, Aristide was the victim of what Ron Daniels calls an "orchestrated ousted." Orchestrated, of course, by the United States. And once again, Rene Preval became the reluctant president.

Daniels, founder of the New York-based Haiti Support Project, observed that Haiti is deeply divided along class and color lines. And its problems will not be solved until there is fundamental justice for all levels of Haitian society.

George E. Curry is editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service and BlackPressUSA.com. To contact Curry or to book him for a speaking engagement, go to his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com). –(NNPA)

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**Haiti: Latortue's legacy**  
**Sunday, October 22, 2006**  
**Myrtha Désulmé, Contributor**  
**Jamaica Gleaner**

Last month, an alarming new report on human rights abuses in Haiti under the interim Government, by two social work scholars, Athena Kolbe and Dr. Royce Hutson of Wayne State University, was published in the British medical journal *The Lancet*. The report studied eight types of human rights violations: property crimes, arrests and prolonged illegal detentions, physical assaults, sexual assaults, murders including extrajudicial killings and politically motivated executions, death threats, and threats of sexual or physical violence.

Households numbering 1,260 were interviewed during the survey period, accounting for 5,720 residents. To estimate the total number of victims in the region, the researchers applied crude rates to the estimated population of the greater Port-au-Prince area in 2003 (2,121,000). From 219 murders and 1,698 sexual assaults, which were reported to them during the survey, they extrapolated that 8,000 people had been murdered and 35,000 women and girls had been raped in Port-au-Prince alone, during the 22-month period. The numbers seem shockingly high, and somewhat exaggerated, but the researchers nevertheless maintain that the extrapolation formula applied to this random sampling method is standard.

These human rights abuses were allegedly perpetrated by the police, members of the disbanded Haitian army, organised anti-Lavalas paramilitary groups, partisans of Lavalas, criminals, unidentified masked armed men, foreign soldiers, and others (including neighbours, friends, and family members).

#### Disastrous embargoes

Under the pretext of encouraging the development of democracy in Haiti, the U.S. has imposed several disastrous embargoes, which have crippled its fragile economy and traumatised its people. Unemployment has soared. Urban violence has spiralled.

Economic stagnation fosters the struggle for scarce benefits, which can be exploited by demagogues, the politically ambitious, and vested interests, foreign and local, intent on monopolising the means of production, the sources of wealth, and of economic and political power.

Extreme poverty breeds illiteracy and miserable governance, which in turn intensifies hunger and instability. Expectations from rationalist theories of crime, civil war and social unrest, are that violence will rise as income per capita, education, and economic growth decline. This is due either to the declining opportunity cost of violence, (the less people have to lose, the more likely they are to create mayhem), or to the decline in state capacity, which are two competing causal mechanisms. If the state is weak and cannot effectively police its territory, a greater supply of agitators will become available to the rabble rousers. Education reduces the available supply of potential rebels. Unemployment increases it.

Violent conflict will occur when it is expected to be more profitable than peace, and there is a difficulty in structuring a credible agreement, which avoids war or other forms of conflict. Theories of

relative deprivation expect violence to rise as a result of higher inequality. Persistent inequality leads to anger and despair, which reinforces the demand for political change.

The only lasting solution for Haiti is the same as for every other destabilised country - stimulation of its economy and wealth creation. A sound framework which combines key public investments - roads, power, public health and safe water, with the creation of long-term economic options, such as the improvement of access to schools, and the development of sustainable agriculture. Great gains need to be achieved in education, farming, health and income levels.

Preval has his work cut out for him. Last month, Sorel François, president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the House of Deputies, declared that more than U.S. \$6 million, not counting luxury vehicles, were misappropriated by the Foreign Affairs Ministry over the two-year administration of interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue.

Preval has also inherited a disastrous human rights situation, which demands a serious and urgent response. He has so far been successful in liberating the more high profile political prisoners, but there are many more he needs to deal with. He does not yet control the judiciary, however, because in December, 2005, P.M. Latortue unconstitutionally replaced half of the Supreme Court judges, after the court ruled against him in the controversial case of candidates with double nationalities, who were barred from participating in the presidential elections. Replacements were unilaterally selected by the executive, and those judges remain on the bench, resisting the liberation of political prisoners.

Haitians see MINUSTAH, the two-year-old U.N. "stabilisation" force, as occupiers, or worse, "tourists with guns", who are being paid to kill them. DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration), was the first mandate of the U.N. peace-keeping force, but they have failed miserably at it. Unless MINUSTAH can live up to its original mandate of stabilisation, the US\$25 million per month, which it is costing, would be better utilised in assisting starving and dislocated Haitians, who cannot earn a living in the prevailing chaos. With the war of attrition, which is being waged against the Haitian people since the last aid embargo, dating from 2000, US\$25 million per month could go a long way towards providing food, water, and basic necessities, rebuilding infrastructure, sewage systems and utilities, providing social services such as health care, garbage collection, sanitation, education, the list is endless. It is precisely the fact that the people are forced to live in such miserable conditions, which undermine their human dignity, which is exacerbating the problem.

