The Hell That is Haiti
200 Years of Racism and Imperialist Intervention
By Marty Goodman
A Socialist Action Booklet
The Hell that is Haiti
200 years of Racism and Imperialist Intervention

By Marty Goodman

A Socialist Action Booklet
The Hell that is Haiti:
200 years of Racism and Imperialist Intervention
By Marty Goodman

Copyright © Socialist Action Books
All rights reserved
Printed in May 2018
Manufactured in the United States

Cover photo: Haitian American protestors demand that Trump apologize for his January 15, 2018 racist “shithole country” remarks at his Mar-a-Lago, Florida retreat.

Labor donated
# Table of Contents

The Hell that is Haiti: 200 years of Racism and Imperialism................................. p.5

Haitians Denounce President Trump’s ‘Shithole’ remark........................................ p.15

The U.S. and Haiti: 200 Years of Racism..................................................p.21

Dominican Government Expels Haitians....................................................p.25

Donald Trump to 60,000 Haitians: "Get Out!”..............p.31

Haiti Erupts in Strikes and Protests.....................................................p.37

WikiLeaks Lifts Lid on U.S. Role in Haiti...........................................p.43

Haiti’s Dictator Resigns as Election Trap Set..............p.47

Haiti Cholera Outage: UN Guilty........................................................p.51

Pro-U.S. Dictator Steals Haitian Election.................................p.55

The Hell That is Haiti..................................................................................p.59

Prelude to Today’s Haitian Immigration Struggle: Miami in the 1980s..............................p.67
sometimes thousands. These were refugees, many facing deportation - but out they came!

This must be said about the politics of the Haitian community: The strategy of independent mass mobilization in the streets of Miami, coupled with an expert, politicized, legal team – overseen by Father Jean-Juste and the HRC. The combined strategy was key to the release of thousands of Haitian refugees from the racist prison camp known as the Krome Detention Center on the edge of the Florida Everglades outside Miami.

Reagan had begun his mass detention program in 1981. The administration devised a fraudulent two track approach: political refugees versus ‘economic refugees.’ The idea that Haitians were merely fleeing to better economic conditions was absurd given the decades of U.S. support to murderous dictatorships.

In 1982, about 2,000 Haitian refugees were released from the Krome camp after a ruling by Judge Eugene Spellman of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Pandemonium swept the Haitian community but it was a long way to justice for thousands more. Refugees fleeing the US imposed Baby Doc dictatorship were still arriving in droves, many to be deported by Ronald Reagan and his South Florida hit-man District Attorney Rudolf Giuliani. Deported Haitians sent back into the arms of Baby Doc’s killers, whose thugs viewed deportees as “dissidents.”

According to international human rights law - a sham of capitalist hypocrisy in practice - Haitians were qualified to receive “political asylum” from “well-founded fear of persecution” (UN 1967) but not according to the racist U.S. immigration system! One South Florida professor, a statistician, analyzed the available data to determine the likelihood of a non-racial criteria in the granting of asylum by the Reagan administration. His conclusion? The granting of carte blanche political asylum to Eastern European dissidents, Jews from the USSR, and the mostly white, but firmly anti-communist Cubans, and the near complete denial of political asylum rights for Haitians on a non-racial basis was literally

Introduction

In this pamphlet are several articles that have appeared in Socialist Action newspaper about the struggles of the Haitian people for freedom and liberation. The concluding article is an overview of the critical, but largely unknown, struggle in Miami by the Haitian community for political asylum rights in the 1980’s.

The history of the fight against the racist deportation of Haitians, the criminal U.S./UN occupations and the super-exploitation of Haitian labor is a long one, too long for an adequate
history here. Suffice to say that it must be viewed in the context of 200 years of U.S. imperialism and its’ evil twin, racism.

Make no mistake, this outrage has the unmistakable teeth marks of two equally ravenous villains, the Democratic and Republican parties, that is to say, the twin representatives of the capitalist system itself!

Today, 10 million live in Haiti. At its core there is crushing poverty, but that didn’t happen accidently but was the inevitable result of 200 years of US imperialism and racism. There is 30-40% unemployment in the Haitian urban centers, worse in the countryside where millions more live. Three-quarters of the population lives on U.S. $2 or less per day. Said USAID’s acting Director M. Peter McPherson at a 1982 Congressional hearing, closer U.S. ties would make Haiti the “Taiwan of the Caribbean.” He was right. Sweatshop labor is expanding in Haiti, where bosses have regularly flaunted the starvation minimum wage and trample upon workers’ rights (See articles).

Haiti was born in revolution as the world’s first and only successful slave revolution (1791-1804). It was won arms in hand and turned the world upside down, no less so than the Russian revolution in it’s time. Haitian revolutionaries entered the U.S. slave south promoting rebellion. The defeat of the imperial French army, the largest in the world, caused dictator Napoleon Bonaparte to sell-off the massive Louisiana territory to the young United States, doubling its size.

Every Black person, from whatever nation, was assured a welcome in revolutionary Haiti. Liberation forces in Latin America, including the anti-imperialist leader Simon Bolivar, sought shelter and arms in Haiti and Haiti delivered - only to later be betrayed when Bolivar excluded Haiti from important Latin American anti-imperialist conferences.

Haiti endured a 62-year U.S. trade embargo and later its’ first imperialist occupation (1915-1934). Under occupation, Haiti became the birthplace of a new ‘black consciousness’ movement

Prelude to today’s Haitian immigration struggle
Miami in the 1980s

By MARTY GOODMAN

The big waves of Haitian immigration to the U.S. began roughly in the late ‘70’s in Miami. A resistance movement of Haitian activists and supporters (including this writer), was led by, most prominently, by the self-less Haitian leader, Father Gerard Jean-Juste, a leftist “liberation” Catholic Priest. Early South Florida protests began with demonstrations against U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who denied U.S. Political Asylum Rights for Haitian refugees fleeing the U.S. backed- Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Dictatorship.

The South Florida movement grew to be embraced tentatively by the Miami Catholic Church. In the early 1980’s, the Haitian Refugee Center of Miami, Inc. (HRC) was formed under the majority control of the Haitian community and established a political/refugee legal aid headquarters. Prominent attorneys were Ira Kurzban, Steven Forrester and many other highly skilled advocates.

A Haitian/non-Haitian solidarity organization was formed, “The Friends of Haitian Refugees,” composed of largely Haitian members of Konbit Liberte, a radical Haitian organization, U.S. anti-war and Central America activists, whose activities were centered at the HRC.

The “Friends” regularly organized to support Haitian mobilizations led by Jean-Juste and stood shoulder to shoulder with the Haitian community at innumerable press conferences, receiving frequent media coverage. Mass organizing meetings of the Haitian community at the HRC were a regular event, overflow meetings extended out onto 54th street in Little Haiti. For demonstrations, Haitians poured into the streets in the hundreds,
In an interview with *Socialist Action*, Joseph reacted with a laugh to the title of Barack Obama’s autobiography, “The Audacity of Hope.” He said, “It’s a waste to vote for Obama. Obama never came to Haiti. If I were American I would not vote for Obama. I’m very clear on that. Obama would be a Republican in Haiti, no different than Bush.” Mario traveled with a Palestine-solidarity delegation to Gaza not long ago and said that in his judgment, the living conditions in Haiti are worse than Gaza. — M.G.

**Under the heel of U.S. imperialism**

U.S. policy toward Haiti has remained unchanged since Haiti’s slave revolution proclaimed independence from French slave masters in 1803. The slave-owning U.S. did not recognize Haiti until 1862. The U.S. occupied Haiti from 1915-1934, creating a Haitian army trained in repression. In 1994, Bill Clinton agreed to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first elected president in decades (1990), deposed in a CIA-backed military coup in 1991. Aristide supporters asked for a U.S./UN occupation, betraying Haiti’s constitution. Haiti became a model for multinational “humanitarian intervention,” which always benefits imperialism, not the masses.

In 2004, George W. Bush led a UN force in support of a second CIA coup against Aristide. In January 2010, Obama dispatched 20,000 U.S.-led UN troops, using the earthquake as a cover bully and intimidate the Haitian people. In contrast, Fidel Castro answered Obama’s occupation by proclaiming, “We send doctors, not troops!”

Haitian, once known as the “Pearl of the Antilles,” was the super-rich slave colony build by the blood of Haitian slaves, driven without mercy to produce immeasurable wealth for their French overlords. Haiti however, was the home of the world’s first successful Black slave rebellion, began in 1791 by mighty slave revolutionaries in the fields of French-owned slave plantations. Their victory was proclaimed on Jan. 1, 1804. Led by Toussaint L’Ouverture and other heroic fighters, arms in hand, the Black rebels turned the world upside down, particularly in the eyes of the racist slave monstrosity to its north, the U.S.A. As it is arraigned against revolutionary Cuba today, the U.S. imposed a 62-year trade embargo on Haiti, ending only in 1865.

In liberated Haiti, all Blacks were welcome citizens. As the racist white-world reeled from what to them was the impossible, Haitian rebels crossed into the U.S. slave south, fomenting rebellion and sowing panic amongst its’ its rulers, documents show. The horror of the world slave system was under direct assault by tiny Haiti!

Of great direct impact, was the Haitian people’s defeat of French dictator Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, commander of the largest, most powerful land army in the world. This humiliating defeat, following successive waves of intervention by the world’s most powerful armies, convinced Napoleon to relinquish the gigantic Louisiana Purchase, doubling the size of the U.S.

The Haitian revolution’s mighty story can be read in such classic works as the all-time classic “The Black Jacobins” (1963) by Trinidadian Trotskyist writer C.L. R. James and the excellent “The Advengers of the New World” (2004).
The spirit of revolution has never, and can never, be extinguished in Haiti. The epic battles of “the Cacos,” the name given the rebel army amassed by Charlemagne Peralte, led a war of liberation against the first of many brutal U.S. military occupations (1915-1934). Estimates of the number of Haitian patriots who died at the hands of imperialism during that war run upwards 50,000, which included the world’s first aerial bombardment. The military occupation was ordered by Democratic Party “peace” candidate President Woodrow Wilson. Amongst the occupation’s first acts was the seizure of $500 million in assets directly seized from Haiti’s national bank in the capital, Port au Prince.

Communist-led mass street protests in New York City against the Haiti occupation were organized.

The occupation was ended in 1934 by Democratic Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The arrogant imperialist FDR once bragged that he had written the new Haitian constitution. The new constitution left Haiti with new laws permitting foreign investment and a new U.S.-Marine trained army skilled in the repression of the Haitian masses. The U.S.-spawned monster, the Haitian Army, would slaughter with impunity and set the stage for Haitian politics for decades to come.

In Haiti, anti-MINUSTAH protests have increased, combined with the demand for lower prices and the resignation of President Martelly. Two marches in Cap Haitien in the north numbered in the thousands. On Oct 15, the day the MINUSTAH so-called mandate expired, a modest, but militant protest blocked the driveway of the MINUSTAH base in Port au Prince. The presence of North American activists may have prevented acts of MINUSTAH brutality. One MINUSTAH soldier was heard to have said to another, “There’s 40 cameras and Ipads.” Socialists demand, “U.S./UN out of Haiti now, and stay out!

Interview with Mario Joseph: ‘Worse than Gaza’

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti—Attorney Mario Joseph, of the Office of International Lawyers (BAI), has received death threats over the phone in reaction to lawsuits and letters that he and his organization have filed. The situation prompted Amnesty International to issue an “Urgent Action” bulletin on Oct. 4. On Sept. 28, the chief prosecutor of Port au Prince, Jean Renal Senatus, revealed on the radio that he had been given orders by the Justice Ministry to arrest 36 political dissidents, including Joseph and two other attorneys, Newton St.-Juste and Andre Michel. Fortunately, the prosecutor refused the order, but the charges were never explained.

The AI alert cited Joseph’s and the BAI’s role in pursuing justice for victims of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, back in Haiti since 2011. In addition, AI cited Joseph’s complaints registered with the UN over its role in the spread of the cholera epidemic and forced evictions of people in tent camps. As head of the BAI, Joseph addressed the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights last July. To that list should be added Joseph’s defense of the rights of sweatshop workers, represented by Batay Ouvriye.
contingent of 18 other participating nations within the United Nation’s Mission to Stabilize Haiti (MINUSTAH). Their participation freed U.S. troops for the Iraq and Afghan wars.

As a creation of imperialism, the United Nations is conducting an illegal occupation even by its own charter. There is no invasion of Haiti or internal strife justifying military force. The Haiti occupation costs $1 billion a year, about $2 million a day, funds that could be used for housing, sanitation, and food.

MINUSTAH troops have engaged in a number of massacres. MINUSTAH fired into supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide (2004) and created a free-fire zone in the impoverished Cite Soleil section of Port au Prince in 2005, where up to 80 people were killed. Numerous sexual assaults by MINUSTAH troops have gone unpunished. UN officials continue to stonewall when confronted by the victim’s families and their attorneys. It has refused to create a Standing Claims Commission to hear cases against it, as called for by its own mandate.

After the onset of the cholera epidemic in 2010, two scientific studies and photos proved that UN troops from Nepal dumped raw sewage into a waterway comparable to the U.S. Mississippi River in significance. Strains of cholera active in Nepal have been discovered in Haitian cholera victims. UN officials have arrogantly denied responsibility, refusing to respond to a lawsuit filed by the Office of International Lawyers (BAI). Some 8000 people have died in the epidemic, and another 700,000 have fallen ill.

The MINUSH’s “mandate” expired on Oct. 15 but was unanimously renewed on Oct. 12 without a withdrawal date. On Oct. 11, in New York City, a delegation of Haitian activists—Haitian Sen. Moise Jean-Charles; several labor officials, including Fignole St. Cyr, general secretary of the Haitian trade-union confederation CATH; Haiti Liberté journalist Kim Ives; and several U.S. solidarity activists—met with UN officials to demand the immediate withdrawal of MINUSTAH. Incredibly, William Gardner, the occupation’s UN Senior Political Affairs Officer, said...
government through proxies. A key target was Aristide’s promise to raise the minimum wage slightly.

Lurking behind the scenes was Haiti’s pro-U.S. corporate elite, dedicated to subservience to Washington’s diktats, unfettered corruption, exploitation of the Haitian masses – and violence. A death squad terror network operated with impunity and included elements of the Haitian army and the dreaded Tonton Macoutes, a violent, para-military gang founded by dictator Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier (1957-71) and continued by his successor son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier.

In September 1991, a CIA-backed military coup overthrew the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. 1,000 Haitians died in the capital on the first day – 6,000 more over the course of the brutal regime. CIA involvement was exposed in front-page New York Times exposés of the period, the Ronald Reagan-Bill Clinton years. Coup leader General Raoul Cederas admitted payments from the CIA as did the leader of the terrorist FRAPH organization, led by Emanuel Constant. No U.S. CIA or other officials were held responsible for their role in these slaughters by the incoming U.S. President Clinton!

The middle-class Aristide movement itself and its backers in the U.S. had not absorbed the lessons of the CIA-coup against the elected president of Chile, Salvador Allende (1973), who left workers defenseless against the military. They became victims of the middle-class utopia of “socialism at the ballot box.”

At a meeting that this Socialist Action reporter attended of sweatshop workers and North American activists, organized by BO, workers described recent work stoppages and the need for collective action. Workers described how bosses reacted with fury to stoppages over quotas by firing workers or sending them home for days or weeks.

The workers said it is common to cut their lunches short or skip it entirely to meet quotas in order to support their families on their paltry salaries. Some bosses force workers to pay for the company’s miserable food, to be eaten while working. Workers also described their wretched health care, with company doctors suspicious of all their complaints, and even ratting out workers to the bosses. One worker told us that factory owner Charles Baker, a prominent reactionary, made threats against him for questioning policy. The workers appealed for international solidarity.

BO has organized the trade-union SOTA (Sendikat Ouvriye Tekstile ak Abiman, the Union of Textile and Clothing Workers) at six Port au Prince plants out of some 25, mostly in the SONAPI Industrial Park located in the capital, which employs about 12,000 workers. BO has also organized the 3000 CODEVI textile workers in Ouanaminte in the north.

BO seeks to mount an international campaign to force assembly bosses to honor the minimum-wage law. They intend to begin a fight to raise the minimum beyond bare subsistence next year. For more, contact http://www.Batayouvriye.org)

The UN occupation

Keeping a lid on the explosive mix of vastly unequal wealth is a U.S.-led United Nations military occupation force of some 12,000 troops, illegal by its own hypocritical standards and, according to polls, hated by the Haitian masses. Doing Washington’s dirty work, Brazilian troops form the largest
The minimum wage struggle

Big worker mobilizations in 2009 kept the pressure on parliament to adopt a new minimum wage law. Wikileaks documents, published by Haiti Liberté newspaper and The Nation magazine, partially reveal the concerted pressure of the Obama administration on parliament to keep wages low.

The 2009 law contained huge giveaways to the assembly bloodsuckers. The law stipulated that prior to Oct. 1, 2012, all workers except those doing piece work in the assembly industry would receive a minimum wage of about $5 US (200 Haitian gourdes) a day—not per hour. Assembly workers were to receive only about $3 a day (125 gourdes) until October 2011, when it increased to about $3.50 a day (150 gourdes). A 2011 AFL-CIO study concluded that the needs of a typical family of four was an incredible nine times the minimum wage for a 48-hour, six-day work week.

The new Oct. 1, 2012, minimum for assembly workers is about $7 US a day (300 gourdes). But it is being ignored by bosses, Yannick Ettienne, a union organizer for the leftist Batay Ouvriye (BO), told Socialist Action. The bosses imposed nearly impossible production quotas for 300 gourdes, although the law clearly states that workers must receive “at least” 300 gourdes for eight hours.

The Obama administration, the UN, and the U.S.-dominated World Bank envision making Haiti a virtual 21st-century slave state of low-wage workers dominated by the international assembly industry. Since the 1980s, the World Bank’s goal was to make Haiti “the Taiwan of the Caribbean,” a sinkhole of low wage labor, depressing wages for the entire Caribbean and even North America.

Parallel to more assembly development is expanding tourism, whose development will mean little income for the Haitian masses and degrade Haiti’s rich culture. Haiti is “free market” capitalism at its most savage. Most Haitians live on $2 a

Still worse, Aristide’s 1993 acceptance – we would say his disgraceful encouragement – of a U.S. occupation force to restore his rule trampled into the mud Haiti’s most precious crown jewel: a revolutionary independent Haiti, won arms in hand by Black slaves. The occupation disgraced the legacy of General Toussaint L’Overture, Haiti’s renown revolutionary leader; the legacy of Jean-Jacque Dessalines, the anti-slavery militant who led the revolution after Toussaint’s death in a French prison; and Charlemagne Peralte, the leader of the anti-U.S. occupation liberation army of fighters nicknamed “Cacos.” [Peralte was executed by a U.S. Marine assassin in 1919. Some 40,000 Haitians died during the resistance.]

On September 19, 1994, Bill Clinton’s U.S.-led UN occupation began, restoring Aristide as president –literally landing him via a U.S. helicopter on the lawn of the presidential palace. The deal was concluded by “the Governor’s Island Accord.” [“Don’t examine it, just sign it,” UN Secretary Boutros Boutros-Ghali to Aristide. New York Times 8/3/93 ] Said Aristide to a large rally upon his return, “To the bourgeois, we are with you.”

The Congressional Black Caucus encouraged intervention by President Clinton. The occupation’s goals? The stated goal, restore Aristide and ‘democracy.’ The real goal? To stabilize Haiti against revolution and impose a neoliberal World Bank economic agenda including end tariffs on U.S. and other imports, privatization of public utilities, imposition of austerity, and a sweatshop oriented export strategy. These were coupled with repressive measures to stop the flow of fleeing Black “boat people” to South Florida to supposedly thwart what was deemed to be a racist voter backlash.

However, perhaps the biggest prize historically in Haiti was to establish a multi-national imperialist military coalition template under the guise of “restoring democracy.” In a post-Vietnam world it would serve the imperialists well, either as a UN-sponsored smokescreen or as a narrower “coalition of the willing,” as in Iraq.
“Socialist” Congressman Bernie Sanders voted for the Clinton plan in Haiti.

More U.S. occupations were to come. A CIA-backed coup in 2004 overthrew Aristide once again. The coup forces were Haitian paramilitary thugs who trained in the Dominican Republic, a close U.S. ally (See “Para Militarism and the Assault on Democracy in Haiti,” Sprague 2012). Once again the Haitian masses were left unprepared to defend themselves by the Aristide leadership. A US/UN force reoccupied Haiti and – as the coupmakers wished – Aristide was flown out of Haiti to the Central African Republic. More Haitian deaths followed.

