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Hurricane Sandy Slams Haiti With Deadly Force; at least 52 dead



Residents wade through a flooded street caused by heavy rains from Hurricane Sandy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, Oct. 25. Dieu Nalio Chery/AP

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti -- On Monday, the scale of damage in Haiti from Hurricane Sandy became evident. Even though the storm's center skirted the country, more than 20

inches of rain fell on Haiti's south and southwest over four days last week, causing at least 52 deaths, tearing out crops and destroying houses.

"We are facing a major crisis," Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe said this weekend after he flew over the regions that had been hit by the storm. The government said that the homes of as many as 200,000 people had been damaged -- on top of almost 400,000 people still homeless from the January 2010 earthquake. "We have a lot of work ahead of us in terms of the aid that we will need to deliver in the days, weeks and months to come," Mr. Lamothe said. "It won't be easy because there are many roads and bridges that have been cut off."

Coming on the heels of Tropical Storm Isaac in August, the latest storm has piled new misfortune on Haiti, as it struggles to recover from the earthquake and the cholera epidemic that broke out 10 months later,

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Le présumé kidnappeur Clifford Brandt lors de son interrogatoire à la Direction centrale de la police judiciaire (DCPJ) le lundi 22 octobre 2012. Photo: réseau social



Les deux jeunes victimes, Coralie et Nicolas Moscoso, fille et fils de Robert Moscoso, propriétaire de l'hôtel Montana à Pétion-ville, âgées respectivement de 22 et 23 ans, ont été enlevées la soirée du vendredi 19 octobre sur la route de Bourdon, par des hommes cagoulés à bord d'un véhicule de la Police nationale aux vitres teintées. Les deux jeunes otages ont été séquestrés dans une résidence à Pernier. Photo: réseau social

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The Clintons in Haiti: Can an Industrial Park Save the Country?

By Susana Ferreira

In Haiti, the western hemisphere's most underdeveloped nation, the north is one of the most neglected regions, snubbed for centuries by a political and economic elite entrenched mainly in the country's southern capital, Port-au-Prince. But Haiti's massive 2010 earthquake, which wrecked Port-au-Prince and killed more than 200,000 people, made domestic leaders and international donors alike realize that Haiti has to start developing away from its overpopulated, quake-vulnerable south and tap the potential of northern cities like Cap Haitien.

That strategy, part of a "build Haiti back better" vision, took a crowning if controversial step this week. On Monday, Haitian President Michel Martelly, joined by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and a host of political and business luminaries that included her husband (and U.N. special envoy to Haiti) former U.S. President Bill Clinton, inaugurated the Caracol Industrial Park, a \$300 million, 600-acre (246-hectare) facility near the country's north coast, east of the seaport city of Cap Haitien. The Caracol inauguration was the first joint trip to Haiti by the Clintons since they visited the Caribbean nation shortly after they wed in the 1970s. Now they're hoping Caracol will be the start of a more productive marriage between Haiti and the international donors and investors it so desperately needs just to build back, let alone build back better.

A mock Haitian village was erected for the occasion, as celebrities like British tycoon Richard Branson looked on beneath banners proclaiming "A New Day in Haiti." Martelly, whom Hillary Clinton gushingly praised as the "chief dreamer and believer," declared the modern plant and the 130,000 jobs it's expected to create as proof that despite the usual "sad images of Haiti," the country "is open for business, and that's not just a slogan."

Like Martelly, the U.S., which is leading the international effort to rebuild Haiti, has been eager to present an accomplishment of Caracol's magnitude amidst what critics have called a slow reconstruction effort. Reassuring evidence of progress is crucial to getting the billions of dollars that interna-

tional donors have pledged to Haiti—but half of which has yet to be delivered, largely because of the uncertainties on the ground—into the pipeline. "The people of this country have made real progress in a short time," Hillary Clinton told investors after touring the park, "and we've reached a critical moment."

The Caracol park had actually been in the works since 2008. But the earthquake gave the project—a joint effort by the Haitian government, the U.S. State Department and the International Development Bank, which committed an initial \$55 million for construction—a more urgent impetus. What's more, it has become a hub for broader development in the north. Cap Haitien's airport is undergoing an expansion, funded by Venezuela and Cuba, which allowed it to receive its first large international carrier this month. A gleaming, \$30 million campus of Roi Henri Christophe University, built by the Dominican Republic, is set to enroll its first students in two weeks. A new port is planned for nearby Fort-Liberte, though it is currently on hold due to environmental and political tensions.

Caracol's founding private investor, South Korean textile company Sae-A Trading Co. Ltd., which planted \$78 million into the park, has already begun production—and the 1,000 Haitians it has so far employed sent their first order, a batch of 76,000 T-shirts for Walmart, last week. "The easiest job to create is [in] textile garment manufacturing," says George Sassine, general director of SONAPI, Haiti's national governing body for industrial parks and one of Caracol's earliest backers. "It's a very light investment, but it influences a lot of people." Caracol "is not the panacea for Haiti's economy," he adds. But "we want to show this as a showcase of what can be done." Says Josepha Gauthier, Haiti's Works and Social Affairs Minister, agrees: "I always believe that Haiti's development will come through its countryside" and provinces, not Port-au-Prince.

But development rarely comes without disputes, and for many Haitians and foreigners alike, Caracol is also a reminder of the pitfalls to building Haiti back better. For starters, there is concern that while Sae-A has promised



From left: Former Haitian President Rene Preval, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former U.S. president Bill Clinton, Haiti's Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, Haitian President Michel Martelly and IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno at the official inauguration of the Caracol Industrial Park. The project is expected to create up to 65,000 new jobs in the region with the investment of more than \$300 million.

to create 20,000 jobs, it has had labor troubles in other developing countries and may not be the world's most employee-friendly enterprise. Late Monday afternoon, after rain began to fall at Caracol and Hillary Clinton had stepped into her car to leave, many workers filed out of the Sae-A factory after a shift and complained that they make only Haiti's daily minimum wage of 200 gourdes, just under \$5. Sae-A says pay will rise after six months of training.

There are also tensions between industrial developments like Caracol and the just as urgent, if not more critical, need to foster agriculture in Haiti, which imports more than half its food. Gabriel Charles, 45, had employed as many as 30 people at a time to farm corn, sweet potatoes and beans on the fertile land around the town of Caracol. "I had a hectare [2.5 acres] and that hectare took care of my family," says Charles, who had to give it up for the park but says the compensation he received for it was inadequate. "I agree with the industrial park," he says. "But you [also] have to take care of the peasants." Other displaced farmers, still awaiting alternate plots of land that were promised them, are protesting what they call the park's adverse economic effects, including the recent doubling of the price of beans, due in part to reduced harvests.

Environmental issues loom large as well: experts fear increased industry could harm Haiti's ecologically impor-

tant yet fragile northern coastline, including coral reefs. So do concerns that while developing the north is a good thing in the long run, it doesn't solve the more immediate post-quake suffering in the south—including the nagging tragedy of hundreds of thousands of homeless Haitians still living in squalid tent camps. Critics also point out that the lure of industrial jobs in the 20th century was a cause of Port-au-Prince's overcrowding and the proliferation of its notorious slums. They warn Martelly and international donors to avoid the same phenomenon in northern urban areas like Cap Haitien, Haiti's second largest city.

All of which has helped stoke recent anti-government protests in the north. "We say bravo to the investments," says Garry Denis, spokesman for the Citizen's Initiative. But he insists that "so far foreigners and people from Port-au-Prince are the ones who are benefiting." His group also wants Martelly to address the high cost of living and overdue municipal elections. The unrest comes at a rocky time for Martelly and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe, whose government faces corruption allegations (they deny them) and other political crises that have hampered reconstruction. Hillary Clinton hinted at Haiti's dysfunction in her Caracol comments. "In addition to effective government," she said, "Haiti needs a strong justice sector, free and fair elections, housing, energy, schools, health care." S : worldtime.com

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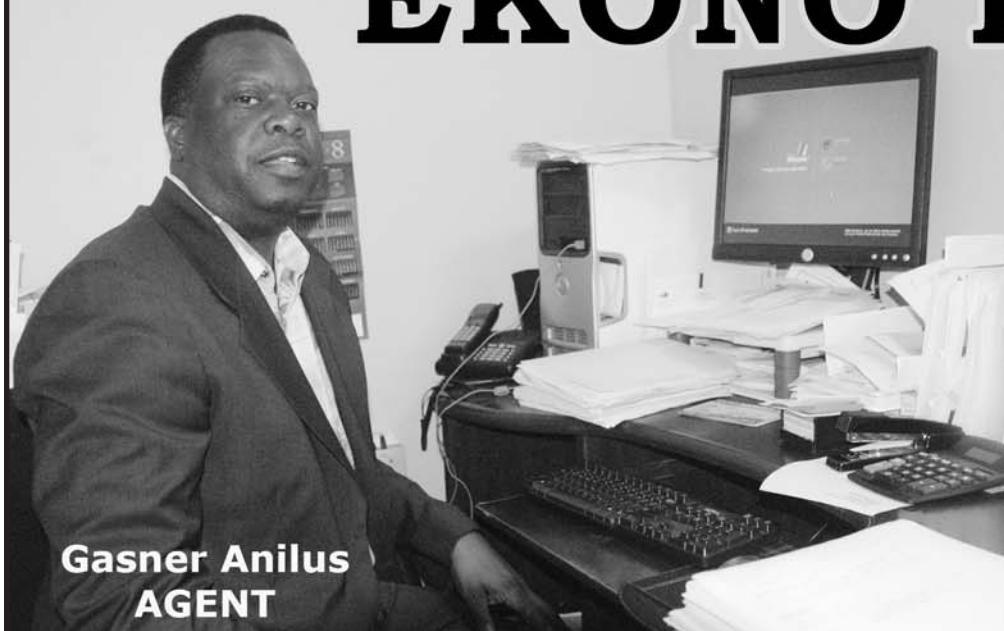
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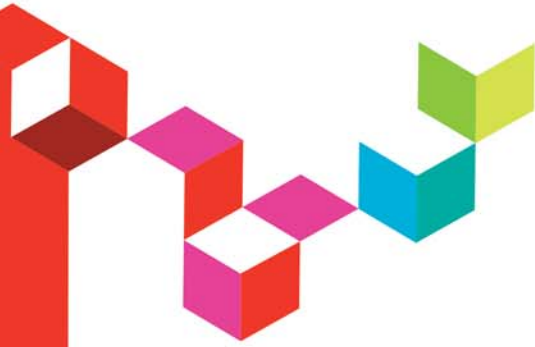
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editorial

It's Time for Haiti to Treat All Kidnappers the Same, Regardless of Social origin, wealth, or poverty

It's easy to assume that the heinous crime of kidnapping must come from the underground, the poor sections of the country, from desperate individuals looking for a quick way to make money. However, the recent arrest of Clifford Brandt, the son of one of Haiti's richest families, highlights that for too long now, the wealthiest elite have been as responsible for crimes against its people as any other group.