No one knows for sure how many weapons are out there. The general estimate is 30,000. Last month, President Preval warned gangs based in the sprawling slums of Port-au-Prince to disarm or face death. Up to 1,000 rank-and-file gang members, who voluntarily lay down arms and rejoin society, will be eligible for the programme, the biggest disarmament effort of the U.N. peace-keeping mission yet.

U.N. envoy, Edmond Mulet, said that gang members participating in the programme will receive ID cards entitling them to money, medical assistance, food for their families and training for jobs. The initiative targets only rank-and-file gang members. Top gang leaders in the capital's volatile Cite Soleil slum have indicated a willingness to disarm, and the decision to leave them out sets up a potential showdown with the Government.

What Haiti needs is assistance in building up institutions for local governance and democracy. It is imperative that Haiti change its political culture, and adhere to CARICOM's Charter of Civil Society. Haiti could take a page out of the British Caribbean's political traditions, such as the two-party Westminster system, of which her Majesty's Loyal Opposition forms an integral part. The main political problem in Haiti is that the Opposition is the enemy. When one starts out with that premise, it is quite difficult to manoeuvre a conflictive situation to the point where all parties can sit around a table and negotiate, or even agree to disagree, accept the opponent's right to his opinion, and coexist amicably.

### Channelling conflict

Higher incomes and educational attainment reduce the risk of political violence by encouraging political participation, and channelling conflict through institutional pathways rather than violence. The U.N., the OAS, and the international community should be offering economic assistance for reconstruction, and training in negotiation skills for conflict resolution, in order to achieve a new social contract leading to national reconciliation. Erasing Haiti's debt, restoring constitutional rule, ending arbitrary embargoes and sinking significant resources into public health, public education and public infrastructure, would ultimately be central to addressing, and indeed, solving Haiti's social problems.

Myrtha Désulmé is the President of the Haiti-Jamaica Society.

**Haiti Recalls Dessalines, Request Unity**  
**Prensa Latina**  
**October 22, 2006**

Port-of-Prince, President Renee Preval received a strong support this week, while Haitians commemorate the bicentennial of the death of Haitian historical leader Jean Jacques Dessalines.

Micha Gaillard, spokeswoman for the Social-Democrat Fusion party, welcomed favorably the call to unity, launched by the head of State and wished the current administration finds a way to imply all groups in the country's development.

"We need unity among the political class, civil society and popular sectors to improve the peoples' quality of life," said Gaillard.

Himler Rebu, leader of the Grand Gathering for Haiti's Evolution Party, supported the call, after considering it an "essential condition to favor the national development."

With a speech on the need of national unity, President Rene Preval evoked the Founder of the Haitian country and said that "all sectors should participate in the country's political life.

"Dessalines played his mission. Ours is to fight equality and fraternity," stated Preval after warning this battle won't be won while national life sectors are divided."

Recalling his murder that October 17, 1806, Eric Jean Jacques, leader of the Deputy Chamber, spoke on the presence of foreign troops on the national soil.

Another deputy, Levaillant Louis Jeune, said that to honor the death of the Father of the Country with the presence of foreigners here is an offense for the whole nation."

## **Deportation breaks apart a family**

**By DIANNA SMITH**

**Cox News Service**

**Rocky Mount Telegraph**

**Monday, October 23, 2006**

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — They are ages 5 and 3. Twin boys and a dainty girl too young to know about the impoverished country of Haiti, too young to be told that Haiti is where their mother is now trapped.

"My mommy, she's in the hospital," the boys often say to those who arrive at their cozy home, where photographs displayed on shelves give visitors a glimpse of a family with a happy, hopeful life.

And it was. Until seven months ago.

The boys point to a framed picture of a pretty woman in a yellow dress with long hair, smiling faintly for a camera. She's coming home, they say. But no one knows when.

Mommy is Marie Michou Daniel, deported earlier this year for disobeying a judge's order to return to Haiti, her native country she fled nine years ago. Her children are American citizens, simply because they were born on American soil. They are unaware that their mother, because she was born on Haitian soil, is no longer here.

"They used to cry a lot. So I told them she had an accident and is in the hospital," said their grandmother, Roselene Massolas, a legal citizen because of a political twist of fate. She is now living in her daughter's West Palm Beach home. "If they know she's at the hospital, the hospital is in the United States. If they think she's in Haiti, it is too far away."