The last occupation followed the deadly Haitian earthquake in January 2010, which killed over 200,000. The Obama administration put Haiti in military lockdown, landing a helicopter on the national palace lawn to show Haitian’s who’s boss. Fidel Castro answered Obama’s occupation by proclaiming, “We send doctors, not troops!”

The absolute domination of Haiti by world imperialism leaves no room for middle class, so-called “democratic” solutions, i.e. pseudo-revolutions that perpetuate inequality, starvation, corruption and back door hand-shakes. (see the Haitian Wikileaks documents on the U.S. sabotage of Haitian elections and the promotion of foreign sweatshops by Bill and Hillary Clinton. Go to Haitiliberte.com, search Wikileaks.)

Hurricane Sandy

Two days after the Oct. 22 Caracol gala, hurricane Sandy ripped through Haiti’s South, smashing through tent cities erected after the January 2010 earthquake. They are still inhabited by 400,000 desperate “internal refugees,” despite $5 billion raised internationally for earthquake relief. Ordinarily, tent cities, concentrated in Port au Prince, are rife with hunger, misery, unsanitary conditions, sexual assaults, and forced evictions backed by armed goons.

At least 54 Haitians died during Sandy, a majority of the 71 killed in the Caribbean. Some 25,000 Haitians are homeless. Rivers of water and mud cascaded down deforested mountains, stripped bare for use as firewood. Coffee and bean production was devastated, raising prices on already costly food staples, the theme of mass protests in October.

Cholera, an easily treated water-borne disease, reappeared in Sandy’s wake. Starting in late 2010, over 7500 Haitians died of cholera and hundreds of thousands were infected. Since 2010, there has been little preparation for new outbreaks or improved sanitation. About 550 died of cholera over the last year.

Haiti has been called “the NGO republic,” referring to the thousands of NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) in the country, almost all of which are non-Haitian and get the lion’s share of relief funds. The World Bank estimated 10,000 NGOs before the earthquake. A mere 1% went to the Haitian government. The NGOs, funded mainly by wealthy donors, shape relief efforts. There is no national housing plan nearly three years after the earthquake. International “relief” has delivered only 52.3 percent of the $5.3 billion pledged to Haiti, and, some aid specialists say, there isn’t any plan to make up the difference.
and the Korean textile assembly giant, Sae-A Trading. Officials say the park may employ up to 20,000 workers. The promotional material claimed it was created, “without compromising on labor and environmental standards.” Hillary called it “a new Haiti.” It was all lies.

The AFL-CIO had urged American and international officials to reconsider Sae-A Trading, citing “acts of violence and intimidation” in Guatemala. Homero Fuentes, who monitors factories for American retailers, calls Sae-A “one of the major labor violators.” Sae-A Trading closed shop in Guatemala and moved its operation to Haiti. It will now receive tax breaks and duty-free access to the U.S. market. The company’s export to the U.S. has been estimated at about $900 million.

An initial corporate study claimed that the Caracol area was “devoid” of people. But the week the Caracol deal was signed, Robert Ettienne, an elderly farmer near Caracol, told Haiti Grassroots Watch (HGW), “The first week of January tractors moved across all this area and broke down everyone’s fences. Thieves and animals followed, and our crops were gone.” (See the series “Open for Business” at http://www.Haitigrassrootswatch.org.) Farmers were promised compensation but, so far, haven’t received it.

Some 300 farmers, like Ettienne, lost their land, in what is considered a fertile, ecologically fragile region. The nearby port at Forte Liberté is Haiti’s only UN-designated ecologically “protected” area. An internal government document obtained by HGW cited the “significant adverse environmental impact” of the Caracol project. “The fact of having chosen this site, I’d call it heresy,” said Arnaud Dupuy, head of Haiti’s Audubon Society.

Caracol also has deep historical significance. It is close to Chavert, the site where rebellious peasants of the North, followers of guerrilla leader Charlemagne Peralte, were held by U.S. Marines during the first U.S. occupation. Racist U.S. troops attached hoses to truck exhausts that led to imprisoned Haitians, creating a Nazi-like death chamber.
PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti—Oct. 22 was a romantic rendezvous for Bill and Hillary Clinton in Haiti, their one-time honeymoon destination. Hollywood celebs were there too—Sean Penn, Ben Stiller and sweatshop magnate Donna Karan, along with members of the Haitian elite, led by President Michael Martelly, a Washington-backed military coup supporter. “Haiti is open for business and we mean it,” Martelly said to his beaming guests.

The occasion was the opening of a new $300 million sweatshop industrial park in Caracol in northern Haiti, $124 million of it paid for by the U.S. taxpayers. Signing the Caracol agreement on Jan. 11, 2011, were Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the U.S.-dominated Inter-American Development Bank,
boycotting the election, but threw his hat in the ring as the election grew closer.

Haiti needs to break with middle-class and reformist leaders. Haiti needs revolution. The misery of daily life is worse than under the U.S.-backed Duvalier family dictatorship (1957-1986).

An earthquake in 2010 killed over 200,000 and displaced over 1 million, from which Haiti has not recovered. Thousands still live in makeshift tents, betrayed by Western governmental and private pledges of relief. The “reconstruction” effort headed by Bill Clinton and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have squandered billions in so-called relief, much of which went to beltway corporations, not to Haitians. Hundreds of millions went to defray the costs of a renewed U.S. military occupation, cynically undertaken by the Obama administration after the earthquake tragedy.

Moreover, tens of thousands of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origins have fled the Dominican Republic’s racist deportation orders, only to be dumped and abandoned in isolated regions by the Martelly regime. The Martelly government has now engaged an Israeli security firm to guard its borders.

Elections will not solve Haiti’s problems. For that, it is necessary to build a workers movement, and a revolutionary movement and party, to expel imperialism and Haiti’s blood-sucking ruling class once and for all!

Haitians denounce President Trump’s ‘shithole’ remark

By MARTY GOODMAN

February 9, 2018

As if 200 years of U.S. racism and imperialism weren’t enough, Haitians must contend with the idiotic rantings of the U.S. commander in chief, Donald Trump. “Why are we having all these people from shithole countries come here?” asked Trump at a Jan. 11 immigration meeting.

Trump was referring to Haiti, El Salvador, and African states, provoking worldwide outrage. During the meeting he asked, “Why do we need more Haitians?” “Take them out.” according to sources cited in a Jan. 12 Washington Post article. And that wasn’t enough for Trump, who added, “Put me down for wanting more
Europeans to come to this country. Why don’t we get more people from Norway?"

Initially, the White House refused to deny the reports, but Trump tweeted a denial the next day that merely admitted to non-specific “tough talk” and added, “I have a wonderful relationship with Haitians.”

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) confirmed the report, saying Trump used the term “shithole countries” repeatedly; he called Trump’s rant “hate-filled, vile, and disgusting.” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) confirmed Trump’s “shithole countries” slander in a comment to the Post, overheard by Sen. Tim Scott. Said Scott, Graham told the Post that the remarks attributed to Trump are “basically accurate.” Even the United Nations, usually under the thumb of U.S. imperialism, called Trump’s remarks “racist.”

Trump’s arrogant “shithole” comments were made on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the catastrophic Haitian earthquake, Jan. 12, 2010, which killed up to 300,000 and injured many more in a country of 10 million. Virtually every Haitian family was affected.

Trump: “They all have AIDS!”

On Sept. 16, 2016, candidate Trump said to a small gathering of Haitian Americans in Miami, “I really want to be your biggest champion.” Many recalled Trump’s empty promises after his Nov. 20 racist termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 60,000 Haitians who fled in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, a cholera plague, and a post-hurricane Mathew Haiti. TPS Haitians support 250,000 relatives back home. Haiti is in no condition to receive deportees!

The falsity of those promises was also demonstrated last June, at a White House meeting on immigration, when Trump was presented with a list of immigrants by country. After seeing that 15,000 had entered from Haiti, Trump snarled, they “all have AIDS” (The New York Times, Dec. 23, 2017).

The Obama administration and the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS) have turned a blind eye to the gross improprieties of the election. The OAS, while acknowledging incidents of violence, nevertheless said that they “did not affect the overall voting process.” The UN, the U.S., Canada, and the European Union have all given legitimacy to this caricature of an election.

Blatant U.S. manipulation of the 2010 Haitian elections in favor of the Martelly run for president was a backdrop to the current wave of protests. Some 2000 documents released by the news agency Wikileaks documented U.S. intervention in 2010 by then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the U.S. Embassy as well as corporate pressure on the Haitian parliament to vote against a small raise to the minimum wage of $5 a day. Bill and Hillary Clinton both pressed the CED to bump up Martelly in the 2020 election from third to second place, enabling him to successfully challenge the front-runner, Mirlande Manigat, and win.

Martelly is known as a close associate of supporters of the former Haitian dictator, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier. After the election, in 2012, Martelly joined the Clintons and U.S. celebs at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at a sweatshop industrial park in Caracol in northwestern Haiti. During the ceremony, in which the Haitian president drew praise from Hillary as a far-sighted leader, Martelly declared, “Haiti is open for business!”

None of the parties in the election deserve the support of the Haitian masses. None are workers’ parties, despite the vague populist rhetoric of some like Moise Jean-Charles. Although Jean-Charles has called for an end to the despised U.S.-led UN military occupation force known as MINUSTAH, his promises are full of vague liberal slogans, not the fighting words of socialism and revolution. Earlier in the election cycle, Jean-Charles, once a follower of pseudo-radical president Aristide, joined with leftists in
Preval, with 25.3% of the vote, both destined for a Dec. 27 runoff election. Placing third was populist Moise Jean-Charles, with 14.3%, and fourth was Dr. Maryse Narcisse, a favorite of the popular former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, with only an improbable 7%.

Fear of violence and the well-founded expectation of vote rigging led to a voter turnout on Oct. 25 of only 23% of eligible voters. In the August election, 13% of voting centers were closed due to violence, intimidation, and fraud. It was understood that the election, called a “selection” by many Haitians, was engineered by the Martelly regime, which has thrived on increasing repression.

Haitian attorney Mario Joseph, who is on the board of the IADL, stated, “President Michel Martelly is not capable of holding democratic elections.” Indeed, the rabidly pro-U.S. president and former rap artist has ruled by decree for over four years, having let parliament expire without holding required elections. In lieu of elections, he has appointed judges, mayors and “interim executives.”

More than 916,000 accreditation cards were issued to political party monitors who were not required to vote at any particular voting center, opening the way to massive amounts of multiple voting. In fact, a black market in such cards would fetch anywhere between $2 and $30. As a result, up to 60% of the 1.6 million votes could have been fraudulent!

The Brazilian Igarape Institute conducted a poll of 1800 voters in 135 voting centers across Haiti and determined that the vote tallies seemed wildly askew. It found that Celestin was favored by 37.5%, populist Jean-Charles was favored by 30%, and 19.4% for Narcisse. The poll revealed that Jovenel Moise was chosen by only 6.3% of those polled.

A coalition of eight political candidates, known as G8, have demanded an “independent inquiry” into the election, which was conducted by the Provisional Electoral Council (CED), a pliant body of political appointees that has proven its loyalty again and again.

The astonishing ignorance and racism of Trump toward Haitians was a throwback to the AIDS hysteria of the 1980s. At the time, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning that “Haitians and sub-Saharan Africans” were highly susceptible to AIDS and banned blood donations by Haitians. Racist stereotyping exploded, but they were, of course, lies. The FDA determination was removed in 1990, but not before 100,000 Haitians and supporters massed at the Federal Building in downtown Manhattan and basically shut the city down in April 1990—proving again the power of mass action!

As if these attacks weren’t enough, Trump has vowed to keep open the notorious Guantanamo, Cuba, gulag, which Obama pledged to close. The early 90s struggle for the entry of HIV-positive Haitians imprisoned in Guantanamo spawned a fight-back of Haitian activists and supporters and AIDS activists in ACT-UP. A combination of street actions and legal battles, led by attorney Michael Ratner, led to the release of the HIV Haitians. Continuing Guantanamo as a human rights atrocity shows how fleeting are victories under capitalism.

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program was also ended on Sept. 5 by Trump, affecting 800,000 children of “illegal” immigrants who are now subject to deportation. Socialists say, “No one is illegal!” “Defend TPS and DACA!” “Full citizenship for TPS Haitians and DACA recipients!”

Concerning the “shithole” remark, Marlene Bastien of Haitian Women of Miami told Socialist Action, “I think his comments were racist and outright disrespectful. To make a comment like that would be out of ignorance. Some people are feeling the impact on their children.”

“The U.S. owes so much to Haiti. One thousand free men came to shed their blood in Savannah [Ga.] to fight for U.S. independence. Just to be able to defeat Napoleon, who had the mightiest army at that time, allowed the U.S. to double in size with the Louisiana purchase.”
On Jan. 15, Martin Luther King’s birthday, some 10,000 to 12,000 angry protesters—including many Haitian immigrants—poured into Times Square in Manhattan. The anger of the crowd was not matched by militant demands and was muzzled by the presence of several capitalist politicians, including “progressive” Mayor Bill de Blasio, whose housing policies continue to force record numbers into homelessness. However, some protesters marched up to Trump Tower at 56th Street and Madison Avenue.

*Haiti Liberté* journalist and activist Kim Ives spoke to *Socialist Action* about the newly formed 1804 Movement, comprised of grassroots organizations that met on Jan. 13 at the *Haiti Liberté* office in Brooklyn. Present were 50 activists from the New York and New Jersey area. Participating organizations include Le Caye, the Lavalas Family, Haiti Solidarity Network in New Jersey, as well as leftist parties, including Petit Dessalines, the Black Alliance for Justice in Immigration, *Haiti Liberté* newspaper, and U.S. socialist groups.

On the cold morning of Jan. 19, the 1804 Movement led a protest of between 500 to 1000 Haitians and supporters who marched from Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn over the Brooklyn Bridge to rally at the Trump Building on Wall Street.

Haitian American unionist Marie Paule Florestal made these remarks: “The 1804 Movement for All Immigrants has chosen to demonstrate on Wall Street because we condemn the politics of both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. We condemn both the Republican and Democratic parties. We condemn the entire political and economic system which enslaves this country, but also enslaves our countries, where our families and compatriots are forced to work for pennies a day for U.S. corporations.

“If we in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, or Asia try to flee our plight, to sell our smarts and labor elsewhere, we are arrested by the U.S. Coast Guard or Border Patrol. In short, we are imprisoned in our homelands. But the U.S. demands complete freedom to buy land, set up businesses, and sell products there. Our sovereign nations are, in fact, modern colonies, neo-colonies.”

Pro-U.S. dictator steals
Haitian election

By MARTY GOODMAN

December 18, 2015

Enraged Haitians took to the streets in the thousands in the wake of the rigged Oct. 25 elections in Haiti. Protests took place throughout November in Port au Prince in support of the candidates, but were sometimes met with right-wingers armed with machetes, clubs, hammers, and guns, as cops looked on.

One man was wounded by a machete, another shot and killed by a Haitian police unit associated with the regime of President Michel Martelly, a U.S. puppet. Several died at the hands of what are presumed to be Martelly loyalists.

Independent election observers have called the vote a sham— which included ballot stuffing, improper counting, and improper procedures. While not as violent as the Aug. 9 provincial elections, which saw widespread fraud, violence, and intimidation, a joint report by the National Lawyers Guild and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) declared in a Nov. 24 release, “Haiti’s Oct. 25, 2015, presidential and legislative elections fell far short of minimum standards for a fair election,” and supported calls for an “independent investigation of widespread allegations of fraud.”

The election included an incredible 128 political parties. In desperate Haiti, where unemployment is at some 70%, elections are seen by opportunists of all stripes as a vehicle for personal advancement.

Presidential candidate Jovenel Moïse, the anointed candidate of Martelly of the PHTK party, took top spot for president with 32.8% of the vote. Moïse faces second-placed LAPEH candidate Jude Celestin, the pick of former president Rene
In Haiti, Mario Joseph, a human rights attorney and a protest leader, said, “On many occasions in the past we have been victims of imperialist countries, particularly the United States.” Even Haiti’s corrupt Senate on Thursday declared their country “is the expression of refusal to be humiliated, since the founding fathers engaged in an epic combat against slavery, colonialism, and racism to indicate to the oppressed peoples of the world the way to freedom.”

One Port au Prince protest drew 2000. “Trump is a vulgar racist, and a racist is a very poor-minded person,” said protester Marvel Joseph. “We don’t feel any resentment against the American people, who we know largely disapprove of Trump’s behavior in the White House.”

Batay Ouvirye (Worker’s Fight) in Haiti released a statement, which reads in part: “For all peoples around the world, if they are calling us shitholes, it’s the capitalist class that is the cause! Let’s coordinate our struggles to overthrow and in this way uproot capitalism with all its racism.”

**More Trump racism**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced Jan. 18 that people from Haiti, Belize, and Samoa are no longer eligible to apply for H-2A visas for farm work and H-2B visas for non-farmworker jobs. The department said the nations had a high rate of fraud, abuse, and people overstaying their visa time limits. The overstay rate for Haitians is over 39 percent, out of roughly 1500 H-2 immigrant workers in 2016, the DHS stated.

However, those DHS statistics about Haitians were disputed on the Young Turks TV program, posted Jan. 25 (*Huffington Post*). Citing DHS figures for “overstays” on H-2 visas in 2016, Haitians had, in fact, far fewer in that category. Haitians were only 3.86% “overstays,” compared to people from Afghanistan (13.7%) and Jordan (5.97%), to name a few. A Pew Institute study of 2015 “overstays” found that Canada had 93,000 “overstays,” Mexico 42,000, Germany 21,000, etc.
The conclusion? The Trump administration lied about Haitians as revenge for blowback after Trump’s “shithole” comments. The U.S. and Haiti need revolution!

Concannon added, “We want results on the ground: lives saved, and people compensated.”

In the courtroom, the Obama administration took the side of the UN’s claims of so-called “immunity.” In fact, UN officials asked Obama’s Justice Department to argue in court for legal immunity, which it did in July.

Haiti’s epidemic followed on the heels of the tragic 2010 earthquake centered in the Port-au-Prince capital, which killed over 200,000 Haitians, injured hundreds of thousands, and displaced 1.5 million. The human cost was magnified by decades of U.S. support to one corrupt and brutal regime after another, resulting in appalling housing, unemployment, a lack of health care, and generalized misery.

The current military occupation is one of many. In 2010, President Barack Obama ordered a 20,000-strong U.S. military-led occupation, using the UN as a fig leaf, to re-invade Haiti following the earthquake. “Humanitarian” concerns were cited. Translation: Reconstruct Haiti according to a World Bank, neo-liberal sweatshop agenda.

Socialists say that the UN is merely a coalition of capitalist and imperialist nations. Senator Bernie Sanders and Green Party candidate Jill Stein have both called for “multi-national” interventions, when necessary. Haiti proves them dead wrong.

Socialists demand, “U.S./UN out of Haiti!” As Cuban revolutionary leader Commander Fidel Castro has said: "In an oppressed country, even the dead cannot rest in peace.”
had disregarded health practices and UN guidelines by dumping human feces into a tributary of the Artibonite River. The Artibonite runs through Haiti, providing irrigation and drinking water. Cholera, an easily curable disease that attacks the digestive system, spread like wildfire. The deaths in Haiti are comparable in number to all the deaths attributed to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa in 2014.

Cholera victims suffer from dehydration caused by severe diarrhea or vomiting, which can be overcome by supplying clean water—which was not provided by the well-funded military occupation. Scientists have found that the epidemic could have been prevented with a basic health kit for less than $2000.

The most recent UN sanitary review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the period between July 2012 and June 2014, long after the cholera outbreak, found so many sanitary problems at UN bases that it deemed them “unsatisfactory.” Cholera is once again on the increase since 2014.

“Victims are living in fear because the disease is still out there,” said Mario Joseph, a prominent Haitian human rights attorney who represents cholera victims, told protesters gathered in Port-au-Prince last month. Weekly sit-in protests demanding justice and reparation are ongoing in front of the US Embassy.

Attorney Joseph is part of a class suit launched on behalf of 2000 cholera victims and survivors filed in 2013 by the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), headquartered in Boston. On Aug. 18, responding to the IDJH suit, the U. S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the United Nations’ “immunity” claims.