Keep in mind that although he has reportedly admitted his role in the kidnapping of Coralie and Nicolas Moscoso, he is still presumed innocence until proven guilty in a court of law.

However, this case highlights the importance of remaining vigilant when traveling throughout Haiti, especially in Port-au-Prince. While most kidnappings in other countries such as the United States tend to be personal in nature (family), in Haiti, most are committed with criminal intent. Many kidnapped victims reported being abused, raped, and beaten by their captors and many kidnappers in the region focus on children.

Citizens throughout Haiti and those traveling to this fine country would do well to realize that this crime does not discriminate based on wealth and is being carried out by some of the most powerful and wealthy individuals in the country. Remaining naïve in this regard, or refusing to believe that some officials within the government or high ranking police officers are not involved in any way is turning a blind eye to a larger problem.

It is imperative that we, as a people, need to stand up to the tyranny that is forced upon us as these wealthy individuals seek to attain even more wealth at the expense of the poverty stricken who can least afford to endure these crimes. An average of 5 people every week are kidnapped in Haiti right now.

The Brandt family is believed to have been partly responsible for the 1991 coup, which ousted Haiti's first democratically elected president, and has vested interests in numerous industries. With the arrest of Clifford Brandt, it will be interesting to see just how far their involvement, if any, extends into this kidnapping enterprise. It will also be interesting to learn how much prison time, if any, Clifford Brandt will receive upon a guilty verdict, as most individuals from poor neighborhoods receive maximum sentences for similar crimes while the wealthy tend to never have full charges levied.

The Brandt family can certainly afford to buy freedom for their son, but we believe in our great nation and ride on the hope that he and other accomplices, including high ranking police officers, will finally be brought to justice. There is no room in civilized society for crimes of this nature. This is an opportunity for Haiti's justice system to take a stand and judge Clifford Brandt and those like him in the same manner, with the same punishment, as anyone from poor neighborhoods.

Dessalines Ferdinand

Haiti - Open for Business

Journalist Phares Duverne less optimistic about the future of his homeland

By *Dessalines Ferdinand*

"Haiti is open for business" is one of the slogans of the Martelly-Lamothe administration since taking power in May 2011. Many high-ranking members of the government seem to be confident that they are moving in the right direction to attract foreign tourists and investors to the world's first independent black republic.

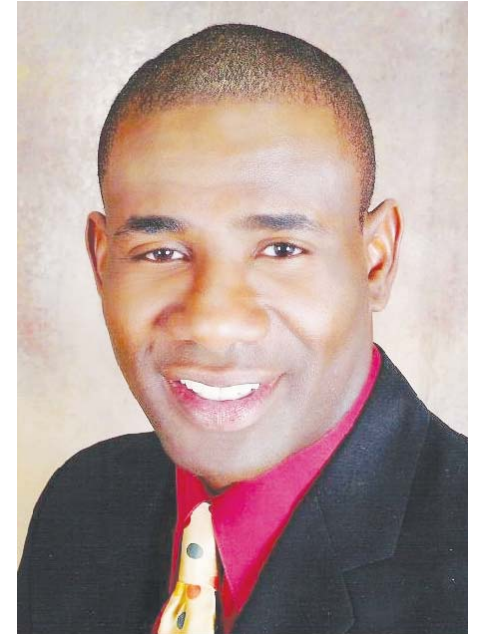
In an effort to achieve this goal, the General Consulate of Haiti in Miami has installed a huge billboard promoting the new image of the country on the I-95 Highway, in Miami, one of the busiest in the State of Florida.

"This is part of a series of media campaign, whose goal is to burnish the image of Haiti and promote the diplomacy of business abroad," said François Guillaume II, the Head of Mission of the Consulate General of Miami, in an interview with a Miami TV reporter.

Last January, the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, represented by Chairman Pierre Saliba and Board Member Jeff Lozama, led a delegation on a five day business exploratory mission to Haiti. The delegation included Kanya Amorntheerakul, Director of the Thai Trade Center, and Pheeraphat Phatrapisit, International Trade Officer of Thailand. They were accompanied by the Consul General of Haiti in Miami, Francois Guillame II. The delegation was met in Haiti by HACCOF's board members, Henri Claude Muller Poitevien and Charles Fombrun.

Two months later, as a part of the business diplomacy advocated by Laurent Lamothe, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Consulate General of Haiti in Atlanta held its first trade mission in Haiti. This was the third Consulate, after Miami and New York, to respond concretely to the call of Prime Minister Lamothe.

The delegation of businessmen led by Thomas Gandy, Consul General of Haiti in Atlanta, was composed of Cesar C. Mitchell, President of the Atlanta City Council, who participated as a businessman, Eddy Benoit, President and CEO of Group Benoit, and Jerome Russel, President of H.J. Russell & Company.



"I have to admit this administration has been making its best efforts in a constructive spirit to move the country forward, but so far they have not been successful in making significant progress," remarked journalist Phares Duverne, host of "Parenthèse en Profondeur," a 20 minute morning radio show on WJCC 1700 AM.

During their stay, the delegation visited the seaside city of Fort-Liberté, the industrial parks of Sonapi and Shodecosa, and the Iron Market of Port-au-Prince. Many members expressed interest in the sectors of textile, tourism, infrastructure (ports and airports), and agriculture.

And more recently, at the official inauguration of the Caracol Industrial Park, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton took a delegation of foreign investors and a crowd of celebrities. In this group was billionaire Richard Branson, the fourth richest citizen of the United Kingdom, best known for his Virgin Group of more than 400 companies, including Virgin Atlantic Airways, Virgin Mobile, and Virgin Records.

All of these good efforts make people believe that the country is going in the right direction to move forward. But well-known Miami-based Haitian journalist, Phares Duverne, seems less optimistic about the future of his native land.

During a recent trip to his homeland to cover a business development mission to Port-au-Prince, Haiti from Oct. 21-24, the radio personality has gave his views concerning the global situation in the country. This trip was led by Haitian-American Miami-Dade County District 2 Commissioner, Jean Monestime,

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In Curacao, Haitians Organize Against Discrimination

By Karen Attiah

Willemstad, Curacao - In last Friday's elections in Curacao, The Sovereign People Party, a pro-independence platform known for its hard-line stances against foreigners, topped the parliamentary voting.

Amongst the issues in the elections generating the most debate among Curaçao's population is the issue of the treatment of foreign immigrants. As the former capital of the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao is one of the Caribbean's most culturally diverse islands, with a population of 160,000 representing 51 different nationalities. As the political battles raged through immigrant Curaçao's Haitian community, the elections represented a referendum on Curaçao's identity and its attitudes towards foreigners. Since Curaçao voted to become politically autonomous from the Netherlands in 2009, the country has seen a shift in sentiment towards becoming more restrictive towards perceived foreigners in support of local born Curacaoans or "Yu di Korsou".

Curaçao is home to about 4,000 registered Haitians, many of whom live in the capital city area of Willemstad. Although exact numbers are difficult to come by, it is estimated that there are about 2,000 undocumented Haitians on the island. Many Haitians are economic migrants from the southern areas of Haiti, coming to Curacao in search of work opportunities.

"I would say that around 40% of Haitians here are employed in the construction sector", said newly appointed Haitian consul Stephan Dejoie. "Another 25% are in what they call here limpieza or landscaping. You will also see many of us selling art craft [artesanía] by the waterfront where the boats come."

In Curacao, where tourism accounts for an increasingly substantial part of the national economy, many Haitians are also employed in the service sector, working as maids in hotels and security guards for fast food restaurants and bars. There are a little less than 300 Haitians in Curacao who are citizens of the Netherlands, hold a Dutch passport and are able to vote in national elections. Dejoie hopes to raise the number of Haitians who are able to vote to at least 1000 before his term ends.

Rolet Phillistin, 42, an undocumented construction worker from Haiti has been in Curaçao since 2003. He is fluent in French, Creole, Spanish and Papiamentu.

"I am here for my children," he says. "I am here to give them a better life."

Construction work is not always constant on the island. Construction job

assignments are temporary, only lasting a few months at a time. When Phillistin has work as a mason, he can earn about 125 Antillean guilders a day, which is less than \$100.

"Sometimes I can send 500 guilders a month back to my children in Haiti, sometimes 200, or 300, it depends," Phillistin said.

Like Mr. Phillistin, many undocumented workers in Curaçao are vulnerable to labor exploitation, discrimination, and of course, the constant threat of deportation. It is an unspoken reality on the island that Haitians face harsh treatment and ostracism from Curacaoans who believe that Haitians come to Curacao to steal jobs from local workers.

"Plenty of Curaçao folks treat Haitians like they feel like the Dutch

have treated them," said Curacaoan local blogger Jermain Ostiana. "[But] Haitians do work that locals won't do anymore."

Phillistin agrees that local bosses don't want to give permits for foreigners for work locals can do. Under Curaçao's new labor law or the "80/20" rule, employers must hire 80% local workers and no more than 20% foreign workers in order to protect the local labor force.

"But they use us for the dirty work, when they have dirty garbage, or to clean yards, to work in the garden," Rolet said.

There are few, if any legal recourse options for undocumented Haitians who face labor exploitations.

