OMNI HAITI WATCH NEWSLETTER

AID TO HAITI 3RD LIST

Compiled by Dick Bennett for OMNI

United Way is working on the long-term recovery in Haiti
volunteer.united-e-way.org/

Rapid Response Chaplains
are deploying to Haiti-you can make a difference by partnering with us!
www.BillyGraham.org

AmeriCares Sending Emergency Relief to Haiti. Donate Now
www.AmeriCares.org/haiti-earthquake

Habitat for Humanity is working on shelter for victims. Donate today!
www.habitat.org/Haiti (these 4 from Denise Garner)

In Arkansas: Haiti Education Foundation, 1810 W. Block St., El Dorado, Ark. 71730. And see:
www.arkansasonline.com/haitiquake (from DemGaz)

From American Friends Service Committee
Today, AFSC’s first shipment of medical supplies arrived in Port-au-Prince. This is only the beginning of
AFSC’s longer-term response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti.
To address the immediate need for medical equipment and supplies, AFSC released $50,000 to our partner,
Handicap International. They have received the first shipment for supplies today.
Also today, AFSC is releasing an additional $50,000, to provide ten thousand meals over the next 100 days to
families in three hard-hit neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince, where food is an increasingly urgent priority. In
this phase of response, AFSC is partnering with HEKS (Swiss Interchurch Aid).
AFSC’s plan extends beyond short-term, needs such as food and water. We are also planning an ongoing
response to help Haitians rebuild their communities over time.
Help us continue to support the Haitian earthquake survivors as they rebuild their lives and communities –
make a donation now ………
Be sure to check our web site, afsc.org/Haiti, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest news.

AVAAZ
avaaz@avaaz.org
Dear friends,
Avaaz members have surged to the help of Haiti raising over $1 million in just a few days! Every
dollar/euro/yen donated is immediately being sent to empower trustworthy local partner organizations to scale
up their efforts, but the devastation is staggering and the needs remain massive. See the email below -- let’s
stand with the Haitian people, help now! https://secure.avaaz.org/en/stand_with_haiti ………………
Based on expert advice from leading humanitarian NGOs who have been working in Haiti for over 20 years, we're offering donations to trusted local organizations, including:

**Honor and Respect for Bel Air**, a big community-based network in Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince, which is also supported by our friends at the respected Brazilian NGO Viva Rio

**Coordination Régionale des Organisations de Sud-Est (CROSE)**, which brings together some of the most active community groups in the South of Haiti where the earthquake struck hardest. These groups include: women's groups, schools networks and local cooperatives

**Zanmi Lasante**, sister organization of Partners in Health (PiH) in Haiti. PiH and its partners have been among the first to respond with emergency medical services to the most vulnerable

In 2008, Avaaz members donated over $2 million for Burmese monks to respond to the devastating Cyclone Nargis. Our money made an incredible difference there -- because it went directly to local people on the front lines of the aid effort……..

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/stand_with_haiti

With hope for Haiti, Luis, Paul, Graziela, Paula, Ricken, Pascal, Alice, Benjamin, Milena and the whole Avaaz team……

ABOUT AVAAZ Avaaz.org is an independent, not-for-profit global campaigning organization that works to ensure that the views and values of the world's people inform global decision-making. (Avaaz means "voice" in many languages.) Avaaz receives no money from governments or corporations, and is staffed by a global team based in Ottawa, London, Rio de Janeiro, New York, Buenos Aires, and Geneva. Click here to learn more about our largest campaigns. Don't forget to check out our Facebook and Myspace and Bebo pages! You can also follow Avaaz on Twitter! …To contact Avaaz, please do not reply to this email. Instead, write to us via the webform at http://www.avaaz.org/en/contact . You can also call us at +1-888-922-8229 (US) or +55 21 2509 0368 (Brazil).

NATIONS SENDING AID (what nation is *not*?)
Germany, France, Venezuela, Gaza

MEDIA RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE
By Kiilu Nyasha
The Haitian Tragedy and Mainstream Media Response
Ignored by most commentators is the truth of Haiti's historic and ongoing poverty -" in classic "blame the victim" coverage. E.g., it's not mentioned that Haitians fought their way out of slavery in 1804, and were celebrating their bicentennial when the U.S. kidnapped and exiled (for the second time) their popular President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who won two landslide victories in internationally monitored elections


January 17, 2010 at 02:14:37
The Haitian Tragedy and Mainstream Media Response
By Kiilu Nyasha (about the author)

I cannot remain silent in the face of so much racism and disinformation streaming over the mainstream media regarding the ongoing Haitian tragedy…..For the article go to . http://www.opednews.com/articles/The-Haitian-Tragedy-and-Ma-by-Kiilu-Nyasha-100116-842.html

HISTORY OF HAITI
“Haiti and America's Historic Debt”  
By Robert Parry

January 13, 2010

“Announcing emergency help for Haiti after a devastating 7.0-magnitude earthquake, President Barack Obama noted America’s historic ties to the impoverished Caribbean nation, but few Americans understand how important Haiti’s contribution to U.S. history was………”

This fascinating essay gives an account of the Haitian revolts of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and their consequences to the US and to Haiti. Dick

“30 Years Ago Haiti Grew All the Rice It Needed. What Happened?
The U.S. Role in Haiti's Food Riots” By BILL QUIGLEY

April 21, 2008

For the whole article go to:
http://www.counterpunch.org/quigley04212008.html

………The New York Times lectured Haiti on April 18 that “Haiti, its agriculture industry in shambles, needs to better feed itself.” Unfortunately, the article did not talk at all about one of the main causes of the shortages -- the fact that the U.S. and other international financial bodies destroyed Haitian rice farmers to create a major market for the heavily subsidized rice from U.S. farmers. This is not the only cause of hunger in Haiti and other poor countries, but it is a major force.

