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HAITI HAS BEEN GIVEN A POISON PILL

HAITIAN REFUGEES TO BE SWAPPED AS COMMODITIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA

HPP EXHORTS PRESIDENT PREVAL TO:

- WRITE TO PRESIDENT BUSH IN SUPPORT OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HAITIANS (TPS) H.R 522, AS WELL AS H.R 454, TO AMEND THE HAITIAN REFUGEE IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT (HRIFA) OF 1998.
- DEMAND COMPLETE ELIMINATION AND FORGIVENESS OF HAITI'S EXTERNAL DEBT ESTIMATED AT \$1,097,800,000.00 H.RES 241.
- TAKE CONTROL OF MINUSTHA AS PRESCRIBED BY ARTICLE 143 OF THE HAITIAN CONSTITUTION.

Washington, D.C. President Préval was received in the Oval Office on May 8, 2007 by President Bush in a meeting filled with innuendos and nothing concrete capable of helping the Haitian people in their plight for security, an up-surge in economic activity, and a push toward self-sufficiency.

President Bush supports MINUSTHA's operations in Haiti despite the fact that the information collected indicates MINUSTHA is failing tremendously in Haiti in its approach to solving the security issues, as a result of the destabilization of the constitutional government in 2004, and their presence. During this meeting, President Bush stated that inflation is down in Haiti. "This statement is totally wrong because an increase in purported tax collections has no bearing on inflation, and more to do with government spending and deficit," said Jacob Francois a co-founder of HPP.

Interest rates remain high in Haiti, lack of inflow of capital, lack of production and sufficient export, cost of food and basic necessities for the average Haitians to survive on a daily basis remain rampant. The exchange rate has not improved (\$1= 37.42 Gourdes) as published by the Republic Bank of Haiti as of May 9, 2007. The only noticeable change in inflation has to do with price of energy, which is a direct result of the accord signed between the Pr?val/Alexis government and the Chavez government.

The immigration bill President Bush promises to sign this year is an immigration bill based on the US government's global strategies, and has nothing to do with the plight of Haitian people at sea or living in the United States illegally. The bills in congress with a direct bearing on Haiti and the Haitian people are, H.R 522 to allow (TPS) for Haitians, H.R. 454 to amend the HRIFA Act of 1998 and H.RES 241 for the elimination of Haiti's external debts which, President Bush failed to mention or promised to do anything about, and President Préval failed to discuss specifically. "Immigrants from Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador were granted TPS in response to the devastations of Hurricane Mitch in 1998, and the US continues to do so to this day. The continuation of unfair and discriminatory immigration policies toward Haitians has not allowed Haiti to obtain the sense of normalcy that its Central American counterparts are being given the opportunity to achieve, stipulates Rep. Hasting in a recent letter to President Bush. Yet Haitians who have also been victims of numerous hurricanes; particularly Hurricane Jeanne in 2004, along with constant political instability have never benefited from such opportunity, said Eugenia Charles a co-founder of HPP. The Bush Administration prefers to trade the Haitian refugees with Australia for Asian refugees of lighter shade rather than granting TPS to Haitians.

President Préval visit to the United States has accomplished nothing in the way of providing solutions to the problems Haitians face in Haiti and in the United States. HPP believes that President Préval and his government have a moral obligation to state clear objectives when meeting with American officials. So far nothing was accomplished by the meeting. No money for agriculture, no money for communications upgrade, no money for roads construction. These projects are necessary and need to be completed in order for the Diaspora and foreign investments to flow into Haiti. Until some strong and effective commitments can be made on the part of the American government, nothing worth mentioning will come from the meeting of President Préval and President Bush. As usual, Haiti was given a poison pill as in February of 2004.

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