"We are a community that needs to be organized; we are working to unionize the community, because we face a lot of abuses in terms of residence permits, work permits and also in terms of pay," Dejoie said. "Many [local employers] here, they try to not sign the permit on time. Immigration here in Curaçao is very strict. If you are one day late, you go back to zero...the reason why they [local employers] do it is because if someone is undocumented, the labor rate can be as low as 50% of the regular rate as far as pay."

The permit application processes is not cheap. Some Haitians have had to pay close to \$1500 to process an application. Rolet has said he has not applied for residence.

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In Curacao, Haitians Organize Against Discrimination

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"It is not possible, because they tell me you have to have a boss to sign for you. When you get the boss to sign for you, then you have to go back to your original country to wait for the residence [documents]. And it is not easy to get it. Sometimes you go, and then you don't get it, and then you cannot come back. "

Despite the hardships faced by many Haitians in Curaçao, community leaders work to provide support for their fellow compatriots. Religion is an especially powerful unifying force in the community. While around 80% of the citizens in Curacao are Roman Catholic, many Haitians in Willemstad live close to protestant churches. The majority of Haitians belong to Adventist, Pentecostal, Baptist, Church of God, and Jehovah's Witness congregations. There are about thirteen Haitian pastors on the island. Antonal Vertus is one of them, as the pastor of Church of God of Prophecy in Santa Maria in the Otrobanda area of Willemstad. His 250-member congregation of mostly Haitians meets every Sunday in an open air elementary school hall, as they have no building of their own. Vertus estimates that around 80% of his congregation are living in Curacao illegally.

"The church helps many, many people here," Vertus said. "When we worship God in our own language, we feel more comfortable, you know? We can sing our songs and our souls can be blessed. Haitians don't like to go party

too much...the biggest activity for Haitians here is church."

During service, about 150 members prayed and sung together in Haitian Creole. Congregants read the psalms together from French Bibles. Vertus also says that the church has an additional service in the evening.

"Not everyone can come on Sunday mornings because they work in hotels or security overnight. "

If there is one man in Curaçao's Haitian community who could be called an activist, that man is Joseph Acloque Elisca. Known around the community simply as "Acloque" he has lived alone in Curacao for 11 years. An active, friendly man with a bald head, light brown eyes, and a goatee, Acloque seems to be the type of man who cannot go anywhere without being recognized and greeted by someone who knows him. He is the founder and president of Conseil Communautaire des Représentants de la Diasporas Haïtienne à Curaçao (CONCORDIA) which he has run since 2008.

"After time, staying here, I saw the way that they treat us. If you live somewhere and you don't have the representation of the [Haitian] government to defend you, and you don't have any organization, the country cannot treat you good. "

Acloque says he started meetings in a room in the Haitian consulate in Willemstad as a forum for



A Haitian church congregation in Curacao. Photo courtesy of Karen Attiah

Haitians to air their hardships.

"All the other nations, they had their consuls to help them, they had organizations to help them. But our community, we didn't have any," Acloque remarked.

Acloque said 200 Haitians came to the first CONCORDIA meeting. When asked how he supports himself financially in addition to his community organizing, Acloque said, "I do whatever I can, I take little jobs here and there, cleaning houses, yards, whatever people can give me."

Due to what he perceives as discrimination, Acloque lost his residency in Curaçao and is nearing the end of a two-year appeal process to get it back. But that has not stopped Acloque from being vocal. Among some of the challenges of being Haitian in Curacao is the fact that it is expensive for Haitians here on the island to travel to and communicate with Haiti,

compared to other countries.

"We need to try to change the prices for our airline fares, for our phone calls, our money transfers to Haiti. "But our handicap is, our community suffers so much,[Haitians] here are not quick to trust people. But anytime of the night, when someone in the community has a problem, in the jails, in the hospitals, with immigration, they just call me, even anytime in the night."

Acloque takes to the airwaves every week in his quest to support his community. Every Sunday night, from 10:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Acloque hosts a popular television and radio show called Bos di Pueblo Haitiano, or "Voice of the Haitian People" on Canal 24, one of Curacao's public access channels. He conducts his program in Papiamentu. When the program began in 2009, Acloque and other Haitians pulled their own money together to pay the \$600 monthly fee for access to airtime. Now, Insel Air,

one of the airlines that has frequent flights between Curacao and Haiti, sponsors the program. Acloque invites members of the Curaçaoan government and public officials on his show to address the Haitian community. The Haitian Consulate sends public announcements to the program to be read over the air. In the week before Curacao's controversial elections, Curaçao's former Prime Minister, Emily de Jongh-Elhage appeared as an in-studio guest, to explain her political party's platform to Haitians.

"On my program, I talk for all the foreign people here in Curacao. People tell me, you don't just fight for Haitians alone, you fight for all the strange people here in Curaçao-Colombians, Jamaicans, Dominican Republic. We all help this country go forward."

Karen Attiah is a journalist based in Curacao.

Source: Haitian Times

Rep. Julien loses court battle over election results

TALLAHASSEE, FL (LF) - Rep. John Patrick Julien (Dem. North Miami Beach, District 104) lost his court battle against his opponent Rep. Barbara Watson (Dem. Miami Gardens, District 103) over the results of the Democratic primary election on Aug. 14.



Rep. John Patrick Julien (Dem. North Miami Beach, District 104)

Dade County District 107.

Francis ruled that Julien failed to present evidence to prove his allegation that Watson won as the result of fraudulent absentee ballots.

Julien had alleged that some of those ballots were cast by people who are dead or who now say they never voted in the primary.

"There was not any evidence of payment for a vote, and I was listening and looking for that," Judge Francis said.

Francis ruled after hearing testimony from both candidates and two women, Carline Paul and Noucelie Josna, whom Julien accused of collecting fraudulent absentee ballots. Both women worked in Watson's campaign and denied the

allegations.

Julien accused radio personality Carline Paul, better known as "Teacher Carline," in the Haitian Community, of collecting absentee ballots from the Claridge House nursing home, where her mother once had been a resident.

Both women were called into court to explain their roles in the race. The judge issued a pick-up order for police to find Josna, who had not responded to a subpoena and could not be tracked by a private investigator.

Paul, who was ordered by Judge Francis to travel to Tallahassee to testify in person at the courtroom, denied the allegation.

"That is false," Paul told the judge, saying that she first read of the allegation in the newspaper. "I was appalled to read that I was frequently going to Claridge House during the primary election. I never set foot in the nursing home again after my mother left in January, more than six months before ballots were distributed."

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Rep. Julien loses court battle over election results

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Noucelie Josna, who bills herself as the "Queen of Absentee Ballots," also testified by way of an Internet video link from the office of Julien's lawyer just hours after undergoing a biopsy on a lump in her breast.

Josna testified that she did not distribute or collect absentee ballots, but checked online election records to see who had received an absentee ballot. She then called those voters on behalf of the candidates.

"I'm just relieved," Watson said. "I'm glad that this is over, and I'm hoping our party can move forward. I don't have any hard feelings. He did what he (Julien) felt he had to do."

Julien congratulated Watson and shook her hand as they spoke briefly after the hearing with Rep. Darryl Rouson of Tampa. Rouson is running to become the House Democratic leader in two years, or speaker, if his party is able to gain a majority.

Both freshmen democrats, Julien and Watson were drawn into the same new district during the painful redistricting process last session that pitted a handful of incumbents into the same districts because of new redistricting rules.

Watson, who officially became the Democratic nominee for the new Miami-Dade district 107, is virtually assured of winning the Nov. 6 general election against two write-in candidates.

Julien dropped his challenge to Primary Election Defeat

Acknowledging his case was weak, Julien's attorney, former Republican State Rep. J.C. Planas, asked Francis for a delay so he could gather more evidence. Francis refused, saying he hadn't come "anywhere near" the standard of proof required in a fraud case in the two-day hearing.

After the hearing decision in favor of Watson, Planas said his client wanted to keep fighting although he's advising him against a court appeal. Instead, he may ask the House not to seat Watson after the election Nov. 6, according to Planas.

Taking into consideration his lawyer's advice, Julien indicated that he would sue the Florida Legislature to block Watson from being seated.

"I don't want to use the word cheated, because I wasn't cheated," Julien said. "I believe the voters were cheated if somebody was cheated."

"Everybody who's ever attempted to do what we attempted to do has had a year and a half, and it's taken them a year and a half to do it," Planas later said. "We have attempted to do this within a period of less than two months."

But last week, John Patrick Julien, who had spent two months fighting the results in court, officially dropped his challenge to his primary loss.

In a letter to supporters, the Haitian-born legislator justified his decision by his



Noucelie Josna, who bills herself as the "Queen of Absentee Ballots," also testified by way of an Internet video link. Photo credit: sunshinestatenews

reluctance to cause division and to make taxpayers foot the bill of a special election if he should prevail.

"I have made a decision to drop my challenge before the full House," Julien wrote to some supporters in a letter dated Oct. 25. "First, I do not wish to put speaker Will Weatherford (R- Wesley Chapel) in a position to start his tenure with this issue. Additionally, even if I were successful in proving fraud took place it would only create a vacancy. I cannot ask the taxpayers to foot the bill for a special election."

Julien is "considering a party switch." Even though Julien has not officially made any announcement about leaving the Florida Democratic Party, sources close to the former North Miami Beach Councilman have told *Sunshine State*

News that he is "considering a party switch" in light of treatment he's received at the hands of the Florida Democratic Party.

Julien is one of the state's three Haitian legislators, all three of whom are Democrats but have come under fire from their party's leadership for their stances in favor of businesses, school choice and, particularly in Julien's case, the right to life for the unborn.

Weeks ago, a political consultant from one of Florida's major bipartisan consulting firms suggested to the news that the Sunshine State's Haitian-born state legislators were the victims of a "political ethnic cleansing" by state Democratic Party officials in retaliation for their voting records.

Le Floridien with sunshinestatenews

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CHS teams up one more time with UM for annual health fair in Little Haiti

By Nephthalie Hyacinthe-Dauphin

LITTLE HAITI - A ballpark figure of 500 individuals showed up at the Center for Haitian Studies, Health and Human Services (CHS) on Sat., Oct. 27. The Department of Community Services (DOCS) of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine once again teamed up with CHS to serve the Little Haiti/Little River community with a health fair.

