

# The HAITI

Support Group




Liberation mural in Port-au-Prince. (Julio Etchart/Reportage)

**"The dogs eat the bodies very quickly."**

Haitian peasant at Titanyen body dump

**"This is unique, horrifyingly unique. It's the only case where we are forcibly turning people back to the custody of a regime which we have branded a gross violator of human rights."**

Bill O'Neill, US Lawyers Committee for Human Rights



**"These people know what they need. They need Aristide back. That's why they want the embargo enforced. It may hurt but it gives them hope."**

French aid worker, Cité Soleil slum, Port-au-Prince

**"Alone we're weak. Together we're strong. All together we're unstoppable."**

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide



What has happened in Haiti in the past year is a national tragedy – a popular, democratically elected President overthrown in a brutal military coup. But it has been compounded by an international scandal – the world has done nothing about it. The facts are simple:

▶ During the night of September 29-30th President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first elected head of state for more than 30 years, was overthrown in a bloody coup. Since then, more than 3,000 have been killed, tens of thousands have tried to flee and hundreds of thousands have gone into hiding.

▶ Aristide won power with 67% of the vote in a United Nations supervised poll. It was one of the most internationally-monitored elections of all time. His victory was recognised by every single member of the United Nations. Yet within 16 months of President Aristide's inauguration, the country's de facto rulers had effectively replaced him as head of state with Marc Bazin, who came second in the December 1990 election with only 13%.

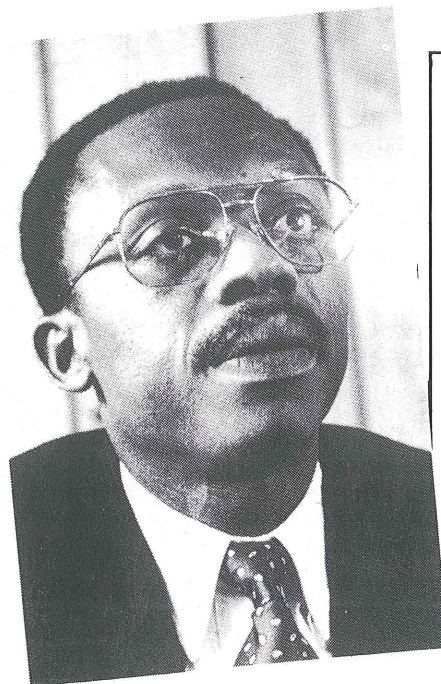
▶ This is the first time in history that a United Nations sponsored election result has been overturned. Yet the organisation has turned its back, refusing to consider mandatory economic sanctions. Management of the crisis has been sub-contracted out to the Organisation of American States (OAS), a powerless regional body dominated by its biggest and most powerful member, the United States.

"Aristide's reforms attacked extortion, smuggling and drug smuggling. The military felt threatened by it and have shown they will do just about anything to hang on to power."

Bill O'Neill, US Lawyers Committee for Human Rights

"Freedom of speech is virtually non-existent in Haiti. It's a human rights nightmare."

Kim Brice, Committee to Protect Journalists



# HAITI—WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

## NATIONAL TRAGEDY, INTERNATIONAL SCANDAL

*Even With Nowhere to Go, Haitians Are Taking to the Sea*  
By Lee Hockstader  
Washington Post Service  
Haiti — Sometime this week, Mr. Jean added, "We can't even stand around talking... From coastal and creaking... their homes, their livestock, their watches to... unknown number have drowned trying to... the trip. More are being... the high... "People..."

Haiti's poor refuse to give up hope of Aristide's return

Greg Chamberlain, in the second of his two reports finds people again waiting to be saved

Repatriated Haitians 'beaten and jailed'

Haitian Exodus: At Root, U.S. Policy Crippling of Island's Economy Appears to Be the Only Fruit

Violence Quickens Haitian Exodus

MIAMI (Combined Dispatches) — The exodus of Haitians... following an outbreak of political violence

▶ Britain is one of the worst sanctions busters. According to research by Senator Edward Kennedy's office, 8 ships loaded with British goods left Liverpool for Haiti between November 25th 1991 and March 3rd 1992. Although there is no legal obligation to enforce sanctions, British officials seemed to accept a moral responsibility when they assured President Aristide's representatives in June that they were doing everything possible to enforce sanctions.

▶ The economic sanctions imposed by the OAS have been a farce. Oil is the key to putting pressure on the military. Yet since the sanctions were imposed a year ago, 12 tankers have unloaded at the Shell oil terminal in Port-au-Prince. At least two of these shipments were made with the complicity of OAS members, the Bahamas and Colombia. **FACT:** The world HQ of Shell's transport and shipping is in London. Why not ask them why they are supporting the military government? (see back)

▶ The Vatican is the only state in the world to have recognised the de facto military government of Haiti. The Papal Nuncio was the only diplomat present at Marc Bazin's inauguration. The only bishop to support the return of President Aristide, Willy Romulus of Jérémie, has suffered persistent army harassment. Meanwhile, Pope John Paul II did not even mention President Aristide when he met the Haitian bishops in the Dominican Republic in October. The Papal Nuncio in London, Luigi Barbarito, is a former Vatican representative in Haiti. Why not write or phone? (see back)

▶ The United States is now forcibly repatriating Haitians who try to flee the repression. About 50,000 Haitians have now been plucked from leaky fishing boats and without any political screening or judicial process have been repatriated to face death and torture. IT IS THE FIRST TIME EVER THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS REPATRIATED REFUGEES TO A COUNTRY RUN BY A REGIME IT DOES NOT RECOGNISE.