Daniel was one of 153,026 people that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers deported between October 2005 and July. Of those, 3,572 were from Florida. Her children — twin sons Marvin and Garvin and daughter Cherby — are among the estimated three million children of undocumented parents who are U.S.-born citizens, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Institute, a non-partisan economic and social policy research organization.

And these children, who daily face the prospect that their parents will be suddenly swept away, are some of the more emotional threads that weave the fabric of the nationwide immigration debate.

Their grandmother cannot read, does not speak English nor does she drive, and though she's lived here for 11 years, she doesn't know how to do simple things expected from American mothers. Teaching the boys to count to 20 in English, how to celebrate their birthdays, what to do when they're sick.

The Immigration Advocacy Center in Miami learns of families like Daniel's frequently, said executive director Cheryl Little.

"We're seeing parents separated from their children on a regular basis," Little said. "Families are faced with having to make a difficult decision: Do they uproot their children and take them where they may not be safe or do they leave them in the United States? These are heartbreaking decisions to make."

Sinai Missionary Baptist Church in Greenacres is helping Massolas raise the children the way her daughter did before she was arrested in January. Members of the congregation help pay the bills, they take the children on outings, deliver boxes filled with American food that Massolas is learning how to cook and they teach the children how to speak Creole because, until now, English has been their language of choice.

Tears streamed down Massolas' face one evening this month as she spoke remorsefully of these things. She tried to wipe away each drop for fear the children would see, but her tears fell much too quickly, just the way her daughter left.

"I don't know what I'm going to do with them. I'm not part of the culture," Massolas, 44, said. "Every day they ask, 'When will my mother be home?'"

The Rev. Pierre Gregoire Saint-Louis of Sinai Missionary church plucked a phone card from a plastic bag and dialed one of the many phone numbers that Daniel has left with her mother. "Hello?" the pastor said, "Marie Michou Daniel?"

This is how her family contacts her now. The church donates phone cards so Massolas can call at least once a week. They have about 20 minutes to pack in as much conversation as possible, trying to avoid the tears and the heartache so Daniel can hear how her children are growing without her.

Marvin and Garvin have lost baby teeth, three from one, four from the other. Cherby is getting too big for her grandma to carry. She needs new clothes. The 5-year-old boys want help with their homework. They're already talking about Christmas and decorating a tree.

Sometimes, the children grab the phone from their grandmother, pressing it tight to their ears like they are hugging their mother.

"Mommy? I love you," Marvin said in his squeaky voice, pacing his living room floor like a grown-up on a business call. "How are you? Are they giving you a shot? Let me go with you ? I love you."

It's conversations like this one that makes Massolas' head spin. But it's phone calls like the next one that scares her even more.

From a friend's phone in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Daniel's voice trembles this night. She's quick to talk of the murder she witnessed in 1997. A man held a gun to her neighbor's head and shot three times. Daniel began receiving death threats. So she fled the country of an estimated 8 million where the uneducated and the poor outnumber the professionals and the rich.

Daniel came to the United States in 1997 with a photo-switch passport and was arrested as soon as she tried to make it through customs at Miami International Airport. She was paroled after stating she fled



Haiti because she feared for her life. Daniel filed paperwork for political asylum, obtained a work permit and started to work odd jobs in Palm Beach County.

She became a certified nursing assistant, eventually had her twins and then her daughter. She saved enough money to buy her own house and filled it with furniture and a family she had always wanted — all the while, not knowing how long she could stay.

"I didn't want to return to Haiti because of the political turmoil and because I'm a single mother," Daniel, 30, said on the phone that night. "I was very scared."

When Daniel's political asylum was denied in 1999, she appealed. And when she learned the appeal, too, was denied, she made a decision to remain in the U.S. anyway. By then, she'd had her children and was afraid to take them to a country where kidnappings are common and violence is the norm.

But on Jan. 30, Daniel's happy, hopeful American life abruptly came to an end when she got into a minor car accident on U.S. 441 in West Palm Beach. She had just dropped the twins off at school and her daughter at day-care. Before they said goodbye, Cherby asked her mother what she was going to do. Daniel said she was going to work and planned to buy groceries to try a new recipe for dinner.

The police officer at the accident noticed there was a lien on Daniel's driver's license. She was taken into custody and then sent to Krome Detention Center near Miami, where she lived imprisoned for almost a month until a guard woke her at 3 o'clock one morning. He told her to gather her belongings because she was going home. Daniel, at first, was excited.

But "home" meant Haiti.

"We were devastated by this," said attorney Mark Citrin of Citrin and Goldstein, the Miami firm that handled Daniel's case. Citrin has practiced immigration law for 19 years. "We expected an officer to be sympathetic. We were dumbfounded the government could be that cold."