Usually a health fair consists of information or a couple of booklets and possibly some demonstrations on what to do during a health concern. The CHS event was a different case. Over 100 UM medical students and staff, with the assistance of the administration of CHS, planned a health fair not only to bring awareness, but also to bring results. The line was long, yet it moved very quickly. The staff guided the health fair attendees in line to the next station.

Everyone was registered, as they would be at a hospital or a clinic. Once entered in the computer system, the patients were directed to the vitals station. This consisted of patient's temperature, pulse, breathing, and

blood pressure. Let's not forget that these patients were treated with the utmost respect and care. The medical professionals checked on the respiratory rate. If it was high, they counseled the patients on the best way to decrease it. There was also a final check-up at checkout to make sure the patient left in the right condition, said Alex a UM student. He continued on to say that high blood pressure can sometimes be solved with basic changes to diet. A decrease in salt and alcohol intake can make a major difference in the BP result.

While waiting in line to see an appropriate physician, the patients had a chance to sign up for other services that they might be in need of, such as Medicare, Medicaid, low cost insurance, kid care, and WIC program. WIC is a government funded program that stands for "women, infants, and children." The service is available for pregnant women or women with young children. The WIC stations focused on breastfeeding education and applications for food vouchers. Eligibility was determined right away. In the women's station, a mammogram was performed. A patient claimed that she heard the advertisement on the radio, but she



A UM medical student drawing blood from a patient during the annual health fair at Center for Haitian Studies (CHS) in Little Haiti, Sat., Oct. 27. Photo courtesy of CHS

did not believe that the event would have this level of professionalism.

The tobacco-free station provided information on how to quit smoking and offered free patches to help the process. The staff was also ready in case a patient was in critical care; there was an ambulance and a fire truck on location. The medical students which were supervised at all times by a doctor looking over the chart to explain to the patients the results of the vital signs. There were

no emergencies, thankfully. The next step was a seeing a specialist. Every medical service that one could possibly imagine was present: dermatology, pediatrics, HIV & STD screening, female exams, male exams, ophthalmology, mental health, and many more.

Ryan, a UM student, was the main man of this great project. He helped facilitate the fair in terms of speed and efficiency.

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What relief is available to immigrant victims of domestic violence?



By Patricia Elizée, Esq

Domestic violence is a common problem among immigrant groups. Victims often do not have access to the laws that can protect them. In most instances immigrant victims are scared to report the abuse due to their illegal status and the fear of being deported. There are a number of immigration relief possibilities for immigrants that

find themselves in an abusive relationship. The immigration reliefs available to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking include VAWA self-petition, U nonimmigrant visa status, and T nonimmigrant visa status.

A VAWA self-petition allows an abused spouse of a US citizen or Legal Permanent Resident to self-petition instead of relying on their abusive spouse to give them legal status in the US. VAWA stands for the Violence Against Women Act. It was first enacted in 1994 by President Bill Clinton as the result of extensive grassroots efforts of women groups, law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, and the legal community to force Congress

to adopt legislation to address domestic and sexual violence.

Generally, for an immigrant to qualify for a green card and adjust their status to that of a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR), a US citizen or LPR relative or spouse must first petition the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an immigrant visa on their behalf. Currently, VAWA allows a battered or abused spouse of a United States Citizen or an LPR to file an I-360 form with USCIS and self-petition to Adjust Status. Congress recognized that immigrants are more vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence due to their immigration status and created the self-petition process to encourage victims to free themselves of their abuser. Once the I-360 self-petition is approved, the applicant can then file an I-485 adjustment of status form to obtain the green card.

To qualify for relief the immigrant victim must first prove that they entered into a good faith marriage with a US citizen or LPR spouse. They must also show that they are being or were abused in the past and that they are an individual of good moral character. Under the current process, USCIS adjudicates the victim's application confidentially and does not contact the alleged abuser.

Spouses of US citizens and Legal Permanent Residents are not the only group of people who qualify for protection under VAWA. Abused children of US citizens and Legal Permanent Residents and abused parents of US citizens are also protected.

U nonimmigrant visas are designed to provide immigration status to immigrants who assist law enforcement with investigating crimes. The applicant must have also suffered some kind of physical or mental abuse as a result of the criminal activity. Where an immigrant is a victim of domestic violence but the abuser is NOT a US citizen or Legal Permanent Resident, the victim may obtain protection by applying for a U nonimmigrant visa. Once the U visa is approved the victim can eventually apply to become US resident and obtain a green card.

T nonimmigrant visas are designed to provide immigration status to immigrants who have been victims of sex trafficking or forced labor. The victim must comply with any reasonable request for assistance in the investigation of prosecution of the trafficker.

To contact the author of this column:

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Journalist Phares Duverne less optimistic about the future of his homeland

continued from page 4

whose objective was to further strengthen bilateral trade between Haiti and Miami-Dade County, as well as to provide business opportunities to local private sector participants joining the mission.

Duverne made a fresh assessment of the situation, particularly about the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, home to the country's largest and fastest growing urban population.

Talking to Radio Mega's Alex St-Surin, host of the popular radio show "Carrefour", during an appearance via telephone, as a reporter, Duverne said, "I have no indication this unpleasant and unbrilliant [situation] will change very soon. I have come to understand 'Haiti is open for business' is just a slogan. To me, this is far to be reality when we know what it takes to

operate a valued business."

"I have to admit this administration has been making its best efforts in a constructive spirit to move the country forward, but so far they have not been successful in making significant progress," remarked Duverne, host of "Parenthèse en Profondeur," a 20 minute morning radio show on WJCC 1700 AM.

"The lack of decent road infrastructure remains a major challenge in Haiti. An adequate road network is essential for the revitalization of the economy," said Duverne.

He added, "Before the earthquake of January 2010, the majority of services were concentrated in downtown Port-au-Prince. Now almost all the big businesses are concentrated in Petion-Ville, and that makes it almost impossible for those who want to ride to get a car at proper hour."

The journalist shared a personal experience of an example of the traffic jam problems in the metropolitan area. His car trip from the Karibe Hotel (Juvenat) to a location in the heart of Petion-Ville took him more than 90 minutes. The distance was so short, he could have walked in a faster time.

Duverne concurred that the security situation has improved a little bit, but he added that "The lack of electricity remains another major problem in Haiti. This affects the economic growth, which result in lack of revenues for people and the budget of the government, which is not able to give direct subsidies to the very poor."

In Haiti, the big companies cannot rely on EDH (Electricité D'Haiti) for their electric service. Almost every business has introduced its own all-electric system: big generators and diesel fuel for the use of generator power, according to Duverne.

About the rehabilitation of the international airport of Port-au-Prince, the journalist questioned the finished project without commentary. He thinks that Haiti is not set yet in terms of infrastructure to entice foreign investors, as the authorities have been touting it.

"In order for Haiti to be really ready to 'Open for Business,' the government needs to put in place a development strategy that supports the private sector and empowers the country. Electricity, transportation, sanitation and security are essential to making the Martelly-Lamothe administration's dream come true," said Duverne.

Without all of these, "Haiti is open for business" will be just a slogan for many years to come.

Dessalines Ferdinand

CHS teams up one more time with UM

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He made sure that everything ran smoothly, and he was ready to help wherever needed. He made sure that water was being provided at all times to the patients. Some patients that were too weak received a small bowl of bouillon soup.

The final stop was counseling. The students, with the assistance of a doctor, went over the chart one last time to make sure that the patient understood everything that was done. They also elaborated on steps to take from that point on.

Doctor Laurinus "Larry" Pierre, M.D., M.P.H., founder and executive director of the Center for Haitian Studies, took the time to greet some patients and staff as he observed the coordination. He was

ready to assist as needed. Mr. Remond Exume (staff) was grateful that so many people showed up because it was a privilege to him to be able to make such an impact on people's lives. "Do you understand that some of these people don't even have an alien card?" stated Exume. "CHS is the base for healthcare every year." Volunteers came from all over; some of them live in Dade and others in Broward. Many don't have health insurance, and they are afraid that they won't be seen at a hospital. The CHS has been operating since 1989, and Mr. Exume is assured that, as long as UM and CHS exist, there will always be a healthcare available.

This healthcare service might not mean much to you if you have health insurance. But for the ones that have never seen a doctor and aren't able to prevent disease, this might be the only choice they have.

These attendees might not know what services are available to them. This was the one-stop clinic and library full of information pertaining to their health. They were able to speak to an expert at the moment instead of filling out an application online without being able to ask a question. This health fair was paramount to the community. It was a need.

In order to achieve this important event, a lot of time and money were invested. This fair is your chance to make a difference. There are many ways that you can help CHS. You can volunteer your time, or you can make a donation by clicking on this link <http://www.centerforhaitianstudies.org/12.html>. This 501C3 organization has proven, time and again, that your money has been utilized in ways that not only change people's lives, but saves people's lives.



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Hurricane Sandy Slams Haiti With Deadly Force; at least 52 dead

continued from cover

which has killed thousands and sickened more than half a million people.

"You get so set back by each storm, it gets hard to keep the forward momentum," said Deborah Jenson, the director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Duke University.

Ms. Jenson was talking about the efforts to reverse Haiti's dramatic level of deforestation, which magnifies the effects of storms, turning rainfall into destructive torrents rushing down denuded hillsides. Haitians use the Creole expression "Lapli ap tonbe," which means "the rain is falling," to say things are not going well, she said.

But in describing the setbacks to growing new trees, she could as easily have been talking about the crisscrossing efforts to rebuild the poorest country in the Americas and provide its people with even the most basic elements of decent living conditions.

Disasters can generate creative solutions, Ms. Jenson said. But in Haiti, "so much of the infrastructure that would be in place to make innovations are damaged," she said.

Mr. Lamothe made a similar point as he spoke to local reporters this weekend. The country has to invest to build levees and dredge rivers and bays to stop each heavy rainfall from becoming calamitous, he said. "Big decisions will be taken," he promised, "because the state cannot continually be on the defensive every time it rains or there is a flood. We have to invest in prevention."

Lamothe announced Friday night that, due to the extent of the catastrophe, the government has been forced to raise from \$5 million to \$6 million the amount set aside for the country's immediate needs after the storm.

The head of government also announced that humanitarian aid was on its way from Venezuela.