▶ There is some evidence that Britain is following Washington's lead, repatriating Haitians who make it to the British Dependent Territories in the area. On July 5th, 119 Haitians were repatriated from Britain's Turks & Caicos Islands via the Bahamas. Why not ring the Foreign Office and ask what their policy is on Haitians who make it to British soil? (see back)

"Never underestimate these people. They threw out the French, the British, the Spanish, the Americans... even one of their own, Baby Doc. They could do it again."

Priest, Cap-Haitien, Haiti

"Our security people did a study. They concluded it would take only 150 French paratroopers to restore democracy."

French embassy diplomat, Port-au-Prince

## ARISTIDE IN BRITAIN: "I will speak what's in my heart"

The ambivalence of the British government's position on Haiti was highlighted when President Aristide visited Britain in August. Yes, the Foreign Office said it recognised him as head of state; no, he couldn't have the Special Branch protection that goes with such status.

Despite arguments over security – a legitimate concern for a man who has lost count of the assassination attempts he has survived – the visit was a great success.

The President spent two days in the north west, addressing nearly 2,000 people at a rally in Liverpool, attending church services and meeting ministers and officials.

In the city that played such a pivotal role in the slave trade that brought his ancestors to Haiti from Africa, President Aristide told his audience that he remained committed to non-violent action.

"We support the embargo as the best means of pressure on these thugs," he explained. "The Haitian people are solidly behind the embargo. But we need an embargo that includes oil."

During two days in London he did numerous press interviews, met Foreign Minister Mark Lennox-Boyd and was guest of honour at a reception hosted by the Jesuit Provincial in Britain, Michael Campbell-Johnston.

Asked by Channel Four's *World This Week* what he wanted President Bush to do to pressurise the Haitian military, President Aristide was succinct: "Make a phone call."

"Jean Claude Duvalier left Haiti after a phone call. Then there was General Namphy. He left after a phone call. General Avril left the country the same way. Why, eleven months after the coup is General Cedras still there? There is something wrong."

On his last day, President Aristide went around the world live in French, Spanish and English for two hours on the BBC World Service.

"Speaking from the heart" as he put it, he bitterly attacked US policy on Haiti.

"The boat people flee in small fishing boats. The tankers that bring the oil are huge. **Why can they always stop the boat people but not the tankers?**"

And he had a warning for all those who believe what has happened in Haiti can't happen elsewhere.

"In September 1991 we saw the army seize power in Haiti. On February 4th we saw the army try the same thing in Venezuela. Then there was the constitutional coup in Peru. It's clear that we have to defend democracy in Haiti so that we can defend it throughout the hemisphere."

More than 100 Haitian boat people feared drowned

Capsize deaths  
Miami — A wooden sailing boat, overloaded with illegal Haitian emigrants, capsized while under tow by a Bahamian naval vessel... that left... dead.

Tanker breaks Haiti embargo

A TANKER carrying two weeks' supply of oil has arrived in Haiti in the first breach of the seven-week-old international sanctions against the... state's army for over...





The results of another night of army rule. Port-au-Prince General Hospital (Amnesty International)

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

### WRITE OR TELEPHONE YOUR MP AND MEP

Tell them you're appalled by Britain and Europe's failure to impose effective economic sanctions on the military regime in Haiti. Ask them if they recognise Jean-Bertrand Aristide as the legitimate President of Haiti and if so ask what they are doing personally to restore him to power.

Your MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Tel: 071 219 3000

Your MEP, The European Parliament, Rue Bellard 97-113, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 02 284 21 11

### WRITE OR TELEPHONE SHELL TRANSPORT AND TRADING COMPANY

Tell them you know that Shell owns the only oil storage terminal and off-loading point in Haiti. Ask why they are using it to break the economic sanctions. Mention the human rights record of the military regime and the legitimacy of President Aristide's election. Ask them why they are supporting such a repressive regime.

Sir Peter Holmes, Chairman, Shell Transport & Trading Company PLC, The Shell Centre, London SE1 7NA. Tel: 071 934 1234

## JOIN...

We meet every fortnight at Trinity Church, Hodford Road, London NW11 (2 minutes from Golders Green tube station). Ring us on 081 201 9878 for the date of our next meeting. We organise lobbies, visits by Haitian diplomats and publish these bulletins. If you can't be active send us a cheque, however small.

### WRITE OR TELEPHONE THE PAPAL NUNCIO IN BRITAIN

Tell him you're horrified that the Vatican is the only state in the world to have recognised the military regime in Haiti. Luigi Barbarito is sensitive on this issue – he was once the Vatican's representative in Haiti and may have some influence with Rome.

His Excellency The Most Reverend Mgr. Luigi Barbarito, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, 54 Parkside, London SW19 5NF. Tel: 081 946 1410

### WRITE OR TELEPHONE THE FOREIGN OFFICE

Mark Lennox-Boyd is the Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office in charge of Latin America and the Caribbean. Ask what the British government's position on Haiti is and demand to know what specific measures the government has taken to restore President Aristide to power. Ask what other measures he would consider given the failure of the steps taken in the past year.

The Hon. Mark Lennox-Boyd MP, The Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Room 201, Whitehall Building, London SW1A 2AF. Tel: 071 270 3000