The IJDH now has 90 days to decide whether to seek an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court. Said Brian Concannon, Jr. Esq., executive director of IJDH, “Our goal has always been to secure remedies for victims, whether in or out of court and we will keep working through all available forums until that occurs.”

Racism toward Haiti did not begin when racist idiot Trump called Haiti a “shithole.” Racism is U.S. policy!

Since Haiti’s victorious slave revolution, proclaimed in 1804 as the first Black nation, the U.S. has been Haiti’s oppressor. First by backing the French slave-owners and then by placing an embargo on revolutionary Haiti lasting 62 years!

Under Republicans, but mostly Democrats, Haiti has known U.S. imperialist occupations many times: 1915-1934, 1994, 2004 and again after the 2010 earthquake, each time violating Haiti’s sovereignty and keeping it in chains. The first U.S. Marine
occupation killed up to 50,000 Haitian patriots, known as Cacos, who fought to expel the invader.

The first occupation changed Haiti’s revolutionary constitution to legalize foreign investment, instituted racist laws, and seized $500,000 from its banks. That occupation also resulted in the creation of a repressive, corrupt army trained by U.S. Marines. The Haitian army, and its allies in Haiti’s para-military, has robbed, tortured and murdered untold thousands of activists, labor leaders, political dissidents and ordinary Haitians.

Moreover, decades of U.S. support to Haitian dictators left Haiti at the mercy of a brutal, corrupt, pro-U.S. elite, as during the Duvalier era (1957-86) and its’ still in power.

In September 1991, a vicious military coup backed by the CIA (as revealed in the New York Times) toppled the democratically elected Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a liberal. After the coup, Bill Clinton expanded Bush Sr.’s illegal racist naval blockade against fleeing refugees – in clear violation of U.S. and international asylum law – to prevent losing votes to a racist backlash against the “Black Boat People.” A U.S.-led UN occupation in 1994 under Clinton restored Aristide but at the price of an imperialist occupation and an agreement with Aristide to pursue policies of the U.S. dominated World Bank, based on sweatshop labor and removing taxes on imports like rice, a Haitian staple. Imported U.S. rice ruined Haitian rice farmers.

A second bloody coup by CIA linked para-military forces toppled Aristide in 2004 and another US/UN occupation followed. It shot up poor neighborhoods and attacked protestors. Finally, the occupation – itself a clear violation of the U.N. Charter – officially ended last October. In its place is a “new” army and an expanded police force of mostly former UN soldiers!

After the 2010 earthquake, billions in Haiti recovery funds were squandered by official aid coordinator Bill Clinton or just went missing in a maze of rip-off U.S. beltway companies and private non-governmental organizations. The Haitian government

Haiti cholera outrage: U.N. guilty!

By MARTY GOODMAN

September 2016

“The UN’s policy is morally unconscionable, legally indefensible, and politically self-defeating,” says a UN report on the unprecedented cholera epidemic that began in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. So far, cholera has claimed 10,000 lives—maybe more—and infected some 800,000. It is the worst cholera epidemic of modern times. UN policy in Haiti, orchestrated by US imperialism and racism, amounts to murder.

The as yet unfinished UN report was made public on Aug. 8 and was authored by UN “rapporteur” Philip Alston, a poverty and human rights expert. For years, the UN, including its Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and UN agencies, had stonewalled and denied all responsibility for the catastrophe. Often, the UN cited Haitian “hygiene” to arrogantly deflect blame.

After the UN report was sent to Ban Ki-Moon, a spokesman for the Secretary General wrote, “Over the past year, the UN has become convinced that it needs to do much more regarding its own involvement in the initial outbreak and the suffering of those affected by cholera.” The UN says it will announce a plan to address the epidemic within two months.

Scientific studies concluded that in 2010 the UN’s Nepal contingent of the ongoing U.S./UN military occupation of Haiti
and/or Haitian companies were mostly ignored by Clinton and private U.S. corporations.

As Wikileaks revealed, the Clintons intervened in Haitian elections, pressuring election officials to up the status of the gangster-linked, pro-U.S. Michel Martelly, who became president 2011-16. Both Bill and Hillary promoted an economic policy based on foreign-based textile assembly sweatshops and resisting minimum wage protests. Wages rose from about $3 a day to about $5.23 a-day over time, except for assembly sweatshop workers who received even less - thanks to the Clintons!

For decades both Democratic and Republican Party presidents discriminated against Haitian refugees seeking asylum. In the 1980’s under Reagan, thousands of Black Boat people languished in detention, sometimes for years in the Krome Detention Center near Miami. The Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti viewed returnees as “dissidents.” In contrast, virtually all white Cubans and Eastern Europeans got instant asylum!

Lastly, scientific studies proved that the U.S.-led UN occupation dumped feces into a much used river in 2010, resulting in the cholera deaths of over 10,000 Haitians and infecting over 800,000. The U.S. CONSPIRED with the UN to cover it up. In court, Barack Obama’s attorneys backed the UN’s racist lie that the UN was not responsible when sued by victim’s families. Obama’s attorney even substituted for the UN attorney in court!

Today, Trump seeks to deport 60,000 Haitians who fled Haiti ravaged by cholera, an earthquake and hurricane Matthew and received Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Haiti is in no condition to receive deportees. Stop the racist deportations!

U.S. policy towards Haiti has always been racist! U.S./UN get out of Haiti! Citizenship rights now for all TPS Haitians!

JOIN THE REVOLUTION! JOIN SOCIALIST ACTION!
(510) 268-9429 ● socialistaction@lmi.net ● socialistaction.org
reinstate the bloodthirsty killers, some 100 menacingly paraded in Port au Prince. Even so, a former army captain, Neroce R. Ciceron, was beaten to death by anti-government protesters in Port-au-Prince.

The Feb. 7 exit of Martelly was part of a deal cut with the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS), under the watchful eye of the United States, Canada, France, Brazil, Spain, and the European Union.

On Feb. 11, parliament chose Jocelerme Privet, the former head of Haiti’s Senate and National Assembly, to serve as provisional president. Privet will oversee the selection of a consensus prime minister, whose job will be to organize a legislative and presidential runoff vote on April 24. A new president will be sworn in on May 14.

**Elections no solution for Haiti’s misery**

Martelly, a popular rap-singer and a friend of Duvalier-era thugs, became synonymous with corruption, cronyism, and repression. Martelly once declared, with a beaming Bill and Hillary Clinton at his side during a ribbon cutting ceremony at a sweatshop park in the North, “Haiti is open for business!” Some 2000 pages of Wikileaks documents partially revealed the role of U.S. imperialism in Haiti, particularly by the Clintons, in keeping down the $5-a-day minimum wage and strong-arming the CEP to bump up Martelly’s position in the 2010 election, leading to his eventual victory.

Some candidates, as well as protesters, denounced the U.S./OAS-brokered deal. They pointed to decisions to be carried out by parliament members who are, as one veteran Haitian activist in New York called them, “drug dealers and rapists.” What will truly change Haiti is a revolutionary struggle waged by the working class and peasants, not sham elections under capitalism and occupation. It is up to us to give solidarity to the Haitian struggle right here in the belly of the beast!
imperialism militarily occupied Haiti 1915-1934, and was later joined by the United Nations, as its puppet, in the occupations of 1994, 2004, and 2010, after a massive earthquake. A cholera epidemic was introduced to Haiti by the disregard of health standards by UN forces, scientific studies showed. So far, some 9000 Haitians have died from this curable disease. The UN has denied all responsibility.

**Fraud and coup threat**

Martelly’s chosen successor, banana exporter Jovenel Moïse, placed first in the initial round of October voting. There were 54 presidential candidates! Running in Martelly’s PHTK Party, official results gave him 32.8%. His nearest challenger, Jude Celestin, a friend of former Aristide protégé and president, Rene Preval, received 25.3%. Facing a scheduled Dec. 27 presidential runoff, Celestin opted out, declaring, “The election was a fraud” and added, “I want to go to an election, not a selection.”

Since many expected wholesale fraud, October’s voter participation was a mere 23%. Some 916,000 election observers for political parties were given ballots and voted multiple times, many engaging in a black-market in observer ballots. One legislative candidate, Gerald Jean, actually produced receipts for bribes he paid election officials. With only one candidate running, Jouvenel Moïse, and massive protests, the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) cancelled the runoff election of Jan. 24.

Guy Philippe, a leader of a CIA-backed mercenary group that deposed Haiti’s elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004, called for counter-protests and would not recognize any transitional government, unless it was representative of the provinces. Denouncing protesters as “anarchists,” Philippe declared, “We are ready for war. We will divide the country.”

On Feb. 5, anti-Martelly protesters were attacked by uniformed goons from the disbanded Haitian army, formally dissolved by Aristide in 1995. Encouraged by Martelly’s vow to

---

**Dominican government expels Haitians**

By MARTY GOODMAN

July 15, 2015

In a clear attempt at ethnic cleansing, hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent have been rendered stateless under Dominican law. A series of racist court rulings on immigration in 2004, 2010, and 2013 paved the way for a dragnet based on race that might result in mass expulsions.

A 2013 Constitutional Court ruling (TC 0168-13), commonly referred to as “la sentencia,” declares that those who migrated to the DR—that is, mostly Haitians—going all the way back to 1929, are deemed “in transit,” making their Dominican-born children “illegal migrants” under the law. The government has begun a “regularization program,” but only a fraction of the affected persons have applied, and still fewer have managed to obtain the documents.

The rulings are a violation of Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerning the right to nationhood.

It is estimated that there are approximately 500,000 Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin in the Dominican Republic. Many thousands of possible deportees have never been to Haiti, speak only Spanish—not the native Kreyol—and don’t know anyone there. Those to be expelled to neighboring Haiti will cross into the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, still reeling from the January 2010 earthquake, which killed some 200,000 Haitians and left 1.5 million homeless.

Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin often cannot obtain the necessary documents, such as birth certificates (particularly in rural areas) and are often simply denied them by racist officials. The lack of proof of citizenship has been used to deprive Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin of the right to vote, obtain an education, get married, declare children, or seek
medical care. Thousands of Union of Cane Workers members, who are mostly Haitian, are protesting to receive pensions, despite years doing back-breaking work and living in shantytown squalor.

Since the June 17 deadline to obtain documents has passed, officials vow to enforce expulsion rulings. While Dominican authorities deny that there will be mass deportations, it has been speculated that repatriations may begin after Aug. 1 at the end of a 45-day grace period for applicants. Reportedly, thousands have already crossed into Haiti “voluntarily” to avoid police or racist violence, but no firm numbers exist.

The decisions have been accompanied by an increase in racist violence. In February, a Haitian shoeshine worker, Henry Claude Jean, 35, (nicknamed “Tulile”), was hung, KKK style, in a public park in Santiago, the nation’s second most populous city. No one has been prosecuted. Ongoing mob attacks on dark-skinned individuals living in the DR have been captured on video. Nighttime police raids and vigilante justice have terrified many, who are afraid to go outside.

A Ms. Mesilus told The New York Times that she was picked up and deported to Haiti even though she had begun the registration process: “I was thrown back here because I was not carrying my document to prove I was already trying to register. They didn’t even give me the chance to explain what was happening.”

The deportations and violence have sparked mass protests by thousands in Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, and internationally, including several demonstrations in New York, Miami, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Montreal, Philadelphia, and Boston. New York’s “Black Lives Matter in the Dominican Republic” and “We Are All Dominicans” (both on Facebook) have been organizing protests, as well as other groups and individuals.

At a July 1 protest at the Dominican Consulate in Times Square, Dominican activist Angela Perez said, “Even though they are not Dominican citizens, they were born in Dominican territory

### Haiti’s dictator resigns as election trap set

**By MARTY GOODMAN**

**February 14, 2016**

Weeks of massive protests against election fraud in Haiti and calling for the ouster of the pro-U.S. Haitian President Michel Martelly forced the dictator to finally step down on Feb. 7. The Haitian constitution prohibits a succeeding five-year term, and Feb. 7 was the date for his term to end.

Feb. 7, 2016, marked the 30th anniversary of the fall of the U.S.-backed dictator, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier, who was toppled by a nationwide rebellion. Popular anger fueled the anti-Martelly rallies, which at times reached 100,000 or more. Many were protesting on behalf of a particular losing candidate. “Martelly believes the country is for himself and his family. We want him to go!” said Dorval, 40, an unemployed protester. Nationwide, unemployment is about 70%.

As president, Martelly ignored mandated parliamentary elections and ruled by decree for four years. Facing the end of his term, Martelly called for new elections for parliament and a president in October. A joint report by the National Lawyers Guild and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, declared on Nov. 24, “Haiti’s Oct. 25, 2015 presidential and legislative elections fell far short of minimum standards for a fair election.”

Although they admitted election violence, Washington and the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS) nevertheless deemed the election acceptable. A run-off election scheduled for Dec. 27 was rescheduled for Jan. 24, and finally cancelled following weeks of massive protests.

The demonstrations included a demand to end the hated U.S.-led United Nations military occupation of Haiti. U.S.
medical aid by the U.S. military, ordered staff to track down “irresponsible journalists” worldwide to “get the story straight.” U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Merten spoke of a “gold rush” to describe the post-quake atmosphere for U.S. corporations, lured by billions in international aid.

The 2011 legislative and presidential elections, postponed in 2010 by the earthquake, were organized by President René Préval, an ex-protegé of the exiled president who, like his mentor, had supported U.S. occupations. The election was widely viewed as a fraud, even by the U.S. embassy. Millions of dollars went to anti-FL parties from the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute, two tentacles of the CIA-linked National Endowment for Democracy.

Diplomats at a Dec. 1, 2009, meeting of representatives of the European Union, United Nations, Brazil, Canada, Spain, and the U.S. expressed reservations about the sham election. Nevertheless they agreed to provide funds for the vote since “the international community has too much invested in Haiti’s democracy to walk away from the upcoming elections, despite its imperfections,” according to a U.S. cable (HL 5/25/11-5/30/11). A mere 23% of eligible Haitians voted last November.

Earlier, President Obama had successfully pressured the South African government to not permit the exiled Aristide to return to Haiti during the election. Aristide finally returned on March 18.

In reality, there cannot be “fair” elections under an occupation, despite Fanmi Lavalas’ willingness to run if not for its exclusion. Its lack of principled opposition to occupation reflects the on-again, off-again support for interventions within Aristide’s reformist camp, a far cry from the fiercely independent Haitian revolutionaries who overthrew French slavery and colonialism in 1804. Haiti is in need of another revolution.

U.S. racism toward Haitians

Although the Obama administration mildly chastised Dominican expulsion policies, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden last year praised the racist decisions as a “bold step” and a path to citizenship.” In this case, the U.S. certainly practiced what it preaches. Racist deportations from the U.S. totaled over 2 million during the Obama administration, more than under any other president.

The racist Dominican ruling class can draw inspiration from U.S. immigration policy toward Haitians. During the 1980s, Haitian refugees fleeing the U.S.-backed Jean-Claude Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti were regularly “interdicted” (stopped) in international waters—a violation of international asylum law—and returned on U.S. ships into the clutches of a brutal dictatorship. If they reached South Florida, many were sent to the Krome detention center outside Miami for up to two years before being released or returned to Haiti. Less than 1% received political asylum in the U.S.

In stark contrast, the mostly white, anti-Castro exiles and Eastern Bloc Europeans were given blanket amnesty and quickly released into the community. Democratic President Bill Clinton, who denounced Republican policy toward Haitians as racist in campaign speeches, quickly resumed the interdiction policies as president—but on a grander scale!
Imperialism and the Dominican Republic

"The whole hemisphere will be ours in fact as, by virtue of our superiority of race, it already is ours morally," said U.S. President William Taft in 1912.

The Dominican Republic is a staunch anti-communist U.S. ally and pursues an economic austerity model developed by the U.S.-dominated World Bank. U.S. corporations dominate in trades where super-exploited Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent work. Migrant labor to the DR was initially spurred by Haitian farmers displaced by U.S. corporations during the first U.S. Marine occupation (1915-1934).

Sectors employing mainly Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin today include the growing tourism industry, construction, and sugar plantations—although less in sugar than in the past. Human rights organizations have condemned sugar plantations, known as bateyes, as “modern-day slavery.”

For decades, corrupt officials on both sides of the Haiti/DR border made crooked deals for cheap labor to cut cane, mostly at U.S.-owned sugar plantations like former giant Gulf + Western, which in the 1980s controlled 40% of DR sugar production. Declining sugar prices and downturns in the economy were used by the ruling class to launch racist scapegoating for the mass expulsion of Haitian migrants, such as in 1991 and 1999.

U.S. imperialism militarily occupied the DR between 1916-1924 under Democratic President Woodrow Wilson, seizing control of its banks and grooming Dominican military officers such as dictators Rafael Trujillo his right-hand man, Joaquin Balaguer. The U.S. invaded the DR again in 1965 to crush a nationalist rebellion. Later, Dominican territory was used as a staging area for CIA-backed Haitian paramilitary forces that crossed into Haiti and overthrew democratically elected governments in 1991 and 2004, leading to bloody massacres.

On July 6, 2005, there was a massacre by MINUSTAH forces, mostly Brazilian. MINUSTAH opened fire on Cité Soleil, unleashing 22,000 rounds of ammunition. Dozens were killed, but the official toll was six. “It remains unclear how aggressive MINUSTAH was, though 22,000 rounds is a large amount of ammunition to have killed only six people,” wrote then U.S. Ambassador James Foley in a July 26, 2005, Embassy cable obtained by Professor Keith Yearman through a FOIA request.

The UN claimed it killed Aristide loyalist and “gang leader Dred Wilme and five of his associates,” while noting that “at St. Joseph’s hospital near Cité Soleil, Doctors Without Borders reported receiving 26 gunshot victims from Cité Soleil on July 6, of whom 20 were women and at least one was a child.”

In August Foley was praising the Brazilians in another cable (obtained by Yearman’s FOIA requests) entitled “Brazil Shows Backbone in Bel-Air.” Since 2004, Brazil has had the largest contingent of troops in Haiti, after redeployments of US troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. Socialists demand, “U.S./UN out of Haiti, now!”

The U.S. response to the Jan. 12 quake was to dispatch 22,000 troops to occupy Haiti, officially a UN mission. Scandalously, U.S. personnel prevented the arrival of aircraft carrying private emergency medical personnel like Doctors Without Borders and Cuban medical teams, for example. The top U.S. priority was suppressing non-existent food riots. (For more see the February and March 2010 issues of Socialist Action.)

WikiLeaks reveals how U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, stung by media reports on the blockage of emergency
WikiLeaks documents show U.S. officials were on the side of Haiti’s international sweatshops.

“[T]he U.S. embassy in Haiti worked closely with factory owners contracted by Levi’s, Hanes, and Fruit of the Loom to aggressively block a paltry minimum wage increase for Haitian assembly zone workers,” wrote Haiti Liberté. In the end, the minimum wage was increased to only $3 a day for assembly workers, $5 a day for all others; later increased to $5 a day and $6.25 a day respectively in October 2010.

Keeping a lid on Haiti’s explosive mix of coups, inequality, repression, and widespread malnutrition (unemployment exceeds 80%) requires repression. Wiki-Leaks revealed that the economic elite, whose support of CIA-backed coups was essential to U.S. policy, was arming police into private armies. A U.S. Embassy cable by then U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James Foley was fully aware of these developments and warned “against private delivery of arms” to the Haitian National Police. “Some business owners have already begun to purchase weapons and ammunition from the street and distribute them to local police officials in exchange for regular patrols.”

Fritz Mevs, one of the richest Haitians, told the U.S. Embassy that the president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, Reginald Boulos, had “distributed arms to the police and had called on others to do so in order to provide cover to his own actions.” The elite worried about rebellious pro-Aristide strongholds in the Port au Prince slums Bel Air and Cité Soleil. Boulos currently sits on the board of Bill Clinton’s Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), which controls the spending of billions donated to rebuild Haiti after the quake. Boulos is a close friend of the new Haitian president, Michel Martelly, who assumed office in May after a rigged election last November, which excluded Aristide’s Fanmi Lavalas party (FL), Haiti’s largest party. Martelly is pro-coup, pro-U.S., with many ties to the old Duvalier family dictatorship (1957-1986) and its paramilitary thugs.

Today, the DR receives U.S. military aid and equipment—$8.6 million worth in 2012. The corrupt Dominican army plays a central role in deportations. It has mobilized 200 trucks and set up so-called processing centers on the border with Haiti.