According to official data, the southern region was the most affected. The worst drama occurred in Grand-Goave, where a mother and her four children died under a mudslide.

The greatest immediate concern is to prevent a new spike in cholera cases, said France Hurtubise, a spokeswoman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Port-au-Prince, on Monday. The Red Cross has begun distributing hygiene kits and water purification tablets.

An estimated 390,000 people are still homeless from the earthquake despite



Friday, Haitian President Michel Martelly (right) and Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe (left) distributed food and bottles of water in poor neighborhoods in the capital. Lamothe announced that, due to the extent of the catastrophe, the government has been forced to raise from \$5 million to \$6 million the amount set aside for the country's immediate needs after the storm. The head of government also announced that humanitarian aid was on its way from Venezuela.

billions of dollars that were pledged in international aid. "There are still a lot of people in tents," Ms. Hurtubise said. "Every time there is a disaster, they are hurt the worst."

Still, despite the catalog of woes, there are small signs of improvement. Ms. Hurtubise said that Hurricane Sandy would most likely have caused more deaths without some of the simple measures that the Red Cross has recently put in place, like sending out mass text messages and setting up hot lines.

And at the broader level, Ms. Jenson said, the government is attempting to wean itself from international aid, a transition she called "very difficult."

And with so many crops destroyed, including plantain, maize and sugar cane, authorities are also concerned about food supplies in coming months.

"We'll have famine in the coming days," Kechner Toussaint, the mayor of Abricots, on Haiti's southwestern tip, told Reuters. "It's an agricultural disaster."

Jean Debalio Jean-Jacques, a top agriculture ministry official in southern Haiti, says the government has not yet put a dollar figure on the losses. But, he says many poor farmers will have no food because of the storm's damage.

Hurricane Sandy destroyed 70 percent of the crops in his region and caused widespread deaths of livestock. Damaged crops include avocados, bread fruit, corn and some vetiver, a grass that produces a fragrant oil used in perfumes.

Santos Alexis, mayor of the southern city of Leogane, said Sunday that the rivers were receding and that people were beginning to dry their belongings in the sun.

"Things are back to being a little quiet," Alexis said by telephone. "We have seen the end."

Officials raised the storm-related death toll across the Caribbean to 65, with at least 52 of those coming in Haiti, which was pelted by three days of constant rains that ended only on Friday.

LE FLORIDIEN with ELISABETH MALKIN/NY Times

L'élite économique haïtienne éclaboussée par l'arrestation de Clifford Brandt pour "kidnapping" présumé

Par Dessalines Ferdinand

MIRAMAR -- L'illusion d'une Haïti dotée d'une élite économique exemplaire a volé en éclats avec l'arrestation le lundi 22 octobre dernier de l'homme d'affaires Clifford Brandt, membre d'une des familles les plus riches du pays.

Le quadragénaire a été appréhendé par des membres d'une unité spécialisée de la police nationale d'Haïti dans son entreprise à Delmas 2, pour son implication présumée dans l'enlèvement de Coralie et de Nicolas Moscoso, fille et fils de Robert Moscoso, propriétaire de l'hôtel Montana, à Pétion-ville. Clifford Brandt serait la plaque tournante de l'un des plus importants réseaux criminels opérant depuis plusieurs années dans le pays.

Les deux jeunes victimes âgées respectivement de 22 et 23 ans, ont été enlevées la soirée du vendredi 19 octobre sur la route de Bourdon, par des hommes cagoulés à bord d'un véhicule de la Police nationale aux vitres teintées. À en croire une source policière ayant requis l'anonymat, les parents des otages avaient reçu, le soir même, un appel téléphonique d'un membre du réseau de kidnappeurs, indiquant que les deux jeunes gens seraient libérés au prix d'une forte rançon de 2,5 millions de dollars américains.

Le propriétaire de l'hôtel Montana (Robert Moscoso) a tenté vainement de négocier la rançon à la baisse en déclarant qu'il n'avait pas les moyens de verser cette forte somme d'argent. Voulant éviter un dénouement malheureux de la situation, et comprenant immédiatement la gravité de celle-ci, la famille a vite fait d'offrir 700 mille dollars américains, en contrepartie, pour la libération des otages, craignant que leurs ravisseurs ne soient des nerveux à la gâchette facile. Mais l'interlocuteur aurait catégoriquement fait savoir au propriétaire de l'hôtel Montana que l'offre de US 700 mille est inacceptable, et qu'il a les moyens financiers pour sauver la vie de ses deux enfants, car sa situation financière était loin d'être aussi précaire qu'il voulait le faire croire.

Lors d'un second contact téléphonique, l'interlocuteur aurait même indiqué à Robert Moscoso deux comptes en banque que ce dernier possède, et dont le solde est largement suffisant pour couvrir le montant de la rançon demandée, nous a confié la même source.

Telle a été la dernière conversation qu'avait la famille des victimes avec les kidnappeurs, dans l'après-midi du samedi (20 octobre). Avant de raccrocher, l'interlocuteur aurait exigé à Robert Moscoso le "Corde PIN" de son téléphone portable de marque BlackBerry. La négociation s'est donc poursuivie au moyen de la messagerie BBM, entre le père Moscoso et le principal kidnappeur (jusque là non encore identifié).

Toutefois, les Moscoso ont donné l'assurance que les arrangements nécessaires seraient faits au cours du week-end en vue de satisfaire à leurs demandes. Coup de théâtre lundi matin : Clifford Brandt mis aux arrêts.

La cellule contre enlèvement de la DCPJ, plus performante qu'avant

Le Premier Ministre Laurent Lamothe, qui est le président du Conseil Supérieur de la Police Nationale (CSPN), a toujours émis le vœux d'améliorer les conditions générales de sécurité dans le pays, en dotant la PNH de véhicules et d'équipements nécessaires pour faire face au banditisme, et en octroyant particulièrement de nouveaux matériels à la cellule contre enlèvement de la DCPJ.

Le secrétaire d'Etat à la sécurité publique, Reginald Delva, a laissé entendre que des efforts considérables ont été faits en ce sens ces derniers mois. Car, l'institution policière est aujourd'hui dotée de plusieurs techniques anti-kidnapping ayant donné de bons résultats ailleurs. L'opération ayant conduit à la libération des otages a été réalisée par les policiers de la cellule contre enlèvement, à en croire M. Delva.

On raconte que l'actuel chef de la Direction centrale de la police judiciaire (DCPJ), le commissaire Rameau Normil, a étudié aux Etats-Unis, et

qu'il serait le policier supérieur le mieux formé de la PNH pour occuper cette haute fonction.

" Sous mon administration, le banditisme, sous toutes ses formes, sera combattu ", avait-t-il dit, lors de sa prise de fonction en août dernier, en annonçant qu'il allait mener une lutte sans merci, entre autres, contre le trafic de la drogue, le kidnapping, la corruption, le vol des véhicules, le blanchiment des avoirs.

Une fois informée de l'enlèvement des Moscoso, grâce à de nouvelles techniques anti-kidnapping dont elle dispose, la PNH a pu mettre sous écoute vingt-quatre heures sur vingt-quatre les téléphones utilisés par les criminels pour négocier la rançon avec le père des otages.

Comment les enquêteurs ont-ils pu parvenir à localiser le téléphone portable du principal négociateur?

Si les responsables du service anti-kidnapping de la PNH avaient pu mettre sur table d'écoute les portables des kidnappeurs, cependant ils ne parvenaient pas à les localiser. Des techniques plus avancées dans le domaine étaient nécessaires. Pour s'assurer du succès total de ce grand coup de filet, car les enquêteurs étaient convaincus que ce kidnapping était une " affaire de haut rang ", ils ont fait venir des experts canadiens, d'où les cellulaires Black Berry utilisés par les kidnappeurs ont été fabriqués, pour leur aider à localiser les criminels.

Et une fois débarqués à Port-au-Prince, les experts canadiens (incluant plusieurs policiers d'origine haïtienne) n'avaient pas pris du temps pour détecter que les derniers "BBM Messages" envoyés au père des victimes étaient pour la plupart en provenance d'un utilisateur localisé dans la zone "Bas Delmas". Des techniques plus approfondies utilisées par les investigateurs étrangers ont vite permis de localiser que l'utilisateur du téléphone portable en question se trouvait directement dans une entreprise spécialisée dans la vente d'automobiles de marque Mazda à Delmas 2 (centre-nord de la capitale), appartenant à la famille Brandt.



Une fois appréhendé dans son entreprise à Delmas 2, le présumé kidnappeur Clifford Brandt, a été conduit à la Direction centrale de la police judiciaire (DCPJ) où a immédiatement commencé son interrogation.
Photo: réseau social

Ainsi des éléments de l'unité spécialisée Swat Team de la Police nationale d'Haïti ont été dépêchés sur les lieux pour procéder à l'arrestation de ce négociateur qui n'était autre que l'homme d'affaires Clifford Brandt.

suite page 14



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L'élite économique haïtienne éclaboussée par l'arrestation de Clifford Brandt pour "kidnapping" présumé

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Brandt conduit à la DCPJ

Immédiatement après son arrestation, le présumé kidnapeur a été conduit à la Direction centrale de la police judiciaire (DCPJ) où a immédiatement commencé son interrogation. Les interrogateurs sont allés vite en besogne, afin d'arriver à libérer les otages sains et saufs.

On raconte que le père de l'accusé, le riche homme d'affaires Fritz Patrick Louis Brandt, et son frère David, l'ont pressé d'indiquer le lieu où étaient gardés les deux jeunes Moscoso. Des hauts gradés de la PNH ont indiqué que Brandt père aurait même fait comprendre à son fils Clifford, qu'il n'avait pas d'autre choix que de coopérer avec les enquêteurs.

Comme Clifford persistait à garder jalousement ce secret, son père se serait agenouillé devant lui pour l'exhorter à collaborer en ce sens. Le présumé kidnapeur finit par révéler le lieu où étaient séquestrés les deux jeunes gens, une résidence à Pernier.

"Après un interrogatoire de plusieurs heures, Clifford Brandt est passé aux aveux avant de nous conduire le lendemain mardi aux environs de 3 heures du matin sur les lieux de séquestration, et nous avons donc pu libérer les otages", a confié François Henri Dossou, responsable de la cellule anti-enlèvement de la police, au journal Le Nouvelliste.

