

Obama Haiti Crimes: Dark Age Mass Murder

by Cynthia R. Rush

Sept. 2—Almost 19 months after the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake which devastated Haiti and killed 300,000 of its citizens, the island nation and its desperately poor and still-traumatized people have been left to rot in a New Dark Age existence, of which Lyndon LaRouche warned on Feb. 23, 2010.

Cholera, famine, no decent shelter or jobs, are what Haitians see when they try to envision the future. That there have been no episodes of mass violence is miraculous, and many analysts warn that the eruption of violent protest is only a matter of time.

Who has Haitian blood on his hands? Barack “Nero” Obama, who criminally refused to adopt LaRouche’s proposals to sign a 25-year bilateral development agreement with the Haitian government, and to mobilize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help relocate 1.2 million “internally displaced people,” or IDPs, out of the filthy camps in the flood-prone capital of Port-au-Prince to safety on higher ground.

Today, 600,000 human beings *still* live in over 1,000 squalid camps in the capital, bereft of sanitation, potable water, or security, and ever more vulnerable to a still-rampaging cholera epidemic and other infectious diseases. One foreign physician who runs a clinic in the capital warned of “pediatric genocide” in the camps, because of the large number of babies being born there who quickly become ill and have little chance of survival, because medical care for them is nonexistent.

Ninety-four percent of camp dwellers recently interviewed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) say they desperately want to leave these hellholes, but have nowhere to go.

You Were Warned

LaRouche’s February 2010 warning was explicit: “Haiti is the image of what awaits all of humanity under the current, British imperial international financial system. If we do not act, Haiti will soon face conditions in which dengue, cholera, malaria, typhoid, and other epidemics will spread with devastating conse-

quences. . . . It is the face of the New Dark Age. We must stop it in Haiti if we are to have the moral fitness to survive on this planet.”

The October 2010 cholera outbreak bore out LaRouche’s forecast. “Since this was foreknowable and foreknown, this means that the policy of genocide implicit in Obama’s policy is now coming to bear,” he stated on Oct. 23, 2010. “And probably, among the next targets of this genocide, is going to be the people of the United States themselves, unless Obama is removed before that.”

Victims of the recent flooding, tornado, drought, and hurricane catastrophes that have struck large swaths of the United States can attest to the fact that they now know what Obama’s “Haiti treatment” means.

‘Not a Human Life’

Incredibly, even after 19 months, Haiti is still in the “relief” phase of post-earthquake recovery operations. Had the Obama Administration responded as LaRouche advised, that phase would have been much shorter, and given way to serious reconstruction efforts.

The fact that the population of the IDP camps has dropped to 600,000, from 1.2 million at the end of last year, doesn’t reflect any improvement in the lives of those who left, or suggest that they found decent and safe shelter.

A certain number of people left out of desperation to escape the camps’ subhuman living conditions and lack of security. “The life of people living in the tents is not a human life,” said one camp dweller. “Our human rights are not respected. No institutions are taking care of us. We are forgotten. We want people to remember us, and help us to have the human life we should have. It’s not our choice to live this way.” Said another, “We’ve been abandoned like stray dogs.”

A significant portion of the decline is due to violent, forced evictions by police and private security thugs sent by alleged landowners. Most of the latter have no proof of ownership, but in a situation where foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have more control than the elected government over what goes on, the so-called landowners feel confident in trampling on laws stating that camp dwellers have the right to due process. The Mayor of Port-au-Prince has with impunity personally ordered the illegal evictions of tens of thousands of camp dwellers.

Eight thousand people have been evicted in the last three months. The IOM reports that 1 in 4 of the 680,000



USAID

So far, only some 90,000 of the 12x18 meter, one-room, plywood and plastic “transitional-shelters” have been built. Some 400,000 camp dwellers aren’t even eligible to get one of the corrugated roof “dog houses,” because they can’t prove that they owned homes or property before the quake. Shown: Men assembling a CHF International T-Shelter in Haiti.

people inhabiting the camps a few months ago was threatened with eviction. “The rapid pace of evictions is an important driver in the decline of camp numbers,” IOM’s Haiti Chief of Mission Luca Dall’Oglio explains. “It is apparent that many people are leaving the camps under duress, and that evictions are playing an increasingly important role in the population trends in camps.”

Those expelled are given the equivalent of \$250, and told to use it for “relocation.” To where? Most use it for food.

Temporary ‘Housing’

What about the much-publicized “T-Shelters” (transitional shelters) that were supposed to be provided for the short term to camp dwellers during the relief phase?

According to Haiti Grassroots Watch (HGW), 116,000 T-Shelters are still being built and offered *only* to IDPs who owned homes or property prior to the 2010 quake. The IOM reports that roughly 62% of the 304,020 displaced families living in camps—400,000 people—never owned a home or land, and are therefore ineligible for T-shelters.