On the other side of the border, billions in international private and governmental recovery aid to post-earthquake Haiti have been scandalously unused or squandered, amidst a feeding frenzy of private charities and Washington beltway corporations. Joblessness remains rampant, about 50% in the urban centers. Little has been organized to receive immigrants in Haiti by the corrupt U.S.-installed Haitian President Michel Martelly. The tense, unstable situation may in turn be used to reinforce the despised U.S./UN military occupation, particularly given upcoming national elections in Haiti.

The Dominican Republic reflects a capitalist world in crisis, spewing out its own proto-fascist, racist ideology. What is desperately needed (and shamefully missing) in the DR is a united workers’ struggle, one that is first and foremost anti-racist and willing to mobilize against all forms of attacks on Haitian workers and Dominicans of Haitian origin. The old slogan of the “Communist Manifesto,” “Workers of the world unite!” is as apt a battle cry as ever!

The 1937 Massacre

It’s known as “anti-Haitianismo,” meaning a hostility to all that is Black in the Dominican Republic. It was developed by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo, a U.S.-trained military officer under a U.S. occupation (1916-1924). Anti-Haitianismo remains the de facto state ideology.

Trujillo, an admirer of Adolph Hitler, sought to stop the “Ethiopianization” of the mostly mulatto population, despite the fact that most Dominicans would be considered Black in the U.S. and the Haitian lineage of Trujillo’s own parents.
In October 1937, Trujillo told the congregation at his church, “I found that Dominicans would be happier if we got rid of Haitians. I will fix that. Yesterday, 300 Haitians were killed … this must continue.” Throughout that night, 12,000 to 25,000 Haitians were hacked to death with machetes and knives by Dominican soldiers and farmers under their command near the aptly named Massacre River. Over a five-day period, up to 40,000 were killed, the largest massacre ever recorded over that time period.

An agreement of $750,000 indemnity was brokered by the U.S., Cuban, and Mexican governments. Trujillo’s contribution was reduced to $500,000 and delivered to Haitian authorities in Port-au-Prince. The Trujillo agent dispersed $25,000 in tens and twenties to politicians as goodwill. It is not known how much, if anything, went to the families of murdered Haitians. For some 30,000 victims, that would have amounted to $16.60 per family—if it had ever been received. In 1939, Trujillo established the “Trujillo Peace Prize.”

Documents released by WikiLeaks to the left-of-center Haitian weekly Haiti Liberté, in partnership with The Nation magazine, unveils a cozy U.S. relationship with Haiti’s reactionary, corrupt elite. They also offer insight into the bipartisan U.S./UN occupation mislabeled a “humanitarian intervention.” The revelations show that U.S. policy has changed little since the founding of the world’s first Black republic in 1804.

The 1918 WikiLeaks cables cover the period beginning April 17, 2003, nearly 10 months before a CIA-backed rightist coup on Feb. 29, 2004, against Haiti’s elected reformist president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. A U.S.-led UN force of 9000 soldiers occupied the country and sent Aristide into exile. The occupation allowed the coup to consolidate its power and repress his Fanmi Lavalas (FL) party and all worker-peasant movements. Some 3000 Haitians died under the regime.

Cables from the U.S. Embassy, which might have directly implicated the U.S. in the 2004 coup, started in March 2005, although there is one cable from March 2004. The occupation force became known as MINUSTAH (UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti).


In 2009, thousands of students, workers, and others demonstrated in the streets of Port au Prince demanding a minimum wage increase from $1.75 a day to a mere $5 a day.
In 2013, the Dominican government targeted Dominicans of Haitian descent with a racist court decision, known as “La Sentencia 168/13,” an immigration ruling that stripped citizenship rights from more than 200,000 individuals whose families had migrated to the DR since 1929. So far, the government has deported tens of thousands to Haiti, even though many are not Haitian citizens. Many have never even been to Haiti or speak Haitian “Kreyol.” More than 100,000 have crossed into Haiti as the result of the threat of deportation and/or mob violence.

Human Rights Watch called upon Dominican authorities “to halt expulsions of denationalized Dominicans, to promptly restore their citizenship, and to respect their right to a nationality.” Amnesty International also called for an end to deportations.

For decades, Haitians were brought to the DR by corrupt politicians on both sides of the Haiti/DR border to work in sugar cane fields under conditions called “modern day slavery.” Today, Dominican-Haitians also work in the service sectors, where they face discrimination. The Dominican government, a staunch anti-communist U.S. ally, has historically promoted “anti-Haitianism.” Everything Haitian—whether skin color, culture, or religion—is degraded.

U.S. policy is to blame for the misery of the Haitian masses. Their conditions cry out for international solidarity!

(See RapidResponseNetwork on Facebook for updates on the fight to increase the minimum wage in Haiti.)

On Nov. 20, the Trump administration, after an election campaign based on anti-immigrant hate, ordered the expulsion of 60,000 Haitians living in the U.S. who arrived after the devastation of Haiti’s 2010 earthquake, which killed over 200,000. Haitians who arrived by Jan. 2011 received Temporary Protective Status (TPS) under a 1990 law and were allowed to stay 18 months. Haitian TPS status was extended four times.

Directly affected will be some 30,000 children of Haitian TPS recipients, ripping families apart. TPS Haitians have until July
2019 to “prepare for departure” said the Department of Homeland Security. (TPS status of 5000 Nicaraguans expires in early January and 86,000 Hondurans in July 2018. Some 200,000 Salvadorans await a decision in January. TPS was granted after hurricane Mitch hit Central America in 1999.)

The anti-immigrant attacks come on the heels of Trump’s racist Muslim ban and threats to deport 800,000 children of so-called “illegal” immigrants who received DACA status (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). All the while, Trump continues his vow to build a racist wall along the Mexican border. Socialists say, “No to deportations! Full citizenship rights for TPS immigrants! No to the wall! No one is illegal!”

In ending TPS status for Haitians, acting secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke asserted, “the extraordinary but temporary conditions caused by the earthquake of 2010 no longer exist”—a contemptible lie! TPS Haitians have until July 2019 to “prepare,” says the administration.

The ruling-class bigots could hardly have been crueler. Since arriving, TPS Haitians have gotten jobs and raised families. As a result, TPS Haitians support 250,000 relatives in Haiti, says a study released in October by the Global Justice Clinic of the New York University Law School. If expelled, Haitians would be returning to a devastated country.

“I received a shock right now,” said Gerald Michaud, 45, a Haitian who lives in Brooklyn, when he heard the bad news. He has been sending money to family and friends back home. Brooklyn radio host Ricot Dupuy told his listeners, “This pressure to send immigrants back home, … the idea is to whiten America.”

TPS advocate Steve Forester, immigration policy coordinator with the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), cites as reasons for TPS the earthquake, a post-earthquake cholera epidemic that has killed 10,000, and Matthew—a Category 4 hurricane that displaced 180,000 in 2016. Forester calls it, Lie! Many were reclassified as “permanent housing,” because residents added to their makeshift shanties. In addition, many were driven away by landlords. Nevertheless, an estimated 50,000 still live in unsanitary, unsafe tent cities—seven years after the earthquake!

Expulsions by Dominican Republic

Meanwhile, the racist Dominican government has continued its practice of expelling migrant Haitian workers and Dominicans of Haitian origin. Many have fled the Dominican Republic out of fear of expulsion or racist attacks. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an organization linked to the UN since 2016, about 111,400 people, or 92,000 households, have crossed the Haitian-Dominican border since July 2015.

Georges Marc Desmangles of the Zile Foundation, a binational organization working on the Haitian-Dominican relationship, states that returnee Haitian migrants who remained for many months to cross the Haitian border from Anse to Pitres, “were accused of bringing the cholera epidemic.”

“Migrants from the bateys (plantation work camps) have been severely affected. Thus, they are afraid of being caught up and repatriated under inhuman conditions at any time. It is the same for workers in construction and hotels.”

Dominican cops will seize your identity papers and then tear them apart before your eyes, said Isidro Bellique Delmas, a member of the Reconoci.do movement, an independent national civic network composed mainly of Dominicans of Haitian origin who promote human rights. Delmas, 28, was able to find his documents of identity only after at least eight years of struggle.

Some 1000 Dominican troops will join 1500 soldiers regularly stationed along the border, it was announced May 3. Border “security” was enhanced by U.S. advisors. Dominican spokespersons have cited US deportations as an example to follow.
Termination of the TPS?

On May 22, some 58,000 Haitians who fled to the U.S. after the 2010 earthquake, received a six-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), granted for natural disasters or war. The Trump administration had threatened cancellation of TPS for Haitians. The reversal came after Haitian advocates organized protests and received favorable newspaper editorials and statements from politicians.

Recently leaked Department of Homeland Security (DHS) e-mails reveal racist efforts to demonize Haitians as criminals and welfare cheats to justify termination of TPS. The extension granted by the DHS falls short of the usual 18-month extension. DHS Secretary John F. Kelly’s announcement stressed that this is likely the last extension and that TPS holders should “attain travel documents” for a return to Haiti. Haitian TPS will be reviewed again in January 2018. The announcement said conditions in Haiti had greatly improved—a boldfaced lie!

The DHS’ assertions were challenged by the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH). The 2010 earthquake killed as many as 200,000 people and destroyed much of its infrastructure. A post-earthquake cholera epidemic killed over 9500 Haitians and sickened over 800,000 people after the UN’s Nepalese contingent contemptuously dumped human wastes into a river used by Haitians for drinking and bathing.

The UN stonewalled blame for the epidemic until August 2016, despite scientific studies proving UN culpability (see SA Sept. 2016). Moreover, last October, the most powerful hurricane in 52 years, hurricane Matthew, wiped out crops, and livestock, and was the cause of a food and potable water shortage in Haiti’s southwest.

The DHS statement also stated: “96% of people displaced by the earthquake and living in internally displaced person camps have left those camps … 98% of these camps have closed.”

“Three sledge hammer blows, anyone of which would have qualified Haitians for TPS.”

Marleine Bastien of Haitian women of Miami (FANM) put it this way last April as threats to TPS mounted: “If any country qualifies for TPS right now, it’s Haiti. If the Trump administration goes through with this, it will be the most distressing, anti-family, anti-Black and racist decision any administration can take. People are still dying as a result of the imported cholera epidemic, and hurricane Matthew destroyed the southern peninsula, where we have people eating dirt and living in caves.” FANM has organized several TPS protests in Miami and at Trump’s home at Mar a Lago.

Miami’s Ira Kurzban, a veteran Miami immigration rights attorney, ripped Trump’s decision, “If you look at the TPS statutes it says the Attorney General must find if there’s any earthquakes, flood, drought epidemic or other environmental disaster, and a foreign state is unable to handle it, and the foreign state has made a request [made Oct 4], then the Attorney General should grant it. Haiti fits every category and checks off every box with respect to why Haitians should get TPS. It’s a continuation of the same history of discrimination.”

In April, it was revealed that the Trump administration sought criminal records of TPS Haitians to disqualify them for extending TPS and cut-off any TPS benefits they receive—but TPS Haitians do not receive any benefits! Nevertheless, so-called “crime” records are irrelevant in awarding TPS. In general, the supposedly out-of-control immigrant “crime” rate is actually lower than that in the rest of society.

Under the boot of U.S. imperialism, immigration policy toward Haitians has always been racist, including under Democrats and Republicans. Known in the 1980s as “the Black Boat People,” Haitians were initially sent to a mass detention camp in Miami. The impoverished Haitians opposed U.S.-backed Haitian elites, unlike the mostly white, anti-communist Cuban exiles who were granted virtual automatic asylum.
Haiti today: Poverty, displacement, epidemics

Haiti is in no position to receive 60,000 new arrivals. Some 40,000 Haitians still live in dangerous, unsanitary post-earthquake camps; 2/3 of camp pregnancies were from rape; 1/3 of desperate camp women report trading sexual favors for basics like food and housing.

It is estimated that 2/3 of the capital’s post-earthquake buildings are beyond repair, but re-inhabited. The earthquake, centered in Haiti’s capital of Port au Prince, killed over 200,000 inhabitants, injured another 1.5 million, and left 2.3 million displaced in a country of 11 million.

Overall, Haiti’s unemployment rate is about 40%, and 60% of Haitians live on less than $2 a day. The country-wide minimum wage is less than $5 a day, often ignored by bosses, particularly in textile plants that are usually subcontractors to U.S. or other international corporations. The Global Justice report concluded that “hunger and malnutrition” are even “worse” than when TPS was implemented.

A cholera epidemic broke out soon after the earthquake caused by the U.S./U.N. occupation’s disregard for Haitian welfare. Studies revealed that the Nepalese contingent dumped faeces into a tributary of the Artibonite River, used by Haitians for drinking and bathing. The fast moving plague killed 10,000 and infected over 800,000, spiking again after Matthew, although now it is down from its peak. All along, the UN denied responsibility, until about a year ago, greatly undermining public awareness and a swift response.

Nothing will change soon. President Jovenel Moise, a banana magnate, was elected in 2016 by less than a 20% turnout of voters. Moise is a proponent of the sweatshop economic model promoted by the U.S.-dominated World Bank, as was his predecessor, Michel Martelly. Since assuming office last Feb. 7, many large mobilizations have occurred demanding Moise’s removal and an end to corruption.

In response to protests, the Haitian police fired gas, shot rubber bullets, and sprayed protesters with water containing a rash-inducing chemical. Of the rubber bullet victims, at least one woman was severely injured, knocked down when struck in the head.

Cops blocked the doors at one factory to not let workers leave work and join the protests. At the Sewing International factory, many workers stopped work to join the demonstration, but were locked inside by management. Eventually, they were able to join the march.

The Haitian cops are backed by a U.S./UN occupation force called MINUSTAH, which has not interfered directly in the recent protests—so far. The imperialist occupation began under Bill Clinton in 1994, with the support of “socialist” Congressman Bernie Sanders, and was renewed under George W. Bush in 2004. It is there to implement the austerity policies of the U.S.-dominated World Bank and crush possible revolution.

U.S. imperialism has been central to the present crisis. Memos obtained by Wikileaks revealed that the U.S. State Department during the years 2003 to 2010 worked with Fruit of the Loom, Hanes, and Levi’s to block an increase in the minimum wage in the hemisphere’s poorest nation. Hillary Clinton, as Secretary of State, pressured the Haitian government to block raising the minimum wage from $1.75 a day to $5 a day, a demand of mass mobilizations. The bosses wanted $3 a day and got it, thanks to Hillary Clinton.

Article 137 of the Haitian Labor Code, passed under the Baby Doc Duvalier dictatorship, calls for an adjustment to the minimum salary every time the cost of living index registers an increase of more than 10%, often much higher. No Haitian government, be it a dictatorship or the elected capitalist government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has implemented the Labor Code.
with Batay Ouvriye, including SOTA-BO in Port Au Prince; SOKOWA in Ouanaminthe; and SOAGH in Caracol. Some 40 union organizers have been fired in the course of the upsurge.

Georges Sassine, president of the Association of Industries of Haiti (ADIH), despite the daily firing of union organizers, called strikers “outlaws.” The ADIH was forced to suspend business on May 19, 20, and 22.

Workers struck in the Haitian capital of Port au Prince, including at the big SONAPI industrial park. Thousands of workers marched into the capital on May 19 from Carrefour, a town a few miles away. Textile workers also walked off the job in the northern towns of Ouanaminthe and Caracol.

There are about 40,000 workers in textile assembly plants, run by international apparel companies and their outsourced partners in Haiti. Many plants in Ouanaminthe are owned by Dominican capitalists, whose anti-Haitian racism is notorious.

Working-class anger was brought to a boiling point by a new 13% government tax on all workers, supposedly to pay for basic social services—services not received by the masses and often simply pocketed by corrupt officials. The new tax on workers was on top of a hike in gasoline taxes, imposed by the current U.S./World Bank puppet, Haitian President Jovenel Moise. The gas tax increase was a deal between the government and corrupt unions.

The gas tax ripple effect, besides its immediate impact on small taxi and passenger vehicles called tap-taps, will be on all workers and Haiti’s vast unemployed, which stands at 40.6% (2010 estimate), 50% for women. Many jobs are informal, only marginally better than unemployment. Added to that is a punishing inflation rate of 12.4% (2016 est.) on consumer prices.

About 54% live in poverty. Roughly 2.5 million Haitians, out of a population of 11 million, live in extreme poverty (below $1.25 per day), mostly in rural areas.

Occupations by the U.S./UN have contributed mightily to the impunity of the corrupt Haitian regimes: first 1915-1934, then U.S./UN occupations in 1994, 2004, and 2010. President Obama sent in 20,000 troops to occupy post-earthquake Haiti to prevent food riots that never occurred, while delaying medical relief from several countries. The despised U.S./UN occupying forces finally withdrew in October, leaving an expanded police force and a reestablished Haitian military, notorious for brutality and corruption.

Making conditions even worse, tens of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian origin in the adjacent Dominican Republic have been expelled or fled the racist, sometimes violent, campaign against them encouraged by a court decision known as La Sentencia in 2013. Dominican lawmakers have cited U.S. immigration law to defend their racist onslaught against darker Dominicans, seen as Haitians. Little to nothing in aid is given to refugees from the D.R. by the Haitian government, many of whom have never lived in Haiti.

Trump’s lies to Haitians are astonishing—even for Trump! On the campaign trail in 2016, Trump told a Haitian crowd, “I want to be your greatest champion.” Haitian opportunists were able to rally support for Trump based on the widespread and well-deserved hatred of Hillary and Bill Clinton’s role in Haiti.

Wikileaks revealed the Clintons’ role in strong-arming Haitian authorities to boost the status of a friend of the old Duvalierist dictatorship clique, presidential candidate Michel Martelly, elected in 2011. Moreover, Bill Clinton’s role as the U.S. and UN “earthquake relief” boss, during which $13.4 billion in international aid was misspent or went missing in a grossly uncoordinated effort that reached and/or involved few Haitians, while lining the pockets of U.S. Beltway corporations and U.S. based non-governmental agencies (NGOs).

Any attack on immigrant workers, like that on TPS Haitians, is an attack on all workers. Immigrants are not to blame for the crimes of this sick capitalist system. Capitalism is in crisis,
throwing unprecedented millions into poverty worldwide and forcing massive migration to escape exploitation, racism, war and climate change. Over 2.5 million immigrants were deported under Barack Obama, more than any other president, earning him the title of “Deporter-in-Chief.”

TPS and DACA recipients, all immigrant workers, including Muslims, should unite in a common struggle against Trump’s war on immigrants and the working class, especially oppressed communities, in this dangerous moment. A massive national immigrant march on Washington is long overdue!

*The National TPS Coalition has been formed. Go to http://www.fanm.org; email communications@fanm.org; or call 305-756-8050.*

---

**Haiti erupts in strikes and protests**

*By MARTY GOODMAN*

**June 12, 2017**

Beginning on May 19, thousands of textile sweatshop workers in Haiti walked off the job or laid down inside their textile assembly plants to protest their starvation wages. The workers are demanding a raise from $4.67 per day to $12.47 per day, a raise not tied to increased production quotas for workers. Many bosses do not pay the minimum wage. Workers are also demanding meal, transportation, and housing subsidies, which consume much of the worker’s miserable income.

The recent wave of protest subsided by May 29, with marches estimated at up to 18,000, but the struggle is far from over.

Militants say the workers’ upsurge has been partly spontaneous and partly organized by PLASIT–BO, a coalition of the independent textile unions throughout Haiti that are affiliated...
throwing unprecedented millions into poverty worldwide and forcing massive migration to escape exploitation, racism, war and climate change. Over 2.5 million immigrants were deported under Barack Obama, more than any other president, earning him the title of “Deporter-in-Chief.”

TPS and DACA recipients, all immigrant workers, including Muslims, should unite in a common struggle against Trump’s war on immigrants and the working class, especially oppressed communities, in this dangerous moment. A massive national immigrant march on Washington is long overdue!

The National TPS Coalition has been formed. Go to http://www.fanm.org; email communications@fanm.org; or call 305-756-8050.

Haiti erupts in strikes and protests
By MARTY GOODMAN
June 12, 2017

Beginning on May 19, thousands of textile sweatshop workers in Haiti walked off the job or laid down inside their textile assembly plants to protest their starvation wages. The workers are demanding a raise from $4.67 per day to $12.47 per day, a raise not tied to increased production quotas for workers. Many bosses do not pay the minimum wage. Workers are also demanding meal, transportation, and housing subsidies, which consume much of the worker’s miserable income.