Au moment de leur libération, les deux otages issus tout comme leur bourreau Brandt d'une des familles dominantes de l'économie haïtienne, ont été retrouvés menottés, les yeux bandés, sur un matelas dans une chambre. Deux personnes, qui auraient été chargées de les surveiller au cours de la soirée, ont eu le temps de prendre la fuite.

Des complices sous les verrous

Les enquêteurs sont actuellement à la trousse de plusieurs membres du redoutable réseau de kidnappeurs du riche entrepreneur, incluant guichetiers de banque, policiers et une longue liste d'autres "facilitateurs".

Au lendemain de l'arrestation de Clifford Brandt, la police haïtienne a effectué une nouvelle perquisition au siège de l'entreprise Mazda à Delmas 2, ayant permis d'identifier d'autres présumés complices. Plusieurs d'entre eux sont déjà mis aux arrêts, dont les deux policiers Ricot Pierreval et Carlo St-Fort, épinglés à Ouanaminthe (nord-est), au moment où ils tentaient de fuir en territoire voisin.

La secrétaire de Clifford Brandt, Sawadienne Jean, ainsi que Franck

Sintériné, qui serait le mari de cette dernière, sont également sous les verrous. Comme Clifford Brandt et les deux autres policiers complices, ils ont été auditionnés avant d'être conduits au centre de détention de Carrefour communément appelé Omega, désormais hautement sécurisé.

Des rumeurs persistantes font croire que la PNH a opéré de nombreuses arrestations presque consécutivement après avoir épinglé Clifford Brandt. On cite un proche collaborateur du présumé kidnapeur répondant au nom de Valéry Adrien qui aurait été appréhendé à l'aéroport international Toussaint Louverture au moment où il s'apprêtait à quitter le pays. Edner Comé, un ancien inspecteur de police, serait parmi les complices les plus recherchés.

Le porte-parole de la police nationale d'Haïti, le commissaire divisionnaire Frantz Lerebours, a par ailleurs démenti la rumeur faisant croire que 265 policiers seraient impliqués dans cette affaire de kidnapping. Chose certaine, a-t-il toutefois révélé, une mesure conservatoire a été prise à l'encontre de trois autres policiers dans le cadre de l'enquête. Il s'agit de Marc Arthur Phébé, chef de la sécurité attachée à la présidence (CAT team), Jacques Darly (Brigade criminelle) et Frantz Aristil (commissariat de Port-au-Prince).

Les enquêteurs de la Direction Central de la Police Judiciaire (DCPJ), cherchent à examiner la nature précise des relations de ces policiers avec Clifford Brandt, afin de déterminer leur éventuelle implication dans le double enlèvement.

Des armes de guerre confisquées

Des armes de guerre, une importante quantité de munitions et des reçus de transactions bancaires ont été confisqués en la résidence de Edner Comé, l'ancien inspecteur de la Police nationale d'Haïti (PNH), activement recherché. L'opération a été menée le samedi 27 octobre 2012 à Delmas 75.

Ce sont les déclarations de Clifford Brandt et d'autres renseignements qui ont permis de remonter à d'autres filières, a confié un membre de la police judiciaire. Des scellées ont été apposées, le même samedi, sur la maison Mazda, à Delmas 2, que dirigeait Clifford Brandt. Ce à quoi l'un des avocats du présumé kidnapeur s'oppose, arguant que l'entreprise Mazda était une société anonyme. L'homme de loi dénonce "l'illégalité" de la pose des scellées.

Abattre Reginald Delva

Le secrétaire d'Etat à la sécurité publique, Reginald Delva, s'est rendu sur place lors de la perquisition réalisée au domicile de M. Brandt par le



Clifford Brandt

commissaire du gouvernement près le tribunal de première instance de Port-au-Prince, Me Gérald Norgaisse.

Selon le haut responsable, M. Brandt avait planifié de créer un climat de terreur en assassinant plusieurs personnalités au cours des dernières semaines de l'année 2012. Dans un message enregistré M. Brandt avait indiqué que le réseau pourra déstabiliser le pays avec les nombreux enlèvements prévus en décembre, révèle M. Delva. "Ce réseau s'apprêtait à faire régner la terreur dans la zone métropolitaine", s'est indigné Delva qui s'interroge sur les motifs de la haine de ces criminels contre la société haïtienne.

Dans des documents saisis au domicile de M. Brandt le nom de Réginald Delva figurait sur une liste de personnes à abattre ou enlever. Le secrétaire d'Etat confirme que les membres du gang avaient déjà identifié l'endroit où il devrait être abattu.



Le secrétaire d'Etat à la sécurité publique, Reginald Delva

Clifford Brandt incarcéré à la prison Civile de Carrefour

Suite à son audition au parquet du tribunal de première instance de Port-au-Prince, le jeudi 25 octobre, l'homme d'affaires Clifford Brandt, a été envoyé à la prison civile de Carrefour, en compagnie de quatre autres complices, sa secrétaire Sawadienne Jean et son mari Franck Saintérine, ainsi que les policiers Ricot Pierreval et Carlo Saint-Fort.

"Il y a évidence. Il [Clifford Brandt] a avoué que c'est lui, en complicité avec deux autres personnes, qui a enlevé les enfants Moscoso", a indiqué le commissaire du gouvernement a.i.

suite page 15

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L'élite économique haïtienne éclaboussée par l'arrestation de Clifford Brandt pour "kidnapping" présumé

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de Port-au-Prince, Me Gérald Norgaïsse, soulignant avoir déféré le dossier devant le cabinet d'instruction pour les suites légales.

Selon Me Norgaïsse, qui n'a pas voulu fournir trop de détails sur ce dossier, " pour des raisons de sécurité ", dit-il, le parquet, a décidé d'incarcérer Clifford Brandt et les quatre autres suspects à la prison civile de Carrefour, et non au Pénitencier national.

" Nous avons un dossier très sensible, il y a des dispositions de sécurité à prendre (...). Nous avons donc pris les dispositions qu'il faut ", a soutenu plus loin le chef du parquet.

C'est dans le domaine du possible. Si une personne [Clifford Brandt] de ce niveau pratique des enlèvements, il est fort probable qu'il y ait des policiers avec lui, des personnes qui connaissent les rouages, lui permettant de contourner la police assez facilement ", reconnaît pour sa part le porte-parole de la police nationale, le commissaire Frantz Lerebours.

La CCIH ne fait pas de quartier
Hervé Denis, président de la Chambre de Commerce et des Industries d'Haïti (CCIH), rappelle que " tout individu est innocent jusqu'à ce que la justice le condamne pour une infraction " et souligne que l'institution qu'il dirige a pour principe " d'applaudir à l'arrestation de tout bandit quelque soit son origine sociale ou sa nuance épidermique ".

Pour M. Denis, l'arrestation de l'homme d'affaires Clifford Brandt par la police haïtienne pour kidnapping présumé, n'a rien à voir avec le secteur privé.

" C'est un acte individuel qui n'a aucun impact sur la Ccih et nous demandons à la justice d'être cèle, car le banditisme est nocif au climat de développement des affaires ", déclare Denis à AlterPresse, soulignant que Brandt n'est pas membre de la Ccih.

Une élite économique prête à tout pour faire fortune ?

Des commentaires à travers les réseaux sociaux sur cette affaire ont tendance à faire croire à une " pratique habituelle [au sein] d'un secteur où tout serait possible pour faire des affaires ". La famille Brandt n'en n'est pas à son premier scandale. On se rappelle que

le père Fritz Patrick Louis Brandt et son fils David avaient été appréhendés le 26 juillet 2007 sur ordre de Claudy Gassant, commissaire du gouvernement de Port-au-Prince à l'époque. Ces deux Brandt auraient fait l'utilisation de bordereaux falsifiés pour dédouaner un camion estimé à 100,000.00 dollars américains.

Pour le Réseau national de défense des droits humains (RNDDH), il n'y a rien d'étonnant car ce n'est pas une nouveauté que des membres du secteur des affaires soient mêlés à des crimes de ce genre.

L'affaire Brandt/Moscoso constitue un coup de tonnerre en Haïti où beaucoup commencent à rejeter la thèse du monopole des pauvres sur le kidnapping et à questionner les pratiques d'une bourgeoisie économique pour qui, tous les moyens sont bons pour s'enrichir davantage au détriment de la population haïtienne.

Peut-on compter sur le système judiciaire haïtien ?

La justice est une pour tous dans les pays avancés. Personne ne doit pas échapper à la justice en raison de leur statut social, de leur richesse, de leur origine, de leur couleur et leur appartenance politique.

On assimile le présumé kidnappeur Clifford Brandt comme membre du traditionnel cercle fermé des intouchables que constituent historiquement l'oligarchie haïtienne. D'aucuns se demandent si le système judiciaire haïtien est en mesure de juger souverainement un " gro poisson " comme Clifford Brandt ?

Nombreux sont les citoyens qui affichent un certain pessimisme dans la parfaite conclusion de cette affaire. Pour eux, il n'y a pas de juges haïtiens sur qui on peut compter pour l'application ferme et courageuse de la loi au cas où la culpabilité de l'homme d'affaires serait établie.

D'aucuns craignent que les pots-de-vin ne vont pas couler à flot pour faire échec à une justice impartiale. Et on se pose déjà la question : Quelle justice possible dans l'état actuel du système judiciaire haïtien?

Bien que le commissaire du gouvernement près le tribunal de première instance de Port-au-Prince, Me Gérald Norgaïsse, avance " des raisons de sécurité " pour incarcérer le présumé



"Mes enfants ont étudié à l'étranger mais ont choisi de revenir en Haïti malgré la situation. Et j'en suis très fier..." avait révélé Grégory Brandt (photo ci-dessus) lors d'un entretien avec un journaliste étranger, après le tremblement de terre de janvier 2010. Avec l'arrestation du présumé kidnappeur Clifford Brandt, membre de cette riche famille, on comprend maintenant que c'est vraisemblablement pour mieux s'enrichir par tous les moyens qu'ils (enfants de Brandt) reviennent au pays après avoir étudié à l'étranger. Crédits photo: Paolo Woods / Institute

kidnappeur à la prison civile de Carrefour, et non au Pénitencier national, de l'avis de plusieurs observateurs, cela prouve déjà le " deux poids, deux mesures ".

