

reporter there. You would hear an entirely different story. There have been demonstrations throughout Haiti for the past three weeks against the embargo, and they say, well, if the international community or the American government believes that they will force the Haitian people to its knees, to accept a solution imposed by the international community or both the American government and the international community, they are terribly mistaken.

EIR: Are you saying Haiti will not give up its struggle be-

cause of this U.S.-led embargo?

Honorat: Of course. We will not kneel down to any imposition coming from abroad.

EIR: Mr. Prime Minister, there were talks last week between Haiti's parliament and OAS envoy Augusto Ramírez Ocampo. What came out of those talks? Where do the negotiations stand?

Honorat: I don't think anything came out of those negotiations, nothing at all. Apparently there were negotiations

Haitian leaders charge U.S. embargo is genocide

Haiti's provisional President, Joseph Nerette, and his prime minister, Jean-Jacques Honorat, denounced as "genocide" the U.S.-led embargo decreed by the Organization of American States (OAS) against that black nation. The economic stranglehold has been imposed ostensibly to force the return to power of dictator Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the would-be Haitian Pol Pot removed from the presidency by a military coup on Sept. 30.

"This savage measure of strangulation is arbitrary, it is illegal, unjust and unjustifiable," said Nerette in a message to the participants at the Schiller Institute Conference "Build a True Fourth Development Decade—Against Genocide," held over the weekend of Dec. 7-8 in Arlington, Virginia. The embargo "is rightly perceived as a genocide perpetrated against the poor children, youth and elderly of Haiti," stated Nerette, who was elected by Haiti's Parliament to replace Aristide.

In an exclusive interview with *EIR* on Dec. 10 (page 39), Haitian Prime Minister Honorat called the embargo "an act of war against this country. As a matter of fact, it's an act of destruction against this country, and it is an act of genocide."

Honorat is Haiti's best-known human rights activist and was a leader in the fight against the brutal Duvalier dictatorship. He headed Haiti's Center for the Defense of Civil Liberties, until he was named acting prime minister by Nerette. Before the coup, Honorat was named one of this year's recipients of the first International Human Rights Award of the American Bar Association.

Honorat charged that Aristide was setting up his own private militia with former members of the dreaded Tontons Macoutes death squads set up by the late dictator

François "Papa Doc" Duvalier. Aristide's "private militia was called the SSP, that is, the Special Presidential Service, and former tontons macoutes were being recruited throughout the country, to be incorporated into this new militia. There were already more than 3,000 people registered." Honorat said Aristide was physically eliminating his potential political opponents when the coup took place.

Two of them were murdered on the very eve of the coup, including Pastor Silvio Claude, the head of Haiti's Christian Democratic Party (PDCH), who was "necklaced," mutilated, and dragged through the streets of the southwestern town of Le Cayes by Aristide supporters at dawn on Sept. 30. Victims of necklacing, or "Père Lebrun," have their arms chopped off and a tire filled with gasoline is placed around their necks and set ablaze. Photographs of the incident reportedly show Jean-Claude Jean-Baptiste, "délégué"—i.e., Aristide's official presidential representative—in the department of du Sud, leading the attack against Claude. Jean-Baptiste is alleged to have struck the first blow against the PDCH leader, according to court records. The photographs obtained by *EIR* show Pastor Claude's mutilated body surrounded by a smiling mob, posing for the photographer with the sticks and knives used to hack Pastor Claude to death. One of the individuals is holding up the pastor's mutilated penis as if it were a trophy.

'Let them suffer'

Led by George Bush's favorites, Argentine President Carlos Menem and Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez (a member of the Socialist International), 13 Latin American Presidents, at a meeting of the Rio Group in Cartagena, Colombia, called on Dec. 2 for the embargo against Haiti to be "applied inflexibly." The same leaders failed to reach a decision regarding how to deal with communist Cuba, beyond a vaguely worded call for Fidel Castro to grant more "democracy." Colombia's *La Prensa* on Dec. 3 noted that the Rio Group wants "little Haiti to swallow the medicine they do not prescribe for Fidel."

about the appointment or designation of a prime minister. I don't think any practical result was ever reached.

