

Anti-Imperialist News Service

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Contents

Haitian Election Results

U. S. Steps Up Interference Inside Iran While Military Threats Continue

U. N. Report Calls for U.S. to Shut Down Guantanamo Prison

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Haitian Election Results

On February 16, Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council declared Rene Preval the winner of the February 7 election. Preval overwhelming won the votes of the poor and oppressed Haitian masses. This support was based on the fact that Preval was closely associated with President Aristide (who was kidnapped, and his government overthrown, by a U.S. invasion in 2004) and the Lavalas movement.

The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) announced Preval's victory only after several days of massive, nationwide demonstrations. These mobilizations thwarted the attempt of the occupying U.S.-U.N. army and the Haitian elite to steal votes.

Initial polls, including the reports of the CEP, showed Preval getting two-thirds of the vote. But on the next day, under pressure from the Haitian business community and the foreign armies, some 300,000 or more ballots

disappeared or were marked "spoiled" and the CEP claimed that Preval's total had fallen under the 50% needed to win.

In fact, from start to finish, the U.S.-U.N. occupying authorities rigged the elections to prevent the participation of the people and the progressive parties. The elections were held at gunpoint. In the 2 years of foreign occupation, thousands and thousands of progressive activists have been killed. Leading spokespersons of the Lavalas movement were systematically killed, imprisoned and hunted. The election authorities refused to open any polling places in the poor neighborhoods.

Yet, on election day, Haitians all across the country walked for miles and waited for hours to cast their votes for Preval.

Since the election, the U.S. and U.N. are continuing to suppress the Haitian people's

Continued on page 2

U. S. Steps Up Interference Inside Iran While Military Threats Continue

On February 15, the Bush administration asked Congress for \$75 million to help support opponents of the Iranian government. The money, to be included in an "emergency 2006 budget request" comes on top of \$10 million already requested.

The money, to be allocated in name of "promoting democracy," will be used, according to Rice, for anti-government propaganda via radio and satellite broadcasting, as well as "to develop support networks for Iranian political dissidents." In other words, the U.S. government is stepping up its direct interference in the sovereign affairs of the Iranian people.

Experience in the Middle East, Latin America, and elsewhere has shown that such funding is used by the U.S. for subversion and aggression. For years, the U.S. sponsored "de-

mocracy" in Iraq by organizing exiles to engage in sabotage and terror. In Venezuela, the U.S. has funded "democracy" by organizing opposition groups to assassinate people and foment armed counter-revolution. In Haiti, the U.S. has supported "democracy" by organizing terrorist gangs and killing thousands of people.

During her testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rice urged world leaders "be united in a punishment that sends a strong message to the Iranian regime." The United States, which has wide-ranging sanctions against Iran in an effort to squeeze its economy, is also "looking at possibly imposing further measures," Rice added.

Several White House officials and Congressional leaders have called for military strikes against Iran.

U. N. Report Calls for U.S. to Shut Down Guantanamo Prison

On February 16, the U.N. issued a report on the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay.

The report, summarizing an investigation by five U.N. experts, called on the U.S. government "to close down the Guantanamo Bay detention center and to refrain from any practice amounting to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."

The report's findings were based on interviews with former detainees, public documents, media reports, lawyers and a questionnaire filled out by the U.S. government. The study said photographic evidence and the testimonies of former prisoners showed detainees were shackled, chained, hooded and forced to wear earphones and goggles. They said prisoners were beaten if they resisted. "Such treatment amounts to torture," the report said.

Other human rights abuses cited by the report included:

* The inability of suspects to challenge their captivity before a judicial body which "amounts to arbitrary detention."

* A hearing system in which the executive branch of the U.S. government acts as judge, prosecutor and defense council for detainees which constitutes "a serious violation of the right to a fair trial."

The report also said that there was evidence of religious discrimination, and that some interrogation techniques were "aimed at offending the religious feelings of detainees." Some interrogation techniques -- particularly the use of dogs, exposure to extreme temperatures, sleep deprivation for several consecutive days and prolonged isolation -- caused extreme suffering, according to the report.

500 prisoners have been held for nearly 4 years at Guantanamo Bay, and most have never been charged with any crime. So far, only 10 of the prisoners have been charged and even the U.S. government admits that, at most, only 8 percent of the detainees are "linked to Al Qaeda." (see, for example, New York Times, 2/16/06).

According to the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), hundreds of prisoners have staged hunger strikes at Guantanamo during the past two years, demanding that they be released or brought to trial.

National Day of Protest

U.S. Troops, Out of Iraq — Now!

March 18, 2006

Mass actions are being organized all across the country.

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Haitian Election Results (continued from page 1)

rights and struggle. On February 14, the U.N. Security Council voted to extend its military presence in Haiti for at least another 6 months. The U.S. government is insisting that Preval prove his "moderation" by bringing the opposition parties into the government, repressing the popular organizations, etc.

But the vote for Preval is another rallying point for the Haitian people who are determined to reclaim their sovereignty and proceed along the path of economic, political and social reform begun under the Aristide government. The immediate demands of the people include an end to the U.S.-U.N. occupation; freedom for all political prisoners; an end to political repression and persecution; and restoration of the government of President Aristide.

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