Un vrai test pour l'administration Martelly-Lamothe

L'affaire Brandt devrait être une bonne occasion pour tester la véritable politique de l'administration Martelly-Lamothe contre le banditisme et le kidnapping en particulier. Elle devrait être une opportunité pour l'équipe gouvernementale de mettre les citoyens en confiance.

Dans une déclaration faite à l'agence en ligne AlterPresse, Pierre Espérance du Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains (RNDDH) a " rappelé tous les moyens utilisés par la bourgeoisie et le secteur privé des affaires pour corrompre la justice dans l'affaire de Stanley Handal impliqué dans un cas similaire en 2005 ".

Le 23 août 2005, la police avait arrêté l'homme d'affaires Stanley Handal dans le cadre de l'enquête autour de la disparition de Nathael Aléus Génélus, jeune employé de la Unibank.

Selon les informations disponibles dans la presse à l'époque, l'enquête policière a mis à jour l'existence d'un réseau de malfaiteurs spécialisé dans le blanchiment d'argent de la drogue et les actes de kidnapping. Handal serait le maître-à-penser de ce gang.

Pourtant un arrêt du 9 février 2006 de la Cour d'appel avait ordonné la libération de Handal et de 3 policiers co-inculpés.

N'est-ce pas une raison de plus pour les citoyens honnêtes de ne pas être trop euphoriques après l'arrestation de ce membre de l'élite économique haïtienne, dont leur fortune est vraisemblablement basée sur la malhonnêteté et le brigandage.

Avec le souvenir de l'affaire Handal en 2006, auquel rajoute l'impunité actuelle et la corruption du système judiciaire haïtien, il y a de bonnes raisons d'être pessimistes quand à l'aboutissement du dossier de Clifford Brandt.

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Vibrant hommage de Martelly et des Clinton à René Préal

Discret et silencieux, l'ex président René Préal a reçu un vibrant hommage de son successeur, le président Michel Martelly, de l'envoyé spécial du secrétaire général de l'ONU, Bill Clinton, et de la secrétaire d'Etat américaine, Hillary Clinton.

M. Préal qui évite les cérémonies officielles depuis l'intronisation de Michel Martelly, a assisté aux premières loges à l'inauguration du Parc industriel de Caracol le lundi 22 octobre 2012.

La secrétaire d'Etat américaine a salué l'engagement et la détermination de M. Préal. C'est lui qui a eu la volonté de transformer ce projet d'un rêve en réalité. Sous les ovations de l'assistance, Madame Clinton s'est dit honorée d'avoir collaboré avec le président Préal.

Cet avis est partagé par l'ex président Bill Clinton. Il révèle que le président Préal a prouvé sa confiance dans le projet dès le premier jour. Les efforts ont commencé avec le gouvernement Préal et se sont poursuivis avec le gouvernement de Martelly, s'est réjoui M. Clinton.

Le président Michel Martelly a également rendu un vibrant hommage à son prédécesseur. Il a salué la vision et le leadership de M. Préal qui ont abouti à la concrétisation de ce parc industriel

Les forces de l'ordre veulent démanteler le gang de Clifford Brandt

Le secrétaire d'Etat à la sécurité publique, Reginald Delva, confirme la poursuite de l'enquête ayant permis l'arrestation de l'homme d'affaires Clifford Brandt. Il révèle que M. Brandt était le cerveau de l'un des plus grands réseaux de criminels ayant perpétré de nombreux enlèvements à travers le pays. C'était un défi et la police a pu donner la preuve de son efficacité, a laissé entendre M. Delva

L'enquête doit se poursuivre jusqu'à la capture de tous les membres de ce réseau promet Delva qui rappelle qu'un avis de recherche a été lancé contre l'ex inspecteur de la Police, Edner Comé.

Le week end écoulé les autorités judiciaires avaient perquisitionné la résidence de M. Comé dans le cadre de l'enquête. Plusieurs armes de guerre et de nombreuses munitions ont été saisies ainsi que des documents prouvant l'implication de cet ex officier de police dans ce gang.

Cependant M. Delva dément les rumeurs faisant état de l'implication d'un grand nombre de policiers et des hauts gradés dans le gang de Brandt. A ce stade de l'enquête aucun policier n'a été appréhendé assure M. Delva qui confirme toutefois que trois policiers ont été auditionnés par l'inspection générale de la PNH.

Selon les autorités le gang de Brandt était également impliqué dans le trafic de la drogue et des armes. Le secrétaire d'Etat révèle également que les criminels avaient à leur disposition des badges de la DEA, l'agence américaine de lutte contre le trafic des stupéfiants. Ceci prouve que ces bandits avaient des connexions avec d'autres réseaux criminels insiste t-il.

Les autorités policières promettent de lancer des avis de recherches contre tous les membres du gang. Ils sont nombreux les membres de ce réseau qui avait des ramifications à travers le pays, conclut M. Delva.

Lucmane Delile, le nouveau locataire du parquet de Port-au-Prince déclare la guerre aux kidnappeurs

Me Lucmane Delile a pris ses fonctions mardi comme le nouveau commissaire du gouvernement de Port-au-Prince en lançant la chasse aux kidnappeurs et autres individus ayant trempé dans des activités criminelles ou dans la délinquance.

Peu après avoir prêté serment devant le doyen du tribunal civil, Me Raymond Jean-François, l'ancien leader étudiant du mouvement GNB anti-Aristide de 2004 a annoncé les couleurs à travers un message direct adressé aux kidnappeurs, narcotrafiquants et faussaires. Avec la lutte contre la détention préventive prolongée et la dégradation des valeurs

morales, ces derniers seront la priorité des priorités des nouvelles autorités judiciaires de la capitale.

« Ils doivent changer de profession et remettre leurs armes pour redevenir de bons citoyens. Sinon, ils n'auront qu'à se réfugier dans un trou », a déclaré, sentencieux, Lucmane Delile, lors d'une cérémonie présidée par le directeur général du ministère de la justice, Me Jean Roudy Aly.

Arrivant, avec apparemment beaucoup de détermination, dans un lieu au cœur de scandales et de manifestations en cascade de l'autoritarisme politique du pouvoir central, le nouveau responsable succède Me Gérald Norgaisse qui, en sa qualité de commissaire intérimaire, n'a passé que quelques semaines dans la « fournaise ardente » qu'est devenu le parquet du tribunal civil de Port-au-Prince, véritable thermomètre de l'instabilité institutionnelle à l'haïtienne.

Le Sénateur Moïse Jean-Charles qualifie le Député Gracia Delva de « passeur » de kidnappeurs

Au cœur de rumeurs persistantes depuis quelques jours, le Député progouvernemental Gracia Delva a été l'objet lundi d'une violente attaque du Sénateur de l'opposition Moïse Jean-Charles qui l'a accusé d'implication dans le kidnapping, une semaine après l'arrestation du riche homme d'affaires Clifford Brandt qui serait la plaque tournante de l'un des plus importants réseaux criminels du pays.

Dans une interview à Radio Kiskeya, le représentant du nord n'a pas hésité à accuser l'élu de la circonscription de Marchand-Dessalines (Artibonite, nord) d'avoir transporté et exfiltré quatre présumés kidnappeurs à la frontière avec la République Dominicaine. Ces individus seraient tous des proches du pouvoir, a accusé Jean-Charles en affirmant qu'Haïti était en train de se transformer en un « Etat terroriste » ayant à sa tête des « bandits légaux » qui considéreraient le kidnapping comme un grand pourvoyeur d'argent.

Sans pouvoir révéler l'identité des individus qui auraient été interceptés chez

nos voisins, en compagnie du Député, après avoir passé la frontière, le Sénateur souligne que tous les cinq portaient de faux badges de la Mission de stabilisation de l'ONU (MINUSTAH).

Cependant, le Député Gracia Delva, très lié au Président Michel Martelly et dont l'absence a alimenté les rumeurs sur ses relations supposées avec le puissant gang de Clifford Brandt, a démenti les accusations portées contre lui. Sur les ondes d'une station de radio de Port-au-Prince, le chanteur de Compas surnommé « Yes I A » a expliqué que son voyage à l'étranger était planifié de longue date et répondait à des obligations personnelles

Clifford Brandt chute lors de sa comparution en justice

L'homme d'affaires Clifford Brandt, détenu depuis lundi pour son implication présumée dans un double kidnapping, est tombé apparemment en syncope durant quelques minutes jeudi après-midi au parquet de Port-au-Prince où il comparait pour la première fois en compagnie de quatre autres individus.

Le visage fatigué, menotté, M. Brandt est tombé à la renverse avant de regagner sa place dans la salle d'audition, au bout d'un moment.

Avec l'aide des policiers présents, le prévenu a pu se rasseoir dans l'attente de son interrogatoire que devait conduire le commissaire du gouvernement a.i de la capitale, Me Gérald Norgaisse.

Des produits en polyéthylène saisis à la douane de Malpasse

Le ministre de l'environnement Jean Vilmont Hilaire annonce qu'une certaine quantité de produits en polyéthylène a été saisie par la douane de Malpasse à la frontière haïtiano-dominicaine. Selon le ministre, ces marchandises sont actuellement entreposées à Malpasse, en attendant les suites légales.

Le ministre l'environnement rappelle également que l'importation de sachets plastiques contenant de l'eau continue d'être autorisée, mais que ce secteur va être régularisé prochainement.

Sarodj Bertin est couronnée « Reine Hispano-Américaine »



Elle n'a pas gagné la Miss Univers, écrit l'agence Associated Press, mais la voici couronnée « Reine Hispano-Américaine » deux ans plus tard.

Sarodj Bertin, la belle avocate haïtienne âgée de 26 ans, qui a représenté notre pays dans le plus grand concours de beauté en 2010, a gagné le vendredi 26 octobre 2012 le titre de « Reine Hispano-américaine » parmi 22 concurrentes.