EIR: It has also been said that you would be willing to step down as prime minister and let Aristide return if a negotiated solution can be reached. Is that correct?

Honorat: I stepped in just to prevent my country from falling apart in a civil war and from having to endure an international intervention, a foreign intervention. That was my only reason for stepping in, to abandon momentarily my human

rights activities and occupations, which means that I am ready at any time to step down from a position which I have never aspired to, which I have never sought, and which, as a matter of fact, actually upsets my entire conception of life.

If at any point in time, the negotiators believe that the return of Aristide would be a solution, well, that would be fine with me. But, as I have been saying since the beginning of this crisis, the return of Mr. Aristide—at least now, I don't know in one, two, or four years, but now—a return of Mr. Aristide now would mean civil war in this country, and the

The Presidents also called for the European countries to cooperate fully with the embargo. At a meeting in Brussels the same day, the European Community foreign ministers said they favored an all-out trade embargo against Haiti, as also requested by Aristide.

Argentina's Menem wants a total chokehold. "There is only one way to carry out the blockade," said Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella. "Place ships to prevent the arrival of other ships."

The fact that "the embargo harms the Haitian people" is not important, said Pérez, who blames the Haitian military for the embargo, not the United States and its OAS allies. The Venezuelan leader, who is demanding an end to the blockade against communist Cuba, said of Haiti: "It is better that the people suffer now with an embargo which should be turned into a blockade to force the murderous soldiers to give way to the democratic process." Pérez reportedly told his colleagues at Cartagena that there must be action soon to force Aristide's return to power because, otherwise, the militaries in other nations of the hemisphere may be emboldened into attempting coups. He also called for prompt action against the military-controlled government of Surinam.

Out of a token 100 Haitian refugees who went to Venezuela, 73 chose to return to Haiti in early December, after they were dumped on a mosquito-infested island at the mouth of the Orinoco River, while ousted President Aristide, "champion of the poor," is being housed by Pérez in the luxurious presidential suite at the Hilton.

Similarly, prevented by judicial order from deporting Haitian refugees, the Bush administration is daily making conditions intolerable at the concentration camps in Guantánamo—where the Haitians are penned behind barbed wire to keep them from entering U.S. territory. This is intended to force the Haitians to beg for repatriation.

In a statement issued Nov. 21, Haiti's Catholic Bishops Conference noted: "Because of an internal crisis, some international organizations took decisions which usurp Haiti's sovereignty. In order to impose those de-

isions they have decreed an inhuman embargo against this defenseless country, and when some unfortunate souls seek to escape from this intolerable situation, the countries that could give them shelter have returned them, without any compassion, to their country of origin." Across the island of Hispaniola, the Bishops Conference of the Dominican Republic endorsed the Haitian bishops' statement on Nov. 26, and noted that the U.S. and other OAS nations "have hardened their hearts now that they have been called upon to take in our suffering Haitian brothers." The bishops asked that Haitians be allowed "to find their own solutions themselves. We call upon the whole world to respond to their piercing cry: Mercy for Haiti!"

Meanwhile, Washington, D.C. shadow senator Jesse Jackson, an early supporter of the genocidal war against Iraq, continued calling on the Bush administration to invade black Haiti "to restore democracy." And João Baena Soares, secretary general of the OAS, covered up for the mass killings caused by the U.S.-OAS embargo, by denying that Haitians are suffering any extra hardship. "The situation is not dramatic. There are nutrition problems, but at the usual level," Baena told the OAS. He blamed the Haitians for the blockade.

U.S. responsible for famine

In contrast, former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick wrote Dec. 8 that "the U.S. must accept responsibility for having pushed Haiti to the brink of famine and thus creating the refugees." Kirkpatrick (not likely to be taken for a bleeding-heart liberal) called on the U.S. to "urgently provide the basic necessities—food, fuel, and medicine—permitted under the embargo" and to make "decent provision" for the refugees. Merely restoring Aristide is no solution. "An elected President does not in itself guarantee the constitutionality of a government. Adolf Hitler came to power in a constitutional fashion," Kirkpatrick wrote—and Papa Doc was also "an elected President of Haiti."

—Carlos Wesley