Thirty years ago, Haiti raised nearly all the rice it needed. What happened?

In 1986, after the expulsion of Haitian dictator Jean Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loaned Haiti $24.6 million in desperately needed funds (Baby Doc had raided the treasury on the way out). But, in order to get the IMF loan, Haiti was required to reduce tariff protections for their Haitian rice and other agricultural products and some industries to open up the country’s markets to competition from outside countries. The U.S. has by far the largest voice in decisions of the IMF.

Doctor Paul Farmer (BG: Farmer has been shown recently as a commentator on the earthquake in Haiti) was in Haiti then and saw what happened. “Within less than two years, it became impossible for Haitian farmers to compete with what they called ‘Miami rice.’ The whole local rice market in Haiti fell apart as cheap, U.S. subsidized rice, some of it in the form of ‘food aid,’ flooded the market. There was violence, ‘rice wars,’ and lives were lost…………” From B. Geary, “thinkcivic”

PS: Noam Chomsky:
Noam Chomsky on Haiti - Part 1
06:12 - 6 months ago youtube.com
Noam Chomsky on Haiti’s History - Part 1
youtube.com

Haiti’s history of hardship
2 min 58 sec - 2 days ago -
haiti's fate as one of the poorest countries in the hemisphere has not been inevitable. It's history has been marked not only by natural disasters, but ...
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttqexOlqhWM - Related videos

11:32 AM Jan. 14, 2010
Herald Photographer Brings Compassion, History to Haiti Earthquake Coverage
http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=175883
I returned from Haiti just a couple of days before a powerful earthquake rocked the country on January 12. I was in Haiti on a solidarity delegation to document human rights abuses by the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) and to observe preparations for February's legislative elections. Other members of the HAW Steering Committee encouraged me to share my thoughts with the broader HAW membership and friends on the historical background to this catastrophe. (HAW=Historians Against War)

Many people have observed that the Haitian earthquake was more a political disaster than a natural one. The similarly powerful 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in California killed 63 people, while the death toll in Haiti appears as if it may soar over 100,000. Our experiences in the country confirmed that the solution to Haiti’s problem is political in nature.

Two hundred some years ago Haiti was the richest colony in the world, but today it is the poorest and most unequal country in the Americas. A successful slave revolt in 1804 defeated the French planter class, but the only other independent country in the Americas, the United States, refused to welcome a Black Republic because of the powerful example it set for marginalized and oppressed people everywhere. The French demanded a 150 million franc payment from the Haitians for losing their prized pearl of the Antilles. Haiti made the payment, strangling any possibility for development, and sacrificing its future so as not to be seen as an international pariah. [See the opening article by Robert Parry.]

In Haiti, we heard from grassroots activists who complained that large international aid agencies collect funds for administrative salaries, vehicles, and office support, but little of this money filters down to the people who need it the most. Dumping cheap rice on the country has destroyed the local agricultural economy. Haiti has a desperate short-term need for assistance, but this aid must be funneled through groups like Doctors Without Borders (http://doctorswithoutborders.org/) and Partners in Health (http://www.pih.org/) that have a track record and distribution networks necessary in place to make proper
use of the aid.

The longer term solution, however, is political. Already conservative pundits are proclaiming that the earthquake is an opportunity to remake the country along neoliberal lines. But the extraction of natural resources, creation of low-wage jobs, and privatization of government functions are factors that have left Haiti incapable of responding to a natural disaster.

Haiti has never recovered from the ostracization it faced from the French and United States governments at independence, and ongoing international policies appear to be designed to sink the country deeper into debt. The U.S. marines occupied the country from 1915 to 1934, and the earthquake seems to provide a convenient excuse for the United States once again to land military troops and reassert its imperial control over the country.

In 2004, the French, United States, and Canadian governments removed popular leftist president Jean Bertrand Aristide who promised to shift resources to the most marginalized sectors of society. They have insisted that the current government ban his Fanmi Lavalas, the largest political party in Haiti, from participating in electoral contests.

The solution to Haiti's problems is to allow the country to develop its own economy and political system without constant outside intervention. Otherwise, Haiti's next natural calamity will be worse than this one, and the country will continue to sink deeper into poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.

Marc Becker
Associate Professor of Latin American History
Truman State University

More information is available on his website http://www.yachana.org/reports/haiti/ . For more in depth information on the historical background and current events in Haiti, see:

[BOOKS]


Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Laura Flynn, Eyes of the heart: Seeking a path for the poor in the age of globalization (Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press, 2000).