The recent wave of protest subsided by May 29, with marches estimated at up to 18,000, but the struggle is far from over.

Militants say the workers’ upsurge has been partly spontaneous and partly organized by PLASIT–BO, a coalition of the independent textile unions throughout Haiti that are affiliated
with Batay Ouvriye, including SOTA-BO in Port Au Prince; SOKOWA in Ouanaminthe; and SOAGH in Caracol. Some 40 union organizers have been fired in the course of the upsurge.

Georges Sassine, president of the Association of Industries of Haiti (ADIH), despite the daily firing of union organizers, called strikers “outlaws.” The ADIH was forced to suspend business on May 19, 20, and 22.

Workers struck in the Haitian capital of Port au Prince, including at the big SONAPI industrial park. Thousands of workers marched into the capital on May 19 from Carrefour, a town a few miles away. Textile workers also walked off the job in the northern towns of Ouanaminthe and Caracol.

There are about 40,000 workers in textile assembly plants, run by international apparel companies and their outsourced partners in Haiti. Many plants in Ouanaminthe are owned by Dominican capitalists, whose anti-Haitian racism is notorious.

Working-class anger was brought to a boiling point by a new 13% government tax on all workers, supposedly to pay for basic social services—services not received by the masses and often simply pocketed by corrupt officials. The new tax on workers was on top of a hike in gasoline taxes, imposed by the current U.S./World Bank puppet, Haitian President Jovenel Moise. The gas tax increase was a deal between the government and corrupt unions.

The gas tax ripple effect, besides its immediate impact on small taxi and passenger vehicles called tap-taps, will be on all workers and Haiti’s vast unemployed, which stands at 40.6% (2010 estimate), 50% for women. Many jobs are informal, only marginally better than unemployment. Added to that is a punishing inflation rate of 12.4% (2016 est.) on consumer prices.

About 54% live in poverty. Roughly 2.5 million Haitians, out of a population of 11 million, live in extreme poverty (below $1.25 per day), mostly in rural areas.

Occupations by the U.S./UN have contributed mightily to the impunity of the corrupt Haitian regimes: first 1915-1934, then U.S./UN occupations in 1994, 2004, and 2010. President Obama sent in 20,000 troops to occupy post-earthquake Haiti to prevent food riots that never occurred, while delaying medical relief from several countries. The despised U.S./UN occupying forces finally withdrew in October, leaving an expanded police force and a reestablished Haitian military, notorious for brutality and corruption.

Making conditions even worse, tens of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian origin in the adjacent Dominican Republic have been expelled or fled the racist, sometimes violent, campaign against them encouraged by a court decision known as La Sentencia in 2013. Dominican lawmakers have cited U.S. immigration law to defend their racist onslaught against darker Dominicans, seen as Haitians. Little to nothing in aid is given to refugees from the D.R. by the Haitian government, many of whom have never lived in Haiti.

Trump’s lies to Haitians are astonishing—even for Trump! On the campaign trail in 2016, Trump told a Haitian crowd, “I want to be your greatest champion.” Haitian opportunists were able to rally support for Trump based on the widespread and well-deserved hatred of Hillary and Bill Clinton’s role in Haiti.

Wikileaks revealed the Clintons’ role in strong-arming Haitian authorities to boost the status of a friend of the old Duvalierist dictatorship clique, presidential candidate Michel Martelly, elected in 2011. Moreover, Bill Clinton’s role as the U.S. and UN “earthquake relief” boss, during which $13.4 billion in international aid was misspent or went missing in a grossly uncoordinated effort that reached and/or involved few Haitians, while lining the pockets of U.S. Beltway corporations and U.S. based non-governmental agencies (NGOs).

Any attack on immigrant workers, like that on TPS Haitians, is an attack on all workers. Immigrants are not to blame for the crimes of this sick capitalist system. Capitalism is in crisis,
Haiti today: Poverty, displacement, epidemics

Haiti is in no position to receive 60,000 new arrivals. Some 40,000 Haitians still live in dangerous, unsanitary post-earthquake camps; 2/3 of camp pregnancies were from rape; 1/3 of desperate camp women report trading sexual favors for basics like food and housing.

It is estimated that 2/3 of the capital’s post-earthquake buildings are beyond repair, but re-inhabited. The earthquake, centered in Haiti’s capital of Port au Prince, killed over 200,000 inhabitants, injured another 1.5 million, and left 2.3 million displaced in a country of 11 million.

Overall, Haiti’s unemployment rate is about 40%, and 60% of Haitians live on less than $2 a day. The country-wide minimum wage is less than $5 a day, often ignored by bosses, particularly in textile plants that are usually subcontractors to U.S. or other international corporations. The Global Justice report concluded that “hunger and malnutrition” are even “worse” than when TPS was implemented.

A cholera epidemic broke out soon after the earthquake caused by the U.S./U.N. occupation’s disregard for Haitian welfare. Studies revealed that the Nepalese contingent dumped faeces into a tributary of the Artibonite River, used by Haitians for drinking and bathing. The fast moving plague killed 10,000 and infected over 800,000, spiking again after Matthew, although now it is down from its peak. All along, the UN denied responsibility, until about a year ago, greatly undermining public awareness and a swift response.

Nothing will change soon. President Jovenel Moïse, a banana magnate, was elected in 2016 by less than a 20% turnout of voters. Moïse is a proponent of the sweatshop economic model promoted by the U.S.-dominated World Bank, as was his predecessor, Michel Martelly. Since assuming office last Feb. 7, many large mobilizations have occurred demanding Moïse’s removal and an end to corruption.

In response to protests, the Haitian police fired gas, shot rubber bullets, and sprayed protesters with water containing a rash-inducing chemical. Of the rubber bullet victims, at least one woman was severely injured, knocked down when struck in the head.

Cops blocked the doors at one factory to not let workers leave work and join the protests. At the Sewing International factory, many workers stopped work to join the demonstration, but were locked inside by management. Eventually, they were able to join the march.

The Haitian cops are backed by a U.S./UN occupation force called MINUSTAH, which has not interfered directly in the recent protests—so far. The imperialist occupation began under Bill Clinton in 1994, with the support of “socialist” Congressman Bernie Sanders, and was renewed under George W. Bush in 2004. It is there to implement the austerity policies of the U.S.-dominated World Bank and crush possible revolution.

U.S. imperialism has been central to the present crisis. Memos obtained by Wikileaks revealed that the U.S. State Department during the years 2003 to 2010 worked with Fruit of the Loom, Hanes, and Levi’s to block an increase in the minimum wage in the hemisphere’s poorest nation. Hillary Clinton, as Secretary of State, pressured the Haitian government to block raising the minimum wage from $1.75 a day to $5 a day, a demand of mass mobilizations. The bosses wanted $3 a day and got it, thanks to Hillary Clinton.

Article 137 of the Haitian Labor Code, passed under the Baby Doc Duvalier dictatorship, calls for an adjustment to the minimum salary every time the cost of living index registers an increase of more than 10%, often much higher. No Haitian government, be it a dictatorship or the elected capitalist government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has implemented the Labor Code.
Termination of the TPS?

On May 22, some 58,000 Haitians who fled to the U.S. after the 2010 earthquake, received a six-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS), granted for natural disasters or war. The Trump administration had threatened cancellation of TPS for Haitians. The reversal came after Haitian advocates organized protests and received favorable newspaper editorials and statements from politicians.

Recently leaked Department of Homeland Security (DHS) e-mails reveal racist efforts to demonize Haitians as criminals and welfare cheats to justify termination of TPS. The extension granted by the DHS falls short of the usual 18-month extension. DHS Secretary John F. Kelly’s announcement stressed that this is likely the last extension and that TPS holders should “attain travel documents” for a return to Haiti. Haitian TPS will be reviewed again in January 2018. The announcement said conditions in Haiti had greatly improved—a boldfaced lie!

The DHS’ assertions were challenged by the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH). The 2010 earthquake killed as many as 200,000 people and destroyed much of its infrastructure. A post-earthquake cholera epidemic killed over 9500 Haitians and sickened over 800,000 people after the UN’s Nepalese contingent contemptuously dumped human wastes into a river used by Haitians for drinking and bathing.

The UN stonewalled blame for the epidemic until August 2016, despite scientific studies proving UN culpability (see SA Sept. 2016). Moreover, last October, the most powerful hurricane in 52 years, hurricane Matthew, wiped out crops, and livestock, and was the cause of a food and potable water shortage in Haiti’s southwest.

The DHS statement also stated: “96% of people displaced by the earthquake and living in internally displaced person camps have left those camps … 98% of these camps have closed.”

“Three sledge hammer blows, anyone of which would have qualified Haitians for TPS.”

Marleine Bastien of Haitian women of Miami (FANM) put it this way last April as threats to TPS mounted: “If any country qualifies for TPS right now, it’s Haiti. If the Trump administration goes through with this, it will be the most distressing, anti-family, anti-Black and racist decision any administration can take. People are still dying as a result of the imported cholera epidemic, and hurricane Matthew destroyed the southern peninsula, where we have people eating dirt and living in caves.” FANM has organized several TPS protests in Miami and at Trump’s home at Mar a Lago.

Miami’s Ira Kurzban, a veteran Miami immigration rights attorney, ripped Trump’s decision, “If you look at the TPS statutes it says the Attorney General must find if there’s any earthquakes, flood, drought epidemic or other environmental disaster, and a foreign state is unable to handle it, and the foreign state has made a request [made Oct 4], then the Attorney General should grant it. Haiti fits every category and checks off every box with respect to why Haitians should get TPS. It’s a continuation of the same history of discrimination.”

In April, it was revealed that the Trump administration sought criminal records of TPS Haitians to disqualify them for extending TPS and cut-off any TPS benefits they receive—but TPS Haitians do not receive any benefits! Nevertheless, so-called “crime” records are irrelevant in awarding TPS. In general, the supposedly out-of-control immigrant “crime” rate is actually lower than that in the rest of society.

Under the boot of U.S. imperialism, immigration policy toward Haitians has always been racist, including under Democrats and Republicans. Known in the 1980s as “the Black Boat People,” Haitians were initially sent to a mass detention camp in Miami. The impoverished Haitians opposed U.S.-backed Haitian elites, unlike the mostly white, anti-communist Cuban exiles who were granted virtual automatic asylum.
2019 to “prepare for departure” said the Department of Homeland Security. (TPS status of 5000 Nicaraguans expires in early January and 86,000 Hondurans in July 2018. Some 200,000 Salvadorans await a decision in January. TPS was granted after hurricane Mitch hit Central America in 1999.)

The anti-immigrant attacks come on the heels of Trump’s racist Muslim ban and threats to deport 800,000 children of so-called “illegal” immigrants who received DACA status (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). All the while, Trump continues his vow to build a racist wall along the Mexican border. Socialists say, “No to deportations! Full citizenship rights for TPS immigrants! No to the wall! No one is illegal!”

In ending TPS status for Haitians, acting secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke asserted, “the extraordinary but temporary conditions caused by the earthquake of 2010 no longer exist”—a contemptible lie! TPS Haitians have until July 2019 to “prepare,” says the administration.

The ruling-class bigots could hardly have been crueler. Since arriving, TPS Haitians have gotten jobs and raised families. As a result, TPS Haitians support 250,000 relatives in Haiti, says a study released in October by the Global Justice Clinic of the New York University Law School. If expelled, Haitians would be returning to a devastated country.

“I received a shock right now,” said Gerald Michaud, 45, a Haitian who lives in Brooklyn, when he heard the bad news. He has been sending money to family and friends back home. Brooklyn radio host Ricot Dupuy told his listeners, “This pressure to send immigrants back home, … the idea is to whiten America.”

TPS advocate Steve Forester, immigration policy coordinator with the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), cites as reasons for TPS the earthquake, a post-earthquake cholera epidemic that has killed 10,000, and Matthew—a Category 4 hurricane that displaced 180,000 in 2016. Forester calls it, Lie! Many were reclassified as “permanent housing,” because residents added to their makeshift shanties. In addition, many were driven away by landlords. Nevertheless, an estimated 50,000 still live in unsanitary, unsafe tent cities—seven years after the earthquake!

**Expulsions by Dominican Republic**

Meanwhile, the racist Dominican government has continued its practice of expelling migrant Haitian workers and Dominicans of Haitian origin. Many have fled the Dominican Republic out of fear of expulsion or racist attacks. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an organization linked to the UN since 2016, about 111,400 people, or 92,000 households, have crossed the Haitian-Dominican border since July 2015.

Georges Marc Desmangles of the Zile Foundation, a binational organization working on the Haitian-Dominican relationship, states that returnee Haitian migrants who remained for many months to cross the Haitian border from Anse to Pitres, “were accused of bringing the cholera epidemic.”

“Migrants from the bateys (plantation work camps) have been severely affected. Thus, they are afraid of being caught up and repatriated under inhuman conditions at any time. It is the same for workers in construction and hotels.”

Dominican cops will seize your identity papers and then tear them apart before your eyes, said Isidro Bellique Delmas, a member of the Reconoci.do movement, an independent national civic network composed mainly of Dominicans of Haitian origin who promote human rights. Delmas, 28, was able to find his documents of identity only after at least eight years of struggle.

Some 1000 Dominican troops will join 1500 soldiers regularly stationed along the border, it was announced May 3. Border “security” was enhanced by U.S. advisors. Dominican spokespersons have cited US deportations as an example to follow.
In 2013, the Dominican government targeted Dominicans of Haitian descent with a racist court decision, known as “La Sentencia 168/13,” an immigration ruling that stripped citizenship rights from more than 200,000 individuals whose families had migrated to the DR since 1929. So far, the government has deported tens of thousands to Haiti, even though many are not Haitian citizens. Many have never even been to Haiti or speak Haitian “Kreyol.” More than 100,000 have crossed into Haiti as the result of the threat of deportation and/or mob violence.

Human Rights Watch called upon Dominican authorities “to halt expulsions of denationalized Dominicans, to promptly restore their citizenship, and to respect their right to a nationality.” Amnesty International also called for an end to deportations.

For decades, Haitians were brought to the DR by corrupt politicians on both sides of the Haiti/DR border to work in sugar cane fields under conditions called “modern day slavery.” Today, Dominican-Haitians also work in the service sectors, where they face discrimination. The Dominican government, a staunch anti-communist U.S. ally, has historically promoted “anti-Haitianism.” Everything Haitian—whether skin color, culture, or religion—is degraded.

U.S. policy is to blame for the misery of the Haitian masses. Their conditions cry out for international solidarity!

(See RapidResponseNetwork on Facebook for updates on the fight to increase the minimum wage in Haiti.)

Donald Trump to 60,000 Haitians: ‘Get out!’

By MARTY GOODMAN
December 13, 2017

On Nov. 20, the Trump administration, after an election campaign based on anti-immigrant hate, ordered the expulsion of 60,000 Haitians living in the U.S. who arrived after the devastation of Haiti’s 2010 earthquake, which killed over 200,000. Haitians who arrived by Jan. 2011 received Temporary Protective Status (TPS) under a 1990 law and were allowed to stay 18 months. Haitian TPS status was extended four times.

Directly affected will be some 30,000 children of Haitian TPS recipients, ripping families apart. TPS Haitians have until July
In October 1937, Trujillo told the congregation at his church, “I found that Dominicans would be happier if we got rid of Haitians. I will fix that. Yesterday, 300 Haitians were killed … this must continue.” Throughout that night, 12,000 to 25,000 Haitians were hacked to death with machetes and knives by Dominican soldiers and farmers under their command near the aptly named Massacre River. Over a five-day period, up to 40,000 were killed, the largest massacre ever recorded over that time period.

An agreement of $750,000 indemnity was brokered by the U.S., Cuban, and Mexican governments. Trujillo’s contribution was reduced to $500,000 and delivered to Haitian authorities in Port-au-Prince. The Trujillo agent dispersed $25,000 in tens and twenties to politicians as goodwill. It is not known how much, if anything, went to the families of murdered Haitians. For some 30,000 victims, that would have amounted to $16.60 per family—if it had ever been received. In 1939, Trujillo established the “Trujillo Peace Prize.”

---

**WikiLeaks lifts lid on U.S. role in Haiti**

**By MARTY GOODMAN**

August 6, 2011

Documents released by WikiLeaks to the left-of-center Haitian weekly Haiti Liberté, in partnership with The Nation magazine, unveils a cozy U.S. relationship with Haiti’s reactionary, corrupt elite. They also offer insight into the bipartisan U.S./UN occupation mislabeled a “humanitarian intervention.” The revelations show that U.S. policy has changed little since the founding of the world’s first Black republic in 1804.

The 1918 WikiLeaks cables cover the period beginning April 17, 2003, nearly 10 months before a CIA-backed rightist coup on Feb. 29, 2004, against Haiti’s elected reformist president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. A U.S.-led UN force of 9000 soldiers occupied the country and sent Aristide into exile. The occupation allowed the coup to consolidate its power and repress his Fanmi Lavalas (FL) party and all worker-peasant movements. Some 3000 Haitians died under the regime.

Cables from the U.S. Embassy, which might have directly implicated the U.S. in the 2004 coup, started in March 2005, although there is one cable from March 2004. The occupation force became known as MINUSTAH (UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti).


In 2009, thousands of students, workers, and others demonstrated in the streets of Port au Prince demanding a minimum wage increase from $1.75 a day to a mere $5 a day.
WikiLeaks documents show U.S. officials were on the side of Haiti’s international sweatshops.

“[T]he U.S. embassy in Haiti worked closely with factory owners contracted by Levi’s, Hanes, and Fruit of the Loom to aggressively block a paltry minimum wage increase for Haitian assembly zone workers,” wrote Haiti Liberté. In the end, the minimum wage was increased to only $3 a day for assembly workers, $5 a day for all others; later increased to $5 a day and $6.25 a day respectively in October 2010.

Keeping a lid on Haiti’s explosive mix of coups, inequality, repression, and widespread malnutrition (unemployment exceeds 80%) requires repression. Wiki-Leaks revealed that the economic elite, whose support of CIA-backed coups was essential to U.S. policy, was arming police into private armies. A U.S. Embassy cable by then U.S. Ambassador to Haiti James Foley was fully aware of these developments and warned “against private delivery of arms” to the Haitian National Police. “Some business owners have already begun to purchase weapons and ammunition from the street and distribute them to local police officials in exchange for regular patrols.”

Fritz Mevs, one of the richest Haitians, told the U.S. Embassy that the president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, Reginald Boulos, had “distributed arms to the police and had called on others to do so in order to provide cover to his own actions.” The elite worried about rebellious pro-Aristide strongholds in the Port au Prince slums Bel Air and Cité Soleil. Boulos currently sits on the board of Bill Clinton’s Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), which controls the spending of billions donated to rebuild Haiti after the quake. Boulos is a close friend of the new Haitian president, Michel Martelly, who assumed office in May after a rigged election last November, which excluded Aristide’s Fanmi Lavalas party (FL), Haiti’s largest party. Martelly is pro-coup, pro-U.S., with many ties to the old Duvalier family dictatorship (1957-1986) and its paramilitary thugs.

Today, the DR receives U.S. military aid and equipment—$8.6 million worth in 2012. The corrupt Dominican army plays a central role in deportations. It has mobilized 200 trucks and set up so-called processing centers on the border with Haiti.

On the other side of the border, billions in international private and governmental recovery aid to post-earthquake Haiti have been scandalously unused or squandered, amidst a feeding frenzy of private charities and Washington beltway corporations. Joblessness remains rampant, about 50% in the urban centers. Little has been organized to receive immigrants in Haiti by the corrupt U.S.-installed Haitian President Michel Martelly. The tense, unstable situation may in turn be used to reinforce the despised U.S./UN military occupation, particularly given upcoming national elections in Haiti.

The Dominican Republic reflects a capitalist world in crisis, spewing out its own proto-fascist, racist ideology. What is desperately needed (and shamefully missing) in the DR is a united workers’ struggle, one that is first and foremost anti-racist and willing to mobilize against all forms of attacks on Haitian workers and Dominicans of Haitian origin. The old slogan of the “Communist Manifesto,” “Workers of the world unite!” is as apt a battle cry as ever!

The 1937 Massacre

It’s known as “anti-Haitianismo,” meaning a hostility to all that is Black in the Dominican Republic. It was developed by Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo, a U.S.-trained military officer under a U.S. occupation (1916-1924). Anti-Haitianismo remains the de facto state ideology.