Paul Goldstein expected Daniel to remain in the U.S. under supervision, where she would be required to meet with immigration officers frequently. Instead, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security immediately denied the request to stay because she did not have a passport. Goldstein rebutted, explaining why there wasn't one.

A few weeks passed before Goldstein received a phone call from a friend of Daniel's informing him she was gone.

Daniel does not have a criminal record and was not a threat to anyone, he said.

"We basically said, 'Sending this lady back could be a death sentence,'" Goldstein said. "Your heart goes out to somebody like that. The children basically became orphans."

Children or not, parent or not, that doesn't matter to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Anyone who violates the law, regardless of their circumstances, will have consequences to suffer.

"It's really unfortunate the parents put their children in that situation by breaking the law," said Barbara Gonzalez, an ICE spokeswoman in Miami. "Someone who is ordered removed .??. our obligation as a law enforcement agency is to enforce that order."

Ira Mehlman, spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, said parents who break immigration laws deserve no sympathy.

"In any other situation in which a parent violates the law and the children suffer as a result, we hold the parents responsible," Mehlman said.

He said that FAIR, a national non-profit organization that advocates tougher immigration laws, questions the interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment that allows automatic citizenship to children born in the U.S. FAIR does not believe citizenship should be granted to children of illegal parents.

"There have been bills floating around Congress that would change the interpretation," Mehlman said. "We are certainly in favor of that."

Daniel is now living among friends in the country's capital. Like many Haitians denied political asylum who are forced to return, she doesn't stay in one place long because she's afraid those who once threatened her will come for her.

Work is scarce in Haiti, so Daniel doesn't have a job. She has few belongings, just what her mother and church have mailed the past seven months. That includes snapshots of her boys on their first day of kindergarten and the pre-school graduation she regretfully missed. The twins saved the red caps and gowns they wore that day for their mother to see. Just as they've saved the seven baby teeth.

"There's no peace for me right now," Daniel said in the phone call. "The children ask when I'm coming back. They say, 'Mommy you've left us.' I keep lying to them. I know I'm lying to them. I say I'm coming back. I have hope that I will. But I don't know how it's going to happen."

Massolas sat near the pastor and listened carefully to her daughter as the tears continued to fall. Daniel told the pastor that while traveling outside Port-au-Prince earlier this month, her bus was hijacked by men with machine guns. No one was hurt. Daniel was fine. But that may not be the case next time.

The pastor suddenly told Daniel they must say goodbye. Their minutes were up.

Massolas buried her head in her hands, while the children, so lighthearted, so innocent, tried their best to console her.

"It's OK, it's OK," said Garvin, stroking her hair ever so gently with his tiny right hand. "She's coming home soon."

Massolas fled to the United States in 1995 for political reasons, and she became a legal resident after President Clinton signed the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act in 1998. The law enabled many Haitians who fled to America before 1996 to apply for lawful permanent resident status without having to first apply for an immigrant visa.

Because Haiti is politically unstable, Haitian communities and activists in the United States have repeatedly demanded the government grant Temporary Protected Status for Haitians. TPS has been granted to refugees from war-torn countries including Somalia, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Sudan. It has never been granted to Haitians, even during the ravaging floods and mudslides unleashed by Tropical Storm Jeanne in 2004 that killed more than 3,000 people in the city of Gonaives.

The Immigration Advocacy Center has written numerous letters to government officials requesting TPS for Haitians, and even Gerard Latortue, a Boca Raton retiree, sent a letter of support while serving as Haiti's interim prime minister.

"Haitians don't have political clout that other immigrant groups do," said Little. "This administration knows full well they can discriminate against the Haitians and not many people are going to care."

The pastor said family and friends plan to seek legal action to see if Daniel can return on humanitarian parole, usually granted to people with special circumstances, such as the severely ill who need medical attention abroad.

But attorneys Citrin and Goldstein said it's doubtful that would work.

Daniel is banned from the U.S. for 10 years because she was ordered to leave. When the children turn 21, they can petition for her to return, but because Daniel committed immigration fraud when she used the photo-switch passport, she would need a waiver for the fraud.

"We've had three from Haiti just like this," Citrin said. "Nobody wants to give Haitians TPS."

Saint-Louis has sent letters to local congressmen pleading for help. He plans to visit Daniel during a trip to Haiti later this month.

"We are Christians and we are immigrants," he said of his congregation. "We understand."

"People, when they are facing safety problems in their country, they have a great perception of America as the land of freedom. You have to bring some hope for these people. That's all you can count on, prayer and hope."

Dianna Smith writes for The Palm Beach Post.