David Patrick Geggus, Haitian revolutionary studies, Blacks in the diaspora (Bloomington, Ind: Indiana University Press, 2002).


Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, Haiti: the breached citadel, Rev. and updated ed. (Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2004).


Laurent Dubois and John D. Garrigus, ed., Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804: A brief history with documents, Bedford Series in History and Culture (Boston, MA ; New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martins,
2006).


Note: You are receiving this email because you signed a Historians Against the War statement (see http://www.historiansagainstwar.org/) or asked to be including in HAW's informational mailings. If you no longer wish to receive these occasional messages about HAW's work, send an email to haw-info-request@stopthewars.org?subject=unsubscribe.

BILL QUIGLEY’S QUICK HISTORY OF US EXPLOITATION OF HAITI

“Why the US Owes Haiti Billions: The Briefest History”
By Bill Quigley 17 January, 2010
http://countercurrents.org/quigley170110.htm

Why does the US owe Haiti Billions? Colin Powell, former US Secretary of State, stated his foreign policy view as the "Pottery Barn rule." That is - "if you break it, you own it."
The US has worked to break Haiti for over 200 years. We owe Haiti. Not charity. We owe Haiti as a matter of justice. Reparations. And not the $100 million promised by President Obama either - that is Powerball money.
The US owes Haiti Billions - with a big B.
The US has worked for centuries to break Haiti. The US has used Haiti like a plantation. The US helped bleed the country economically since it freed itself, repeatedly invaded the country militarily, supported dictators who abused the people, used the country as a dumping ground for our own economic advantage, ruined their roads and agriculture, and toppled popularly elected officials. The US has even used Haiti like the old plantation owner and slipped over there repeatedly for sexual recreation.
Here is the briefest history of some of the major US efforts to break Haiti.
In 1804........http://countercurrents.org/quigley170110.htm
This brief history shows why the US owes Haiti Billions - with a big B. This is not charity. This is justice. This is reparations. The current crisis is an opportunity for people in the US to own up to our country's history of dominating Haiti and to make a truly just response.
(For more on the history of exploitation of Haiti by the US see: Paul Farmer, The Uses of Haiti; Peter Hallward, Damming the Flood; and Randall Robinson, An Unbroken Agony)
Bill is Legal Director at the Center for Constitutional Rights and a law professor at Loyola University New Orleans. He is a Katrina survivor and has been active in human rights in Haiti for years with the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti. Quigley77@gmail.com

BUSH’S IMPEACHABLE CRIMES AGAINST HAITI

RICH TOURISTS IN HAITI (RICH TOURISTS IN THE 3RD WORLD)

“A Picture of Haiti You May Not Have Seen”

I forward this report from Antoine Jaulmes, a French auto engineer and a colleague of mine in Initiatives of Change (IofC), a non-governmental organization working for peace, reconciliation and human security worldwide.
“Rebuilding Haiti will not be enough” By Antoine Jaulmes  20 January 2010

......Why was it that the daily reality of Haiti did not cause the same kind of emotional response as the catastrophe which hit the island? Life expectancy in Haiti is only 53 years (against about 75 years in developed countries). The death rate of children under five is 12.3 per cent (against 0.5 per cent in developed countries), meaning that over 40,000 very young children die every year in Haiti. Losing your child before its fifth birthday is a rare tragedy for the developed world but a cruel reality in Haiti – the odds are one in seven. Ninety-five per cent of these tragedies could be avoided if poverty receded.

The poverty scandal is there all the time for us to see. The arrival of the luxury cruise liner Independence of the Seas on the devastated northern shores of Haiti three days after the earthquake only shines an extra spotlight on the question. Indeed the idyllic beach of Labadee welcomes a continuous flow of well-fed North American tourists, looking for rest and amusement, close to the epicentre of the quake, at the very heart of this land tormented by hunger, violence and death. This beach, like a few others, is a no-go zone for locals, who are kept at bay by barbed wire and heavily armed guards........

Is not the main merit of the Royal Caribbean ships to underline the scandal of extreme poverty? Worldwide, 25,000 children aged between 0 and 5 die daily of causes which could easily be prevented. Malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia are the main child-killers, in a context of insufficient or non-existent infrastructure and medical services. That number represents one Haiti earthquake every two or three days. The main ally of these killers is extreme poverty, a curse and a servitude plaguing Haiti and 20 per cent of humankind.

What the Royal Caribbean ships, and indirectly the 12 January earthquake, do demonstrate is that urgent change is needed. The imbalance in the distribution of wealth and the injustice has reached such heights that global stability is permanently threatened by conflict and migration. Rebuilding Haiti is a noble and imperative task, around which the main economic powers will, no doubt, unite. But rebuilding Haiti is not enough. What is needed this century is to end extreme poverty, to break the chains of economic servitude, just as the chains of slavery were broken two centuries ago.

Just like global warming, the issue of poverty is one of vital significance for the future of humankind—and no doubt faces the same deep difficulties to overcome national or vested interests. A large moral movement, an international mobilisation of public opinion and a good experience of dialogue and negotiation are needed to carry out the needed changes......;

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