Trujillo, an admirer of Adolph Hitler, sought to stop the “Ethiopianization” of the mostly mulatto population, despite the fact that most Dominicans would be considered Black in the U.S. and the Haitian lineage of Trujillo’s own parents.
Imperialism and the Dominican Republic

"The whole hemisphere will be ours in fact as, by virtue of our superiority of race, it already is ours morally," said U.S. President William Taft in 1912.

The Dominican Republic is a staunch anti-communist U.S. ally and pursues an economic austerity model developed by the U.S.-dominated World Bank. U.S. corporations dominate in trades where super-exploited Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent work. Migrant labor to the DR was initially spurred by Haitian farmers displaced by U.S. corporations during the first U.S. Marine occupation (1915-1934).

Sectors employing mainly Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin today include the growing tourism industry, construction, and sugar plantations—although less in sugar than in the past. Human rights organizations have condemned sugar plantations, known as bateyes, as “modern-day slavery.”

For decades, corrupt officials on both sides of the Haiti/DR border made crooked deals for cheap labor to cut cane, mostly at U.S.-owned sugar plantations like former giant Gulf + Western, which in the 1980s controlled 40% of DR sugar production. Declining sugar prices and downturns in the economy were used by the ruling class to launch racist scapegoating for the mass expulsion of Haitian migrants, such as in 1991 and 1999.

U.S. imperialism militarily occupied the DR between 1916-1924 under Democratic President Woodrow Wilson, seizing control of its banks and grooming Dominican military officers such as dictators Rafael Trujillo his right-hand man, Joaquin Balaguer. The U.S. invaded the DR again in 1965 to crush a nationalist rebellion. Later, Dominican territory was used as a staging area for CIA-backed Haitian paramilitary forces that crossed into Haiti and overthrew democratically elected governments in 1991 and 2004, leading to bloody massacres.

Also on Clinton’s IHRC board is Gary Lissade, the lead counsel for General Raoul Cedras, the leader of the bloody 1991 coup, during his negotiations with Aristide in 1993. Lissade, a prominent right-winger, is part of a “cabal,” says Mevs, of what Foley labeled “a small nexus of drug-dealers and political insiders that control a network of dirty cops and gangs.”

On July 6, 2005, there was a massacre by MINUSTAH forces, mostly Brazilian. MINUSTAH opened fire on Cité Soleil, unleashing 22,000 rounds of ammunition. Dozens were killed, but the official toll was six. “It remains unclear how aggressive MINUSTAH was, though 22,000 rounds is a large amount of ammunition to have killed only six people,” wrote then U.S. Ambassador James Foley in a July 26, 2005, Embassy cable obtained by Professor Keith Yearman through a FOIA request.

The UN claimed it killed Aristide loyalist and “gang leader Dred Wilme and five of his associates,” while noting that “at St. Joseph’s hospital near Cité Soleil, Doctors Without Borders reported receiving 26 gunshot victims from Cité Soleil on July 6, of whom 20 were women and at least one was a child.”

In August Foley was praising the Brazilians in another cable (obtained by Yearman’s FOIA requests) entitled “Brazil Shows Backbone in Bel-Air.” Since 2004, Brazil has had the largest contingent of troops in Haiti, after redeployments of US troops to Iraq and Afghanistan. Socialists demand, “U.S./UN out of Haiti, now!”

The U.S. response to the Jan. 12 quake was to dispatch 22,000 troops to occupy Haiti, officially a UN mission. Scandalously, U.S. personnel prevented the arrival of aircraft carrying private emergency medical personnel like Doctors Without Borders and Cuban medical teams, for example. The top U.S. priority was suppressing non-existent food riots. (For more see the February and March 2010 issues of Socialist Action.)

WikiLeaks reveals how U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, stung by media reports on the blockage of emergency...
medical aid by the U.S. military, ordered staff to track down “irresponsible journalists” worldwide to “get the story straight.” U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Merten spoke of a “gold rush” to describe the post-quake atmosphere for U.S. corporations, lured by billions in international aid.

The 2011 legislative and presidential elections, postponed in 2010 by the earthquake, were organized by President René Preval, an ex-protegé of the exiled president who, like his mentor, had supported U.S. occupations. The election was widely viewed as a fraud, even by the U.S. embassy. Millions of dollars went to anti-FL parties from the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute, two tentacles of the CIA-linked National Endowment for Democracy.

Diplomats at a Dec. 1, 2009, meeting of representatives of the European Union, United Nations, Brazil, Canada, Spain, and the U.S. expressed reservations about the sham election. Nevertheless they agreed to provide funds for the vote since “the international community has too much invested in Haiti’s democracy to walk away from the upcoming elections, despite its imperfections,” according to a U.S. cable (HL 5/25/11-5/30/11). A mere 23% of eligible Haitians voted last November.

Earlier, President Obama had successfully pressured the South African government to not permit the exiled Aristide to return to Haiti during the election. Aristide finally returned on March 18.

In reality, there cannot be “fair” elections under an occupation, despite Fanmi Lavalas’ willingness to run if not for its exclusion. Its lack of principled opposition to occupation reflects the on-again, off-again support for interventions within Aristide’s reformist camp, a far cry from the fiercely independent Haitian revolutionaries who overthrew French slavery and colonialism in 1804. Haiti is in need of another revolution.

The article above was written by Marty Goodman, and first appeared in the August 2011 print edition of Socialist Action newspaper.
medical care. Thousands of Union of Cane Workers members, who are mostly Haitian, are protesting to receive pensions, despite years doing back-breaking work and living in shantytown squalor.

Since the June 17 deadline to obtain documents has passed, officials vow to enforce expulsion rulings. While Dominican authorities deny that there will be mass deportations, it has been speculated that repatriations may begin after Aug. 1 at the end of a 45-day grace period for applicants. Reportedly, thousands have already crossed into Haiti “voluntarily” to avoid police or racist violence, but no firm numbers exist.

The decisions have been accompanied by an increase in racist violence. In February, a Haitian shoeshine worker, Henry Claude Jean, 35, (nicknamed “Tulile”), was hung, KKK style, in a public park in Santiago, the nation’s second most populous city. No one has been prosecuted. Ongoing mob attacks on dark-skinned individuals living in the DR have been captured on video. Nighttime police raids and vigilante justice have terrified many, who are afraid to go outside.

A Ms. Mesilus told The New York Times that she was picked up and deported to Haiti even though she had begun the registration process: “I was thrown back here because I was not carrying my document to prove I was already trying to register. They didn’t even give me the chance to explain what was happening.”

The deportations and violence have sparked mass protests by thousands in Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince, and internationally, including several demonstrations in New York, Miami, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Montreal, Philadelphia, and Boston. New York’s “Black Lives Matter in the Dominican Republic” and “We Are All Dominicans” (both on Facebook) have been organizing protests, as well as other groups and individuals.

At a July 1 protest at the Dominican Consulate in Times Square, Dominican activist Angela Perez said, “Even though they are not Dominican citizens, they were born in Dominican territory

---

Haiti’s dictator resigns as election trap set

By MARTY GOODMAN

February 14, 2016

Weeks of massive protests against election fraud in Haiti and calling for the ouster of the pro-U.S. Haitian President Michel Martelly forced the dictator to finally step down on Feb. 7. The Haitian constitution prohibits a succeeding five-year term, and Feb. 7 was the date for his term to end.

Feb. 7, 2016, marked the 30th anniversary of the fall of the U.S.-backed dictator, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier, who was toppled by a nationwide rebellion. Popular anger fueled the anti-Martelly rallies, which at times reached 100,000 or more. Many were protesting on behalf of a particular losing candidate. “Martelly believes the country is for himself and his family. We want him to go!” said Dorval, 40, an unemployed protestor. Nationwide, unemployment is about 70%.

As president, Martelly ignored mandated parliamentary elections and ruled by decree for four years. Facing the end of his term, Martelly called for new elections for parliament and a president in October. A joint report by the National Lawyers Guild and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, declared on Nov. 24, “Haiti’s Oct. 25, 2015 presidential and legislative elections fell far short of minimum standards for a fair election.”

Although they admitted election violence, Washington and the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS) nevertheless deemed the election acceptable. A run-off election scheduled for Dec. 27 was rescheduled for Jan. 24, and finally cancelled following weeks of massive protests.

The demonstrations included a demand to end the hated U.S.-led United Nations military occupation of Haiti. U.S.
imperialism militarily occupied Haiti 1915-1934, and was later joined by the United Nations, as its puppet, in the occupations of 1994, 2004, and 2010, after a massive earthquake. A cholera epidemic was introduced to Haiti by the disregard of health standards by UN forces, scientific studies showed. So far, some 9000 Haitians have died from this curable disease. The UN has denied all responsibility.

**Fraud and coup threat**

Martelly’s chosen successor, banana exporter Jovenel Moïse, placed first in the initial round of October voting. There were 54 presidential candidates! Running in Martelly’s PHTK Party, official results gave him 32.8%. His nearest challenger, Jude Celestin, a friend of former Aristide protégé and president, Rene Preval, received 25.3%. Facing a scheduled Dec. 27 presidential runoff, Celestin opted out, declaring, “The election was a fraud” and added, “I want to go to an election, not a selection.”

Since many expected wholesale fraud, October’s voter participation was a mere 23%. Some 916,000 election observers for political parties were given ballots and voted multiple times, many engaging in a black-market in observer ballots. One legislative candidate, Gerald Jean, actually produced receipts for bribes he paid election officials. With only one candidate running, Jovenel Moïse, and massive protests, the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) cancelled the runoff election of Jan. 24.

Guy Philippe, a leader of a CIA-backed mercenary group that deposed Haiti’s elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004, called for counter-protests and would not recognize any transitional government, unless it was representative of the provinces. Denouncing protesters as “anarchists,” Philippe declared, “We are ready for war. We will divide the country.”

On Feb. 5, anti-Martelly protesters were attacked by uniformed goons from the disbanded Haitian army, formally dissolved by Aristide in 1995. Encouraged by Martelly’s vow to

**Dominican government expels Haitians**

By MARTY GOODMAN

July 15, 2015

In a clear attempt at ethnic cleansing, hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent have been rendered stateless under Dominican law. A series of racist court rulings on immigration in 2004, 2010, and 2013 paved the way for a dragnet based on race that might result in mass expulsions.

A 2013 Constitutional Court ruling (TC 0168-13), commonly referred to as “la sentencia,” declares that those who migrated to the DR—that is, mostly Haitians—going all the way back to 1929, are deemed “in transit,” making their Dominican-born children “illegal migrants” under the law. The government has begun a “regularization program,” but only a fraction of the affected persons have applied, and still fewer have managed to obtain the documents.

The rulings are a violation of Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights concerning the right to nationhood.

It is estimated that there are approximately 500,000 Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin in the Dominican Republic. Many thousands of possible deportees have never been to Haiti, speak only Spanish—not the native Kreyol—and don’t know anyone there. Those to be expelled to neighboring Haiti will cross into the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, still reeling from the January 2010 earthquake, which killed some 200,000 Haitians and left 1.5 million homeless.

Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin often cannot obtain the necessary documents, such as birth certificates (particularly in rural areas) and are often simply denied them by racist officials. The lack of proof of citizenship has been used to deprive Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origin of the right to vote, obtain an education, get married, declare children, or seek
reinstate the bloodthirsty killers, some 100 menacingly paraded in 
Port au Prince. Even so, a former army captain, Neroce R. Ciceron, 
was beaten to death by anti-government protesters in Port-au-
Prince.

The Feb. 7 exit of Martelly was part of a deal cut with the 
U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS), under the 
watchful eye of the United States, Canada, France, Brazil, Spain, 
and the European Union.

On Feb. 11, parliament chose Jocelerme Privet, the former 
head of Haiti’s Senate and National Assembly, to serve as 
provisional president. Privet will oversee the selection of a 
consensus prime minister, whose job will be to organize a 
legislative and presidential runoff vote on April 24. A new 
president will be sworn in on May 14.

**Elections no solution for Haiti’s misery**

Martelly, a popular rap-singer and a friend of Duvalier-era 
thugs, became synonymous with corruption, cronyism, and 
repression. Martelly once declared, with a beaming Bill and 
Hillary Clinton at his side during a ribbon cutting ceremony at a 
sweatshop park in the North, “Haiti is open for business!” Some 
2000 pages of Wikileaks documents partially revealed the role of 
U.S. imperialism in Haiti, particularly by the Clintons, in keeping 
down the $5-a-day minimum wage and strong-arming the CEP to 
bump up Martelly’s position in the 2010 election, leading to his 
eventual victory.

Some candidates, as well as protesters, denounced the 
U.S./OAS-brokered deal. They pointed to decisions to be carried 
out by parliament members who are, as one veteran Haitian activist 
in New York called them, “drug dealers and rapists.” What will 
truly change Haiti is a revolutionary struggle waged by the 
working class and peasants, not sham elections under capitalism 
and occupation. It is up to us to give solidarity to the Haitian 
struggle right here in the belly of the beast!
and/or Haitian companies were mostly ignored by Clinton and private U.S. corporations.

As Wikileaks revealed, the Clintons intervened in Haitian elections, pressuring election officials to up the status of the gangster-linked, pro-U.S. Michel Martelly, who became president 2011-16. Both Bill and Hillary promoted an economic policy based on foreign-based textile assembly sweatshops and resisting minimum wage protests. Wages rose from about $3 a day to about $5.23 a-day over time, except for assembly sweatshop workers who received even less - thanks to the Clintons!

For decades both Democratic and Republican Party presidents discriminated against Haitian refugees seeking asylum. In the 1980’s under Reagan, thousands of Black Boat people languished in detention, sometimes for years in the Krome Detention Center near Miami. The Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti viewed returnees as “dissidents.” In contrast, virtually all white Cubans and Eastern Europeans got instant asylum!

Lastly, scientific studies proved that the U.S.-led UN occupation dumped feces into a much used river in 2010, resulting in the cholera deaths of over 10,000 Haitians and infecting over 800,000. The U.S. CONSPIRED with the UN to cover it up. In court, Barack Obama’s attorneys backed the UN’s racist lie that the UN was not responsible when sued by victim’s families. Obama’s attorney even substituted for the UN attorney in court!

Today, Trump seeks to deport 60,000 Haitians who fled Haiti ravaged by cholera, an earthquake and hurricane Matthew and received Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Haiti is in no condition to receive deportees. Stop the racist deportations!

U.S. policy towards Haiti has always been racist! U.S./UN get out of Haiti! Citizenship rights now for all TPS Haitians!

JOIN THE REVOLUTION! JOIN SOCIALIST ACTION!
(510) 268-9429 ● socialistaction@lmi.net ● socialistaction.org
occupation killed up to 50,000 Haitian patriots, known as Cacos, who fought to expel the invader.

The first occupation changed Haiti’s revolutionary constitution to legalize foreign investment, instituted racist laws, and seized $500,000 from its banks. That occupation also resulted in the creation of a repressive, corrupt army trained by U.S. Marines. The Haitian army, and its allies in Haiti’s para-military, has robbed, tortured and murdered untold thousands of activists, labor leaders, political dissidents and ordinary Haitians.

Moreover, decades of U.S. support to Haitian dictators left Haiti at the mercy of a brutal, corrupt, pro-U.S. elite, as during the Duvalier era (1957-86) and its’ still in power.

In September 1991, a vicious military coup backed by the CIA (as revealed in the New York Times) toppled the democratically elected Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a liberal. After the coup, Bill Clinton expanded Bush Sr.’s illegal racist naval blockade against fleeing refugees — in clear violation of U.S. and international asylum law — to prevent losing votes to a racist backlash against the “Black Boat People.” A U.S.-led UN occupation in 1994 under Clinton restored Aristide but at the price of an imperialist occupation and an agreement with Aristide to pursue policies of the U.S. dominated World Bank, based on sweatshop labor and removing taxes on imports like rice, a Haitian staple. Imported U.S. rice ruined Haitian rice farmers.

A second bloody coup by CIA linked para-military forces toppled Aristide in 2004 and another US/UN occupation followed. It shot up poor neighborhoods and attacked protestors. Finally, the occupation — itself a clear violation of the U.N. Charter — officially ended last October. In its place is a “new” army and an expanded police force of mostly former UN soldiers!

After the 2010 earthquake, billions in Haiti recovery funds were squandered by official aid coordinator Bill Clinton or just went missing in a maze of rip-off U.S. beltway companies and private non-governmental organizations. The Haitian government

Haiti cholera outrage: U.N. guilty!

By MARTY GOODMAN

September 2016

“The UN’s policy is morally unconscionable, legally indefensible, and politically self-defeating,” says a UN report on the unprecedented cholera epidemic that began in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. So far, cholera has claimed 10,000 lives — maybe more — and infected some 800,000. It is the worst cholera epidemic of modern times. UN policy in Haiti, orchestrated by US imperialism and racism, amounts to murder.

The as yet unfinished UN report was made public on Aug. 8 and was authored by UN “rapporteur” Philip Alston, a poverty and human rights expert. For years, the UN, including its Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and UN agencies, had stonewalled and denied all responsibility for the catastrophe. Often, the UN cited Haitian “hygiene” to arrogantly deflect blame.

After the UN report was sent to Ban Ki-Moon, a spokesman for the Secretary General wrote, “Over the past year, the UN has become convinced that it needs to do much more regarding its own involvement in the initial outbreak and the suffering of those affected by cholera.” The UN says it will announce a plan to address the epidemic within two months.

Scientific studies concluded that in 2010 the UN’s Nepal contingent of the ongoing U.S./UN military occupation of Haiti
had disregarded health practices and UN guidelines by dumping human feces into a tributary of the Artibonite River. The Artibonite runs through Haiti, providing irrigation and drinking water. Cholera, an easily curable disease that attacks the digestive system, spread like wildfire. The deaths in Haiti are comparable in number to all the deaths attributed to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa in 2014.

Cholera victims suffer from dehydration caused by severe diarrhea or vomiting, which can be overcome by supplying clean water—which was not provided by the well-funded military occupation. Scientists have found that the epidemic could have been prevented with a basic health kit for less than $2000.

The most recent UN sanitary review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the period between July 2012 and June 2014, long after the cholera outbreak, found so many sanitary problems at UN bases that it deemed them “unsatisfactory.” Cholera is once again on the increase since 2014.

“Victims are living in fear because the disease is still out there,” said Mario Joseph, a prominent Haitian human rights attorney who represents cholera victims, told protesters gathered in Port-au-Prince last month. Weekly sit-in protests demanding justice and reparation are ongoing in front of the US Embassy.

Attorney Joseph is part of a class suit launched on behalf of 2000 cholera victims and survivors filed in 2013 by the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH), headquartered in Boston. On Aug. 18, responding to the IDJH suit, the U. S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the United Nations’ “immunity” claims.

The IJDH now has 90 days to decide whether to seek an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court. Said Brian Concannon, Jr. Esq., executive director of IJDH, “Our goal has always been to secure remedies for victims, whether in or out of court and we will keep working through all available forums until that occurs.”

Racism toward Haiti did not begin when racist idiot Trump called Haiti a “shithole.” Racism is U.S. policy!

Since Haiti’s victorious slave revolution, proclaimed in 1804 as the first Black nation, the U.S. has been Haiti’s oppressor. First by backing the French slave-owners and then by placing an embargo on revolutionary Haiti lasting 62 years!

Under Republicans, but mostly Democrats, Haiti has known U.S. imperialist occupations many times: 1915-1934, 1994, 2004 and again after the 2010 earthquake, each time violating Haiti’s sovereignty and keeping it in chains. The first U.S. Marine
The conclusion? The Trump administration lied about Haitians as revenge for blowback after Trump’s “shithole” comments. The U.S. and Haiti need revolution!

Concannon added, “We want results on the ground: lives saved, and people compensated.”

In the courtroom, the Obama administration took the side of the UN’s claims of so-called “immunity.” In fact, UN officials asked Obama’s Justice Department to argue in court for legal immunity, which it did in July.

Haiti’s epidemic followed on the heels of the tragic 2010 earthquake centered in the Port-au-Prince capital, which killed over 200,000 Haitians, injured hundreds of thousands, and displaced 1.5 million. The human cost was magnified by decades of U.S. support to one corrupt and brutal regime after another, resulting in appalling housing, unemployment, a lack of health care, and generalized misery.

The current military occupation is one of many. In 2010, President Barack Obama ordered a 20,000-strong U.S. military-led occupation, using the UN as a fig leaf, to re-invade Haiti following the earthquake. “Humanitarian” concerns were cited. Translation: Reconstruct Haiti according to a World Bank, neo-liberal sweatshop agenda.