While any option is better than living in the squalor of the IDP camps, the so-called shelters—often derided

as “chicken coops” or “dog houses”—are hardly fit for human habitation. These are one-room structures measuring 12x18 square meters, made of plywood and plastic, with corrugated tin roofs and often no windows. Approximately 90,000 have been built so far.

The Washington, D.C.-based Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) estimates that only 50,000 people have actually been resettled. It would take only \$200-300 million to build temporary shelters for 600,000 people, but in the absence of any centralized authority, Haiti’s chaotic land-tenure system, along with charges of government corruption, have become the excuse for not launching a crash housing program.

According to an Aug. 4 *Rolling Stone* article by investigative reporter Janet Reitman, California structural engineer Kit Miyamoto was hired by USAID to assess earthquake damage to housing in the capital and to train Haitian builders to begin repairs to 100,000 damaged houses that were considered salvageable. But as of May, only a few thousand

homes had been repaired, while millions of dollars were diverted to other highly impractical “shelter solutions.”

There are still 8 million cubic meters of rubble clogging Port-au-Prince’s streets. Yet, Reitman reports, planners are floating such unworkable ideas as “model communities,” with high-rise apartments, tennis courts, and walking paths. Then there is the British monarchy’s loony Prince Charles, whose charitable foundation has unfortunately been awarded the contract to rebuild downtown Port-au-Prince. They propose building a series of self-sustaining “urban villages,” with their own separate condos and neighborhood-watch committees. Who is supposed to inhabit such structures?

Where’s the Money?

Of \$5.3 billion pledged by international donors for 2011-12 for the Haiti Reconstruction Fund, only \$352 million has been delivered to date. According to HGW, money allocated for T-Shelter construction is “used up.” According to an official of the United Nations-coordinated Shelter Cluster, the latter “has no more presence in the regions due to lack of funds. It is not clear yet when it will close down, and which agency will take over.”



UN/Marco Dormino

Eight million cubic meters of rubble still clog downtown Port-au-Prince. The “charitable” foundation of the Empire’s New Dark Age lunatic Prince Charles has been given the contract to “rebuild.” The burning hellhole shown here is the downtown, 17 days after the Jan. 12, 2011 earthquake.

Of \$1.4 billion pledged by the U.S. government, only \$180 million has been disbursed. The United Nations has repeatedly issued desperate appeals to raise the \$175 million earmarked for combatting Haiti’s cholera epidemic, but only approximately \$30 million has come in.

The lack of funding and necessary planning for cholera relief is particularly egregious, given the rapidity with which the epidemic spread—quite predictable given the appalling conditions in which people are living. Most NGOs focussed solely on Port-au-Prince, ignoring rural areas where the mortality rate is even higher. The death toll now stands at 6,200, with over 400,000 infected.

An August report by CEPR notes that the World Health Organization (WHO) badly underestimated the number of cholera cases, first predicting 200,000 and later revising that figure up to 400,000 as a worst-case scenario. Today, in the midst of the rainy season, the number of cases continues to climb well above 400,000.

Moreover, despite the fact that a surge in cholera cases was predicted once the rainy season began in May-June, preparations and funding to respond to the surge were not only inadequate; they actually slowed.

Many of the NGOs involved in cholera relief began to shut down their operations because of lack of funds. From a high of 128 in January 2011, the number of national and international agencies working on cholera relief in Haiti’s ten departments dropped to 48 by July, CEPR reports.

Famine Looms

A large percentage of Haiti’s population, especially the very young, suffer from severe malnutrition. According to the Haiti-based National Food Security Coordinator (CNSA), the country is just “one step away” from “extreme famine.”

CNSA spokesman Gary Mathien warns that last March’s drought—rains came only later, in April—delayed Spring planting, ensuring reduced agricultural production for August and September, and thus a smaller food supply. Normally, the Spring harvest provides 60% of annual agricultural production, but this will now be below average, the Famine Early Warning System warns.

It will take very little to push Haiti over the edge into outright famine. CNSA adds that any one of a number of “political, social, and natural factors,” could, in just the space of a few months, lead to even worse food shortages. A May 2011 report on Haiti’s food security warns that any hurricane or severe storm striking the country between now and November will further aggravate the already endangered food supply.

Add to this an inflation rate that has climbed continuously since October 2010, and has caused a 9.5% increase in food prices, with the exception of rice. Prices are also increasing due to high transportation and fuel costs—food is transported on precarious roads that worsen during heavy rains. This has forced hungry families to reduce the number of daily meals, as well as portion sizes and dietary diversity.