Socialists say that the UN is merely a coalition of capitalist and imperialist nations. Senator Bernie Sanders and Green Party candidate Jill Stein have both called for “multi-national” interventions, when necessary. Haiti proves them dead wrong.

Socialists demand, “U.S./UN out of Haiti!” As Cuban revolutionary leader Commander Fidel Castro has said: "In an oppressed country, even the dead cannot rest in peace."
In Haiti, Mario Joseph, a human rights attorney and a protest leader, said, “On many occasions in the past we have been victims of imperialist countries, particularly the United States.” Even Haiti’s corrupt Senate on Thursday declared their country “is the expression of refusal to be humiliated, since the founding fathers engaged in an epic combat against slavery, colonialism, and racism to indicate to the oppressed peoples of the world the way to freedom.”

One Port au Prince protest drew 2000. “Trump is a vulgar racist, and a racist is a very poor-minded person,” said protester Marvel Joseph. “We don’t feel any resentment against the American people, who we know largely disapprove of Trump’s behavior in the White House.”

Batay Ouviryè (Worker’s Fight) in Haiti released a statement, which reads in part: “For all peoples around the world, if they are calling us shitholes, it’s the capitalist class that is the cause! Let’s coordinate our struggles to overthrow and in this way uproot capitalism with all its racism.”

**More Trump racism**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced Jan. 18 that people from Haiti, Belize, and Samoa are no longer eligible to apply for H-2A visas for farm work and H-2B visas for non-farmworker jobs. The department said the nations had a high rate of fraud, abuse, and people overstaying their visa time limits. The overstay rate for Haitians is over 39 percent, out of roughly 1500 H-2 immigrant workers in 2016, the DHS stated.

However, those DHS statistics about Haitians were disputed on the Young Turks TV program, posted Jan. 25 (Huffington Post). Citing DHS figures for “overstays” on H-2 visas in 2016, Haitians had, in fact, far fewer in that category. Haitians were only 3.86% “overstays,” compared to people from Afghanistan (13.7%) and Jordan (5.97%), to name a few. A Pew Institute study of 2015 “overstays” found that Canada had 93,000 “overstays,” Mexico 42,000, Germany 21,000, etc.
On Jan. 15, Martin Luther King’s birthday, some 10,000 to 12,000 angry protesters—including many Haitian immigrants—poured into Times Square in Manhattan. The anger of the crowd was not matched by militant demands and was muzzled by the presence of several capitalist politicians, including “progressive” Mayor Bill de Blasio, whose housing policies continue to force record numbers into homelessness. However, some protesters marched up to Trump Tower at 56th Street and Madison Avenue.

*Haiti Liberté* journalist and activist Kim Ives spoke to *Socialist Action* about the newly formed 1804 Movement, comprised of grassroots organizations that met on Jan. 13 at the *Haiti Liberté* office in Brooklyn. Present were 50 activists from the New York and New Jersey area. Participating organizations include Le Caye, the Lavalas Family, Haiti Solidarity Network in New Jersey, as well as leftist parties, including Petit Dessalines, the Black Alliance for Justice in Immigration, *Haiti Liberté* newspaper, and U.S. socialist groups.

On the cold morning of Jan. 19, the 1804 Movement led a protest of between 500 to 1000 Haitians and supporters who marched from Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn over the Brooklyn Bridge to rally at the Trump Building on Wall Street.

Haitian American unionist Marie Paule Florestal made these remarks: “The 1804 Movement for All Immigrants has chosen to demonstrate on Wall Street because we condemn the politics of both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. We condemn both the Republican and Democratic parties. We condemn the entire political and economic system which enslaves this country, but also enslaves our countries, where our families and compatriots are forced to work for pennies a day for U.S. corporations.

“If we in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, or Asia try to flee our plight, to sell our smarts and labor elsewhere, we are arrested by the U.S. Coast Guard or Border Patrol. In short, we are imprisoned in our homelands. But the U.S. demands complete freedom to buy land, set up businesses, and sell products there. Our sovereign nations are, in fact, modern colonies, neo-colonies.”

Enraged Haitians took to the streets in the thousands in the wake of the rigged Oct. 25 elections in Haiti. Protests took place throughout November in Port au Prince in support of the candidates, but were sometimes met with right-wingers armed with machetes, clubs, hammers, and guns, as cops looked on.

One man was wounded by a machete, another shot and killed by a Haitian police unit associated with the regime of President Michel Martelly, a U.S. puppet. Several died at the hands of what are presumed to be Martelly loyalists.

Independent election observers have called the vote a sham—which included ballot stuffing, improper counting, and improper procedures. While not as violent as the Aug. 9 provincial elections, which saw widespread fraud, violence, and intimidation, a joint report by the National Lawyers Guild and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) declared in a Nov. 24 release, “Haiti’s Oct. 25, 2015, presidential and legislative elections fell far short of minimum standards for a fair election,” and supported calls for an “independent investigation of widespread allegations of fraud.”

The election included an incredible 128 political parties. In desperate Haiti, where unemployment is at some 70%, elections are seen by opportunists of all stripes as a vehicle for personal advancement.

Presidential candidate Jovenel Moise, the anointed candidate of Martelly of the PHTK party, took top spot for president with 32.8% of the vote. Moise faces second-placed LAPEH candidate Jude Celestin, the pick of former president Rene...
Preval, with 25.3% of the vote, both destined for a Dec. 27 runoff election. Placing third was populist Moise Jean-Charles, with 14.3%, and fourth was Dr. Maryse Narcisse, a favorite of the popular former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, with only an improbable 7%.

Fear of violence and the well-founded expectation of vote rigging led to a voter turnout on Oct. 25 of only 23% of eligible voters. In the August election, 13% of voting centers were closed due to violence, intimidation, and fraud. It was understood that the election, called a “selection” by many Haitians, was engineered by the Martelly regime, which has thrived on increasing repression.

Haitian attorney Mario Joseph, who is on the board of the IADL, stated, “President Michel Martelly is not capable of holding democratic elections.” Indeed, the rabidly pro-U.S. president and former rap artist has ruled by decree for over four years, having let parliament expire without holding required elections. In lieu of elections, he has appointed judges, mayors and “interim executives.”

More than 916,000 accreditation cards were issued to political party monitors who were not required to vote at any particular voting center, opening the way to massive amounts of multiple voting. In fact, a black market in such cards would fetch anywhere between $2 and $30. As a result, up to 60% of the 1.6 million votes could have been fraudulent!

The Brazilian Igarape Institute conducted a poll of 1800 voters in 135 voting centers across Haiti and determined that the vote tallies seemed wildly askew. It found that Celestin was favored by 37.5%, populist Jean-Charles was favored by 30%, and 19.4% for Narcisse. The poll revealed that Jovenel Moise was chosen by only 6.3% of those polled.

A coalition of eight political candidates, known as G8, have demanded an “independent inquiry” into the election, which was conducted by the Provisional Electoral Council (CED), a pliant body of political appointees that has proven its loyalty again and again.

The astonishing ignorance and racism of Trump toward Haitians was a throwback to the AIDS hysteria of the 1980s. At the time, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning that “Haitians and sub-Saharan Africans” were highly susceptible to AIDS and banned blood donations by Haitians. Racist stereotyping exploded, but they were, of course, lies. The FDA determination was removed in 1990, but not before 100,000 Haitians and supporters massed at the Federal Building in downtown Manhattan and basically shut the city down in April 1990—proving again the power of mass action!

As if these attacks weren’t enough, Trump has vowed to keep open the notorious Guantanamo, Cuba, gulag, which Obama pledged to close. The early 90s struggle for the entry of HIV-positive Haitians imprisoned in Guantanamo spawned a fight-back of Haitian activists and supporters and AIDS activists in ACT-UP. A combination of street actions and legal battles, led by attorney Michael Ratner, led to the release of the HIV Haitians. Continuing Guantanamo as a human rights atrocity shows how fleeting are victories under capitalism.

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program was also ended on Sept. 5 by Trump, affecting 800,000 children of “illegal” immigrants who are now subject to deportation. Socialists say, “No one is illegal!” “Defend TPS and DACA!” “Full citizenship for TPS Haitians and DACA recipients!”

Concerning the “shithole” remark, Marlene Bastien of Haitian Women of Miami told Socialist Action, “I think his comments were racist and outright disrespectful. To make a comment like that would be out of ignorance. Some people are feeling the impact on their children.”

“The U.S. owes so much to Haiti. One thousand free men came to shed their blood in Savannah [Ga.] to fight for U.S. independence. Just to be able to defeat Napoleon, who had the mightiest army at that time, allowed the U.S. to double in size with the Louisiana purchase.”
Europeans to come to this country. Why don’t we get more people from Norway?”

Initially, the White House refused to deny the reports, but Trump tweeted a denial the next day that merely admitted to non-specific “tough talk” and added, “I have a wonderful relationship with Haitians.”

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) confirmed the report, saying Trump used the term “shithole countries” repeatedly; he called Trump’s rant “hate-filled, vile, and disgusting.” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) confirmed Trump’s “shithole countries” slander in a comment to the Post, overheard by Sen. Tim Scott. Said Scott, Graham told the Post that the remarks attributed to Trump are “basically accurate.” Even the United Nations, usually under the thumb of U.S. imperialism, called Trump’s remarks “racist.”

Trump’s arrogant “shithole” comments were made on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the catastrophic Haitian earthquake, Jan. 12, 2010, which killed up to 300,000 and injured many more in a country of 10 million. Virtually every Haitian family was affected.

**Trump: “They all have AIDS!”**

On Sept. 16, 2016, candidate Trump said to a small gathering of Haitian Americans in Miami, “I really want to be your biggest champion.” Many recalled Trump’s empty promises after his Nov. 20 racist termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 60,000 Haitians who fled in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, a cholera plague, and a post-hurricane Mathew Haiti. TPS Haitians support 250,000 relatives back home. Haiti is in no condition to receive deportees!

The falsity of those promises was also demonstrated last June, at a White House meeting on immigration, when Trump was presented with a list of immigrants by country. After seeing that 15,000 had entered from Haiti, Trump snarled, they “all have AIDS” (The New York Times, Dec. 23, 2017).

The Obama administration and the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS) have turned a blind eye to the gross improprieties of the election. The OAS, while acknowledging incidents of violence, nevertheless said that they “did not affect the overall voting process.” The UN, the U.S., Canada, and the European Union have all given legitimacy to this caricature of an election.

Blatant U.S. manipulation of the 2010 Haitian elections in favor of the Martelly run for president was a backdrop to the current wave of protests. Some 2000 documents released by the news agency Wikileaks documented U.S. intervention in 2010 by then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the U.S. Embassy as well as corporate pressure on the Haitian parliament to vote against a small raise to the minimum wage of $5 a day. Bill and Hillary Clinton both pressed the CED to bump up Martelly in the 2020 election from third to second place, enabling him to successfully challenge the front-runner, Mirlande Manigat, and win.

Martelly is known as a close associate of supporters of the former Haitian dictator, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier. After the election, in 2012, Martelly joined the Clintons and U.S. celebs at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at a sweatshop industrial park in Caracol in northwestern Haiti. During the ceremony, in which the Haitian president drew praise from Hillary as a far-sighted leader, Martelly declared, “Haiti is open for business!”

None of the parties in the election deserve the support of the Haitian masses. None are workers’ parties, despite the vague populist rhetoric of some like Moïse Jean-Charles. Although Jean-Charles has called for an end to the despised U.S.-led UN military occupation force known as MINUSTAH, his promises are full of vague liberal slogans, not the fighting words of socialism and revolution. Earlier in the election cycle, Jean-Charles, once a follower of pseudo-radical president Aristide, joined with leftists in
boycotting the election, but threw his hat in the ring as the election grew closer.

Haiti needs to break with middle-class and reformist leaders. Haiti needs revolution. The misery of daily life is worse than under the U.S.-backed Duvalier family dictatorship (1957-1986).

An earthquake in 2010 killed over 200,000 and displaced over 1 million, from which Haiti has not recovered. Thousands still live in makeshift tents, betrayed by Western governmental and private pledges of relief. The “reconstruction” effort headed by Bill Clinton and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have squandered billions in so-called relief, much of which went to beltway corporations, not to Haitians. Hundreds of millions went to defray the costs of a renewed U.S. military occupation, cynically undertaken by the Obama administration after the earthquake tragedy.

Moreover, tens of thousands of Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian origins have fled the Dominican Republic’s racist deportation orders, only to be dumped and abandoned in isolated regions by the Martelly regime. The Martelly government has now engaged an Israeli security firm to guard its borders.

Elections will not solve Haiti’s problems. For that, it is necessary to build a workers movement, and a revolutionary movement and party, to expel imperialism and Haiti’s blood-sucking ruling class once and for all!

Haitian American protesters demand that Trump apologize for his racist remarks at his Mar-a-Lago, Fla., retreat on Jan. 15.

By MARTY GOODMAN

February 9, 2018

As if 200 years of U.S. racism and imperialism weren’t enough, Haitians must contend with the idiotic rantings of the U.S. commander in chief, Donald Trump. “Why are we having all these people from shithole countries come here?” asked Trump at a Jan. 11 immigration meeting.

Trump was referring to Haiti, El Salvador, and African states, provoking worldwide outrage. During the meeting he asked, “Why do we need more Haitians?” “Take them out.” according to sources cited in a Jan. 12 Washington Post article. And that wasn’t enough for Trump, who added, “Put me down for wanting more
The Hell that is Haiti

By MARTY GOODMAN

November 15, 2012

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti—Oct. 22 was a romantic rendezvous for Bill and Hillary Clinton in Haiti, their one-time honeymoon destination. Hollywood celebs were there too—Sean Penn, Ben Stiller and sweatshop magnate Donna Karan, along with members of the Haitian elite, led by President Michael Martelly, a Washington-backed military coup supporter. “Haiti is open for business and we mean it,” Martelly said to his beaming guests.

The occasion was the opening of a new $300 million sweatshop industrial park in Caracol in northern Haiti, $124 million of it paid for by the U.S. taxpayers. Signing the Caracol agreement on Jan. 11, 2011, were Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the U.S.-dominated Inter-American Development Bank,
and the Korean textile assembly giant, Sae-A Trading. Officials say the park may employ up to 20,000 workers. The promotional material claimed it was created, “without compromising on labor and environmental standards.” Hillary called it “a new Haiti.” It was all lies.

The AFL-CIO had urged American and international officials to reconsider Sae-A Trading, citing “acts of violence and intimidation” in Guatemala. Homero Fuentes, who monitors factories for American retailers, calls Sae-A “one of the major labor violators.” Sae-A Trading closed shop in Guatemala and moved its operation to Haiti. It will now receive tax breaks and duty-free access to the U.S. market. The company’s export to the U.S. has been estimated at about $900 million.

An initial corporate study claimed that the Caracol area was “devoid” of people. But the week the Caracol deal was signed, Robert Ettienne, an elderly farmer near Caracol, told Haiti Grassroots Watch (HGW), “The first week of January tractors moved across all this area and broke down everyone’s fences. Thieves and animals followed, and our crops were gone.” (See the series “Open for Business” at http://www.Haitigrassrootswatch.org.) Farmers were promised compensation but, so far, haven’t received it.

Some 300 farmers, like Ettienne, lost their land, in what is considered a fertile, ecologically fragile region. The nearby port at Forte Liberté is Haiti’s only UN-designated ecologically “protected” area. An internal government document obtained by HGW cited the “significant adverse environmental impact” of the Caracol project. “The fact of having chosen this site, I’d call it heresy,” said Arnaud Dupuy, head of Haiti’s Audubon Society.

Caracol also has deep historical significance. It is close to Chavert, the site where rebellious peasants of the North, followers of guerrilla leader Charlemagne Peralte, were held by U.S. Marines during the first U.S. occupation. Racist U.S. troops attached hoses to truck exhausts that led to imprisoned Haitians, creating a Nazi-like death chamber.
“Socialist” Congressman Bernie Sanders voted for the Clinton plan in Haiti.

More U.S. occupations were to come. A CIA-backed coup in 2004 overthrew Aristide once again. The coup forces were Haitian paramilitary thugs who trained in the Dominican Republic, a close U.S. ally (See “Para Militarism and the Assault on Democracy in Haiti,” Sprague 2012). Once again the Haitian masses were left unprepared to defend themselves by the Aristide leadership. A US/UN force reoccupied Haiti and – as the coupmakers wished – Aristide was flown out of Haiti to the Central African Republic. More Haitian deaths followed.

The last occupation followed the deadly Haitian earthquake in January 2010, which killed over 200,000. The Obama administration put Haiti in military lockdown, landing a helicopter on the national palace lawn to show Haitian’s who’s boss. Fidel Castro answered Obama’s occupation by proclaiming, “We send doctors, not troops!”

The absolute domination of Haiti by world imperialism leaves no room for middle class, so-called “democratic” solutions, i.e. pseudo-revolutions that perpetuate inequality, starvation, corruption and back door hand-shakes. (see the Haitian Wikileaks documents on the U.S. sabotage of Haitian elections and the promotion of foreign sweatshops by Bill and Hillary Clinton. Go to Haitiliberte.com, search Wikileaks.)

**Hurricane Sandy**

Two days after the Oct. 22 Caracol gala, hurricane Sandy ripped through Haiti’s South, smashing through tent cities erected after the January 2010 earthquake. They are still inhabited by 400,000 desperate “internal refugees,” despite $5 billion raised internationally for earthquake relief. Ordinarily, tent cities, concentrated in Port au Prince, are rife with hunger, misery, unsanitary conditions, sexual assaults, and forced evictions backed by armed goons.

At least 54 Haitians died during Sandy, a majority of the 71 killed in the Caribbean. Some 25,000 Haitians are homeless. Rivers of water and mud cascaded down deforested mountains, stripped bare for use as firewood. Coffee and bean production was devastated, raising prices on already costly food staples, the theme of mass protests in October.

Cholera, an easily treated water-borne disease, reappeared in Sandy’s wake. Starting in late 2010, over 7500 Haitians died of cholera and hundreds of thousands were infected. Since 2010, there has been little preparation for new outbreaks or improved sanitation. About 550 died of cholera over the last year.

Haiti has been called “the NGO republic,” referring to the thousands of NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) in the country, almost all of which are non-Haitian and get the lion’s share of relief funds. The World Bank estimated 10,000 NGOs before the earthquake. A mere 1% went to the Haitian government. The NGOs, funded mainly by wealthy donors, shape relief efforts. There is no national housing plan nearly three years after the earthquake. International “relief” has delivered only 52.3 percent of the $5.3 billion pledged to Haiti, and, some aid specialists say, there isn’t any plan to make up the difference.
The minimum wage struggle

Big worker mobilizations in 2009 kept the pressure on parliament to adopt a new minimum wage law. Wikileaks documents, published by Haiti Liberté newspaper and The Nation magazine, partially reveal the concerted pressure of the Obama administration on parliament to keep wages low.

The 2009 law contained huge giveaways to the assembly bloodsuckers. The law stipulated that prior to Oct. 1, 2012, all workers except those doing piece work in the assembly industry would receive a minimum wage of about $5 US (200 Haitian gourdes) a day—not per hour. Assembly workers were to receive only about $3 a day (125 gourdes) until October 2011, when it increased to about $3.50 a day (150 gourdes). A 2011 AFL-CIO study concluded that the needs of a typical family of four was an incredible nine times the minimum wage for a 48-hour, six-day work week.

The new Oct. 1, 2012, minimum for assembly workers is about $7 US a day (300 gourdes). But it is being ignored by bosses, Yannick Ettienne, a union organizer for the leftist Batay Ouvriye (BO), told Socialist Action. The bosses imposed nearly impossible production quotas for 300 gourdes, although the law clearly states that workers must receive “at least” 300 gourdes for eight hours.

The Obama administration, the UN, and the U.S.-dominated World Bank envision making Haiti a virtual 21st-century slave state of low-wage workers dominated by the international assembly industry. Since the 1980s, the World Bank’s goal was to make Haiti “the Taiwan of the Caribbean,” a sinkhole of low wage labor, depressing wages for the entire Caribbean and even North America.

Parallel to more assembly development is expanding tourism, whose development will mean little income for the Haitian masses and degrade Haiti’s rich culture. Haiti is “free market” capitalism at its most savage. Most Haitians live on $2 a
government through proxies. A key target was Aristide’s promise to raise the minimum wage slightly.

Lurking behind the scenes was Haiti’s pro-U.S. corporate elite, dedicated to subservience to Washington’s diktats, unfettered corruption, exploitation of the Haitian masses – and violence. A death squad terror network operated with impunity and included elements of the Haitian army and the dreaded Tonton Macoutes, a violent, para-military gang founded by dictator Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier (1957-71) and continued by his successor son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier.

In September 1991, a CIA-backed military coup overthrew the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. 1,000 Haitians died in the capital on the first day – 6,000 more over the course of the brutal regime. CIA involvement was exposed in front-page New York Times exposés of the period, the Ronald Reagan-Bill Clinton years. Coup leader General Raoul Cederas admitted payments from the CIA as did the leader of the terrorist FRAPH organization, led by Emanuel Constant. No U.S. CIA or other officials were held responsible for their role in these slaughters by the incoming U.S. President Clinton!

The middle-class Aristide movement itself and its backers in the U.S. had not absorbed the lessons of the CIA-coup against the elected president of Chile, Salvador Allende (1973), who left workers defenseless against the military. They became victims of the middle-class utopia of “socialism at the ballot box.”

At a meeting that this Socialist Action reporter attended of sweatshop workers and North American activists, organized by BO, workers described recent work stoppages and the need for collective action. Workers described how bosses reacted with fury to stoppages over quotas by firing workers or sending them home for days or weeks.

The workers said it is common to cut their lunches short or skip it entirely to meet quotas in order to support their families on their paltry salaries. Some bosses force workers to pay for the company’s miserable food, to be eaten while working. Workers also described their wretched health care, with company doctors suspicious of all their complaints, and even ratting out workers to the bosses. One worker told us that factory owner Charles Baker, a prominent reactionary, made threats against him for questioning policy. The workers appealed for international solidarity.

BO has organized the trade-union SOTA (Sendikat Ouvriye Tekstile ak Abiman, the Union of Textile and Clothing Workers) at six Port au Prince plants out of some 25, mostly in the SONAPI Industrial Park located in the capital, which employs about 12,000 workers. BO has also organized the 3000 CODEVI textile workers in Ouanaminte in the north.

BO seeks to mount an international campaign to force assembly bosses to honor the minimum-wage law. They intend to begin a fight to raise the minimum beyond bare subsistence next year. For more, contact http://www.Batayouvriye.org)

The UN occupation

Keeping a lid on the explosive mix of vastly unequal wealth is a U.S.-led United Nations military occupation force of some 12,000 troops, illegal by its own hypocritical standards and, according to polls, hated by the Haitian masses. Doing Washington’s dirty work, Brazilian troops form the largest
contingent of 18 other participating nations within the United Nation’s Mission to Stabilize Haiti (MINUSTAH). Their participation freed U.S. troops for the Iraq and Afghan wars.

As a creation of imperialism, the United Nations is conducting an illegal occupation even by its own charter. There is no invasion of Haiti or internal strife justifying military force. The Haiti occupation costs $1 billion a year, about $2 million a day, funds that could be used for housing, sanitation, and food.

MINUSTAH troops have engaged in a number of massacres. MINUSTAH fired into supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide (2004) and created a free-fire zone in the impoverished Cite Soleil section of Port au Prince in 2005, where up to 80 people were killed. Numerous sexual assaults by MINUSTAH troops have gone unpunished. UN officials continue to stonewall when confronted by the victim’s families and their attorneys. It has refused to create a Standing Claims Commission to hear cases against it, as called for by its own mandate.

After the onset of the cholera epidemic in 2010, two scientific studies and photos proved that UN troops from Nepal dumped raw sewage into a waterway comparable to the U.S. Mississippi River in significance. Strains of cholera active in Nepal have been discovered in Haitian cholera victims. UN officials have arrogantly denied responsibility, refusing to respond to a lawsuit filed by the Office of International Lawyers (BAI). Some 8000 people have died in the epidemic, and another 700,000 have fallen ill.

The MINUSH’s “mandate” expired on Oct. 15 but was unanimously renewed on Oct. 12 without a withdrawal date. On Oct. 11, in New York City, a delegation of Haitian activists—Haitian Sen. Moise Jean-Charles; several labor officials, including Fignole St. Cyr, general secretary of the Haitian trade-union confederation CATH; Haiti Liberté journalist Kim Ives; and several U.S. solidarity activists—met with UN officials to demand the immediate withdrawal of MINUSTAH. Incredibly, William Gardner, the occupation’s UN Senior Political Affairs Officer, said

**Recent History**

A rapidly growing political movement known as the “Lavalas” meaning the “flood” in Haitian Creole, was led by former priest and one-time avowed socialist Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The movement emerged during the late 80s as Catholic “liberation theology” and gained acceptance among layers of clergy. Its populist tenants were accepted by broad layers of the masses. But, Aristide was more of a liberal pro-capitalist reformer once in power than a socialist and certainly not a revolutionary. His inner circle included middle-class political figures, not direct representatives of the working class and peasant militants. His first administration in 1990, following a 67% vote in the historic December 1990 election, (for which this writer was an official observer) included a former Haitian World Bank official.


Nevertheless, a USAID destabilization program of $26.7 million was launched against President Aristide by the U.S.
Charlemagne Peralte, leader of the “Caco” army of rebels who fought to expel the 1915 U.S. Marine occupation of Haiti. Peralte was murdered by two U.S. Marines disguised at Haitians in 1919. To many Haitians the Marine photo gave Peralte a Christ-like image. The spirit of revolution has never, and can never, be extinguished in Haiti. The epic battles of “the Cacos,” the name given the rebel army amassed by Charlemagne Peralte, led a war of liberation against the first of many brutal U.S. military occupations (1915-1934). Estimates of the number of Haitian patriots who died at the hands of imperialism during that war run upwards 50,000, which included the world’s first aerial bombardment. The military occupation was ordered by Democratic Party “peace” candidate President Woodrow Wilson. Amongst the occupation’s first acts was the seizure of $500 million in assets directly seized from Haiti’s national bank in the capital, Port au Prince.

Communist-led mass street protests in New York City against the Haiti occupation were organized.

The occupation was ended in 1934 by Democratic Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The arrogant imperialist FDR once bragged that he had written the new Haitian constitution. The new constitution left Haiti with new laws permitting foreign investment and a new U.S.-Marine trained army skilled in the repression of the Haitian masses. The U.S.-spawned monster, the Haitian Army, would slaughter with impunity and set the stage for Haitian politics for decades to come.

In Haiti, anti-MINUSTAH protests have increased, combined with the demand for lower prices and the resignation of President Martelly. Two marches in Cap Haitien in the north numbered in the thousands. On Oct 15, the day the MINUSTAH so-called mandate expired, a modest, but militant protest blocked the driveway of the MINUSTAH base in Port au Prince. The presence of North American activists may have prevented acts of MINUSTAH brutality. One MINUSTAH soldier was heard to have said to another, “There’s 40 cameras and Ipads.” Socialists demand, “U.S./UN out of Haiti now, and stay out!

**Interview with Mario Joseph: ‘Worse than Gaza’**

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti—Attorney Mario Joseph, of the Office of International Lawyers (BAI), has received death threats over the phone in reaction to lawsuits and letters that he and his organization have filed. The situation prompted Amnesty International to issue an “Urgent Action” bulletin on Oct. 4. On Sept. 28, the chief prosecutor of Port au Prince, Jean Renal Senatus, revealed on the radio that he had been given orders by the Justice Ministry to arrest 36 political dissidents, including Joseph and two other attorneys, Newton St.-Juste and Andre Michel. Fortunately, the prosecutor refused the order, but the charges were never explained.

The AI alert cited Joseph’s and the BAI’s role in pursuing justice for victims of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, back in Haiti since 2011. In addition, AI cited Joseph’s complaints registered with the UN over its role in the spread of the cholera epidemic and forced evictions of people in tent camps. As head of the BAI, Joseph addressed the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights last July. To that list should be added Joseph’s defense of the rights of sweatshop workers, represented by Batay Ouvriye.
In an interview with Socialist Action, Joseph reacted with a laugh to the title of Barack Obama’s autobiography, “The Audacity of Hope.” He said, “It’s a waste to vote for Obama. Obama never came to Haiti. If I were American I would not vote for Obama. I’m very clear on that. Obama would be a Republican in Haiti, no different than Bush.” Mario traveled with a Palestine-solidarity delegation to Gaza not long ago and said that in his judgment, the living conditions in Haiti are worse than Gaza. — M.G.

Under the heel of U.S. imperialism

U.S. policy toward Haiti has remained unchanged since Haiti’s slave revolution proclaimed independence from French slave masters in 1803. The slave-owning U.S. did not recognize Haiti until 1862. The U.S. occupied Haiti from 1915-1934, creating a Haitian army trained in repression. In 1994, Bill Clinton agreed to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the first elected president in decades (1990), deposed in a CIA-backed military coup in 1991. Aristide supporters asked for a U.S./UN occupation, betraying Haiti’s constitution. Haiti became a model for multinational “humanitarian intervention,” which always benefits imperialism, not the masses.

In 2004, George W. Bush led a UN force in support of a second CIA coup against Aristide. In January 2010, Obama dispatched 20,000 U.S.-led UN troops, using the earthquake as a cover bully and intimidate the Haitian people. In contrast, Fidel Castro answered Obama’s occupation by proclaiming, “We send doctors, not troops!”

Haitian, once known as the “Pearl of the Antilles,” was the super-rich slave colony build by the blood of Haitian slaves, driven without mercy to produce immeasurable wealth for their French overlords. Haiti however, was the home of the world’s first successful Black slave rebellion, began in 1791 by mighty slave revolutionaries in the fields of French-owned slave plantations. Their victory was proclaimed on Jan. 1, 1804. Led by Toussaint L’Ouverture and other heroic fighters, arms in hand, the Black rebels turned the world upside down, particularly in the eyes of the racist slave monstrosity to its north, the U.SA. As it is arraigned against revolutionary Cuba today, the U.S. imposed a 62-year trade embargo on Haiti, ending only in 1865.

In liberated Haiti, all Blacks were welcome citizens. As the racist white-world reeled from what to them was the impossible, Haitian rebels crossed into the U.S. slave south, fomenting rebellion and sowing panic amongst its’ its rulers, documents show. The horror of the world slave system was under direct assault by tiny Haiti!

Of great direct impact, was the Haitian people’s defeat of French dictator Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, commander of the largest, most powerful land army in the world. This humiliating defeat, following successive waves of intervention by the world’s most powerful armies, convinced Napoleon to relinquish the gigantic Louisiana Purchase, doubling the size of the U.S.

The Haitian revolution’s mighty story can be read in such classic works as the all-time classic “The Black Jacobins” (1963) by Trinidadian Trotskyist writer C.L. R. James and the excellent “The Advengers of the New World” (2004).
history here. Suffice to say that it must be viewed in the context of 200 years of U.S. imperialism and its’ evil twin, racism.

Make no mistake, this outrage has the unmistakable teeth marks of two equally ravenous villains, the Democratic and Republican parties, that is to say, the twin representatives of the capitalist system itself!

Today, 10 million live in Haiti. At its core there is crushing poverty, but that didn’t happen accidently but was the inevitable result of 200 years of US imperialism and racism. There is 30-40% unemployment in the Haitian urban centers, worse in the countryside where millions more live. Three-quarters of the population lives on U.S. $2 or less per day. Said USAID’s acting Director M. Peter McPherson at a 1982 Congressional hearing, closer U.S. ties would make Haiti the “Taiwan of the Caribbean.” He was right. Sweatshop labor is expanding in Haiti, where bosses have regularly flaunted the starvation minimum wage and trample upon workers’ rights (See articles).

Haiti was born in revolution as the world’s first and only successful slave revolution (1791-1804). It was won arms in hand and turned the world upside down, no less so than the Russian revolution in it’s time. Haitian revolutionaries entered the U.S. slave south promoting rebellion. The defeat of the imperial French army, the largest in the world, caused dictator Napoleon Bonaparte to sell-off the massive Louisiana territory to the young United States, doubling its size.

Every Black person, from whatever nation, was assured a welcome in revolutionary Haiti. Liberation forces in Latin America, including the anti-imperialist leader Simon Bolivar, sought shelter and arms in Haiti and Haiti delivered - only to later be betrayed when Bolivar excluded Haiti from important Latin American anti-imperialist conferences.

Haiti endured a 62-year U.S. trade embargo and later its’ first imperialist occupation (1915-1934). Under occupation, Haiti became the birthplace of a new ‘black consciousness’ movement

Prelude to today’s Haitian immigration struggle

Miami in the 1980s

By MARTY GOODMAN

The big waves of Haitian immigration to the U.S. began roughly in the late ’70’s in Miami. A resistance movement of Haitian activists and supporters (including this writer), was led by, most prominently, by the self-less Haitian leader, Father Gerard Jean-Juste, a leftist “liberation” Catholic Priest. Early South Florida protests began with demonstrations against U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who denied U.S. Political Asylum Rights for Haitian refugees fleeing the U.S. backed- Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Dictatorship.

The South Florida movement grew to be embraced tentatively by the Miami Catholic Church. In the early 1980’s, the Haitian Refugee Center of Miami, Inc. (HRC) was formed under the majority control of the Haitian community and established a political/refugee legal aid headquarters. Prominent attorneys were Ira Kurzban, Steven Forrester and many other highly skilled advocates.

A Haitian/non-Haitian solidarity organization was formed, “The Friends of Haitian Refugees,” composed of largely Haitian members of Konbit Liberte, a radical Haitian organization, U.S. anti-war and Central America activists, whose activities were centered at the HRC.

The “Friends” regularly organized to support Haitian mobilizations led by Jean-Juste and stood shoulder to shoulder with the Haitian community at innumerable press conferences, receiving frequent media coverage. Mass organizing meetings of the Haitian community at the HRC were a regular event, overflow meetings extended out onto 54th street in Little Haiti. For demonstrations, Haitians poured into the streets in the hundreds,
sometimes thousands. These were refugees, many facing deportation - but out they came!

This must be said about the politics of the Haitian community: The strategy of independent mass mobilization in the streets of Miami, coupled with an expert, politicized, legal team – overseen by Father Jean-Juste and the HRC. The combined strategy was key to the release of thousands of Haitian refugees from the racist prison camp known as the Krome Detention Center on the edge of the Florida Everglades outside Miami.

Reagan had begun his mass detention program in 1981. The administration devised a fraudulent two track approach: political refugees versus ‘economic refugees.’ The idea that Haitians were merely fleeing to better economic conditions was absurd given the decades of U.S. support to murderous dictatorships.

In 1982, about 2,000 Haitian refugees were released from the Krome camp after a ruling by Judge Eugene Spellman of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Pandemonium swept the Haitian community but it was a long way to justice for thousands more. Refugees fleeing the US imposed Baby Doc dictatorship were still arriving in droves, many to be deported by Ronald Reagan and his South Florida hit-man District Attorney Rudolf Giuliani. Deported Haitians sent back into the arms of Baby Doc’s killers, whose thugs viewed deportees as “dissidents.”

According to international human rights law - a sham of capitalist hypocrisy in practice - Haitians were qualified to receive “political asylum” from “well-founded fear of persecution” (UN 1967) but not according to the racist U.S. immigration system! One South Florida professor, a statistician, analyzed the available data to determine the likelihood of a non-racial criteria in the granting of asylum by the Reagan administration. His conclusion? The granting of carte blanche political asylum to Eastern European dissidents, Jews from the USSR, and the mostly white, but firmly anti-communist Cubans, and the near complete denial of political asylum rights for Haitians on a non-racial basis was literally

The hell that is Haiti:
200 years of racism and imperialism!

By MARTY GOODMAN

Introduction

In this pamphlet are several articles that have appeared in Socialist Action newspaper about the struggles of the Haitian people for freedom and liberation. The concluding article is an overview of the critical, but largely unknown, struggle in Miami by the Haitian community for political asylum rights in the 1980’s.

The history of the fight against the racist deportation of Haitians, the criminal U.S./UN occupations and the super-exploitation of Haitian labor is a long one, too long for an adequate
millions to one! Less than a dozen of the Black Boat People received political asylum rights in the 1980’s, out of tens of thousands of claims!

The Haitian immigration fight goes on today for Temporary Protection Status (TPS), for Permanent Residency and an end to all U.S./U.N. intervention/occupation, but without the leadership of Father Jean-Juste (1946-2009).

A Gerard Jean-Juste Community Center is being built by the Miami Dade Government. A key promoter is a Haitian Commissioner who attended an event which honored members of the 2004 Haitian coup government.

Let’s be clear, Father Jean-Juste supported the Lavalas movement and former president Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Socialist Action did not. We do not support regimes which are capitalist. Lavalas’ “populism” masked the truth – the misery - of capitalist rule. Socialist Action urges capitalism’s overthrow by revolution.

Nevertheless, we ask, are the institutions being built in South Florida bearing Jean-Juste’s name, will they embody the selfless courage that sustained Jean-Juste for years, even in failing health, even in a CIA coup dungeon? Will it embody Jean-Juste’s fearless spirit?

Today’s Haitian activists deserve the truth!
The Hell That is Haiti
200 Years of Racism and Imperialist Intervention
By Marty Goodman
A Socialist Action Booklet

Other pamphlets from Socialist Action

Teamster Revolt 1934: What it took to make Minneapolis a union town
By Lisa Lauenburg $3.00

Free Free Palestine! End U.S. Aid to Apartheid Israel! Stop the Zionist Bombing of Gaza
By Jeff Mackler $1.00

The Coming Black Rebellion and the Legacy of Malcolm X
By Naila Weinstein, Jim Henle, & Roland Sheppard $3.50

Women in the New Century: Oppression and Fightback
By Grace O'Brien & Alissa De Rosa $2.00

Fukushima: A Catastrophic Assault on Earth & its People
By Christine Frank $3.00

Dialectical Materialism: The Philosophy of Marxism
By Cliff Conner $3.00

Capitalism vs. Socialism
By Jeff Mackler $3.00

Capitalism Damns the Environment
By Jeff Mackler $3.50

Tragedy of Libya: The U.S.-NATO War Disguised as ‘Humanitarian’ Intervention
By Andrew Pollack, Jeff Mackler & Daniel Xavier $3.00

The Struggle Against Fascism: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
By Adam Rischer $2.00

Socialist Action: Who We Are, What We Stand For
By Naila Weinstein $4.00

Spain 1937: Anarchism Fails Its Grand Test – Lessons for Today’s Movements
By Andrew Pollack $3.00

Marx Was Right: The Capitalist Crisis Today
By Jeff Mackler $3.00

Malcolm X: Fighter for Black Liberation
By Joseph Ryan, Kwame M.A. Sondhure & Naila Weinstein $2.25

Obama’s National Security State Exposed:
The Meaning of the Edward Snowden Revelations
By Jeff Mackler $3.00

Revolution and Counterrevolution in Egypt: Lessons of the Arab Spring
By Jeff Mackler $3.00

Origins of Women’s Oppression: A Socialist Analysis and Perspective
The foundational resolution on women’s equality approved by the 1979 Eleventh World Congress of the 4th International $3.50

Change the System Not the Climate!
A Marxist Eco-Socialist Analysis of the Environmental Crisis
By Daniel Tanuro $3.00

Ukraine in Turmoil
By Jeff Mackler & Michael Schreiber $3

Rape Culture & Violence Against Women:
The social, economic & political foundations of the oppression of women
By Christine Marie $1.00

Cuba’s Epic Revolution Undaunted
The meaning of Cuba’s economic restructuring and the release of the Cuban Five
By Claudia Katz and Jeff Mackler $3

The Fight for Class and Climate Justice
By Bill Onusich and Carl Soak $2.00

Ferguson USA: Why Killer Cops Go Free
By Marty Goodman and Clay Wadstra $3.00

The Politics of Revolutionary Socialism 2016
Politcal Revolution Adopted by the 17th National Convention of Socialist Action $3.00

Greece 2015: Lessons of a Tragic Defeat
By Jeff Mackler & Marty Goodman $2.00

BERNIE SANDERS: Capitalism’s Latest ‘ Lesser Evil’
By Dan Adams, Joe Autiello, Bruce Lennik, Jeff Mackler & Ann Montague $3.00

Mail your check plus an additional $1.00 for each pamphlet for postage to: Socialist Action, P.O. Box 10328, Oakland, CA 94610  510-268-9429  SocialistAction@lmi.net