Elle était l'une des dernières à arriver dans la ville de Santa Cruz, dans l'est

de la Bolivie, qui a accueilli le gala. Elle a conquis le public et les juges avec sa personnalité extravertie et sa beauté couleur cannelle.

Bertin a reçu la couronne d'argent incrustée de bijoux de son prédécesseur, Eva van Putten, miss Curaçao. Les six autres finalistes étaient les représentantes de Cuba, de l'Espagne, de la Bolivie, du Brésil, du Panama et du Paraguay.

La première Miss Haïti depuis 22 ans, a été couronnée peu de temps après le séisme survenu en Haïti en 2010 et participe la même année au concours Miss Univers.

Comme Reine Hispano-Américaine, elle promet de travailler pour les enfants de son pays, où sa mère, Mireille Durocher, a été assassinée en 1995 alors qu'elle était candidate à la présidence d'Haïti.

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Pouki sa Seriz bon?

Ji fèy Seriz pile se yon bon remèd pou mal gòj, lè nou melanje li ak yon demi tas dlo pwòp. Konsa na gagarize melanj sa jouk gòj la ba nou souf. Fanm ke lèt travèse, se yon maladi ki konn rive manman pitit kap bay ti bebe tete...yo kapab melanje 5 fèy kachiman kèbèk ak yon ponyen Seriz mi. Vide demi lit dlo bouyi sou melanj sa epi bay fanm nouris la bwè tizann sa jouk li geri. Rasin Pye Seriz bouyi bon pou moun ki gen pwobèm pou pipi. Te rasin Seriz fè moun pipi dri.

Vitamin yo ki nan Seriz ede nou anpil, yon moun ki vle konsève jenès li dwe bwè anpil ji Seriz. Ou santi ou fèb, nenpòt ti grip, fyèw kap taye bannda videw atè, bwè ji Seriz, lap remonte prese prese iminn sistèm nou. Ji Seriz la bon pou maladi yo rele disantri/dysenterie (moun kap bay ti glè ak ti san/kreyòl pale, kreyòl konprann). Wou menm ki soufri maladi yo rele Eskòbit(Scorbut) ki kòs danw

(dents/teeth) ap tonbe san frape, emoraji ap fè ou soufri ou dwe bwè bon ji Seriz paske se akòz nou manke vitamin C sa kapab rivew. Fatig, simenaj, ap kalew, fè yon ji Seriz lap remontew pap padap. Ti lèzanj yo kap grandi dwe bwè anpil ji Seriz pou yo ka byen grandi.



Yonn nan bèl merit Pye Seriz se nan konsèvasyon Tè (RANP VIVAN). Pye Seriz ede tè a konbat ewozyon, se sak fè nou bezwen plante anpil plan Seriz nan peyi nou Ayiti. Konsa na sispann achte Seriz pèpè nan men dominiken. Map kanpe la pou jodia, nap kase randevou pou yon lòt TI RIBRIK nan jou kap vini la yo si kè papa Bon Dye kontant, mèsì.

JUDE ETIENNE

(LANDSCAPIST/HORTICULTURIST)
ZANMI LANATI AYITI – ZALA.

Haitian activist change artist, musician BÉLO coming to Rockport, Rockland, Boothbay Harbor

By Holly S. Edwards

ROCKPORT - Haitian musician BÉLO's visit to Midcoast Maine later this week will undoubtedly have an impact on many people, from school children and teenage and adult musicians to inmates at Maine State Prison in Warren, and for music lovers of all ages.

And that's exactly how BÉLO wants it. He is a man on a mission to spread the message that Haitians need to come together to find solutions, and to ensure the world does not forget about Haiti.

BÉLO is due to arrive in Camden Wednesday, Oct. 31, Halloween evening. At 9 a.m. the next day, Nov. 1, he and his band will perform an hour-long concert at the prison.

Both before and after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, BÉLO made music and performance powerful platforms for addressing issues and transforming opinion. Whether singing to children in orphanages or raising awareness of AIDS, BÉLO "knows exactly why he does what he does," as audiences across the U.S. have been experiencing this fall, thanks for his participation in Center Stage.

Center Stage is an initiative of the U.S. Dept. of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Its mission is to bring "compelling contemporary artists abroad to the U.S. to engage Americans in cultural diplomacy as a way to create opportunities for greater understanding," according to its website.

BÉLO's native town is Croix des Bouquet. In the summer, he spent time with his grandparents in a remote vil-



BÉLO will rock his African roots to inspire change at home in Haiti, and abroad.

Photo courtesy Bay Chamber Concerts/By Frederic Dupoux)

lage, where he heard and experienced vodou, Haiti's unique mix of spiritual and musical traditions that permeates all aspects of rural life and helps support social cohesion. Described as an "outspoken groove innovator," BÉLO interweaves the Afro-Caribbean depths of Haitian tradition with a progressive voice for social and political transformation.

"With the love I have for my country, I can only give back," said BÉLO in the release. "I make music because I really want things to change, and I believe in the power of music to do that. For that reason, Center Stage is very important to me as an artist. Not only will I be able to learn more about the American culture, but I can also share my culture with a broader audience and show the good side of Haiti."

BÉLO performed at the Kennedy Center

Millennium Stage in Washington D.C., Oct. 21, and held five concerts at three Massachusetts venues between Oct. 24 and Oct. 30.

Following his prison concert Thursday morning as part of Bay Chamber Concert's Community Engagement Program, BÉLO is hosting a free, community, unplugged "artist encounter" at 6:30 p.m. at Bay Chamber Music School in Rockport Village.

Nov. 2 he will perform at the Boothbay Opera House in Boothbay Harbor and then travel back north to Rockland, for a concert Saturday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m. at the Strand Theatre.

Nov. 4 and 5, BÉLO will perform in Portland at Portland Ovations with renowned Haitian storyteller and artist Charlot Lucien.

Lucien knows BÉLO through his songs,

and said BÉLO is from the generation of artists that emerged after Lucien left Haiti.

"I left in 1981," he said, over the phone Oct. 26. "I know of BÉLO's reputation with social causes. I am not surprised that he is performing at the prison as part of his social engagement. Most artists in Haiti would have this interest, given conditions they observe on a regular basis and through extending solidarity in bad situations and conditions."

Without knowing exactly what BÉLO's reasons are for choosing to perform for the prison inmates in Warren, Lucien said it has been his experience that the common themes of injustice and suffering are often why Haitians join together.

Lucien's stories include social satirical observations of community life in Haiti. It is humor, he said, but it's also serious. Lucien also practices traditional Haitian folktales, which often include monsters, devils and magic realism of Haiti.

BÉLO's own music, which can leap from R&B grooves to clever jazz-inflected chords, and punchy brass to undulating bass, further evolved as he gained international acclaim in Europe and made friends in the Francophone African music scene in Paris. Whether jamming with members of Malian icon Salif Keita's band or recording with bass players from Benin or ngoni (West African lute) performers, BÉLO is said to feel the powerful connection between diverse African sounds and his own native blend.

This article has been edited for space consideration. S: penbaypilot.com

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Steps to Becoming A Real Success Story

By Terri Louise Clay

The Definition of success is: *The achievement of something, desired, planned or attempted.* So in a nut shell just means anything that you are trying to do or be, whether it be starting your own business, making more money, writing a book, etc. Once you achieve the life that you have envisioned in your mind, that is what makes you successful.

Eric Thomas, "world known" motivational speaker's video went viral. He said if you want success as bad as you want to breathe, then you will be successful. Wow I'm sure everyone wants to breathe so really what are the steps to become a real success story? People are yearning and wanting success. We all want to make more money, or have more than we already have right now. But how bad do we really want it? How do we really become a real success story.

The steps to becoming a real success story are not always simple as one may think. If so everyone would be a success story, everyone would be making more money, or everyone would be starting their own business, etc. But if you want it as bad as you want to breathe success will not only come but will change your life to ways that you never saw before. There are 5 magical steps that will help your produce true success.



Terri Louise Clay

purpose will help you live longer and grow stronger. What if we were sitting in a chair expecting it to ride us down the street like a car would. It wouldn't work would it? That's because it's not the purpose of the chair to take us here or there. Find your purpose and the success you yearn for will push you to becoming a real success story.

2. Write the Vision ~ Writing the vision is the 2nd step to becoming a real success story. The bible says in Habakkuk 2:2, 3 to write the vision and make it plain, and yes it may tary but no matter what or how crazy life may get it will **TRULY** come. In a nutshell it just says that your dreams

1. Find your purpose ~ Find your purpose and true happiness will come. We were all created with a thought in mind and with a true purpose. Finding your

and vision will come to life. Writing the vision is another word for setting goals for yourself and seeing who you will become and be and what your real live success story will look like.

3. Be willing to Fail ~ All real success stories are full of failure stories. Oh yes all successful people failed at one time or another. The Michael Jordans, Donald Trumps, and Les Browns of the world were all willing to fail. They just didn't quit. The continued to try over and over again until they become a real success story.

4. Surround yourself with other real success stories ~ Yes the bible says to be thou unequally yoked with unbelievers. That just means continue to surround yourself around like-minded people. If you want to be a real success story, then surround yourself with other people who live, breathe and produce success.

5. Be a positive thinker ~ All people who are a real success continued to believe that they could do anything possible than they believed. Even when the chips were down and negative things happened they still believed that they would be a success no matter what the results.

People who are a s just do things differently and proceed to win no matter what. Want to be a real success story just do it and make it happen no matter what.

Terri L Clay is an inspirational speaker who travels the world putting on Girls Night Out Vision Board Parties in 8 major cities (Washington, DC, Atlanta, GA, Louisville, Ky, Runway Bay, Jamacia, Milwaukee, WI, Chicago, IL, and Houston, TX. She is helping to empower women and girls to make life happen no matter what.

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L'ouragan Sandy dévaste la côte est des Etats-Unis à une semaine de l'élection présidentielle

Par Sylvain Cypel

Sandy est désormais considéré comme l'ouragan tropical le plus important ayant jamais touché l'Etat de New York par le National Hurricane Center (Centre national des ouragans). Jeff Masters, cofondateur du Weather Underground à l'université de Ann Arbor, dans le Michigan, estimait lundi 29 octobre au soir, que l'on assistait à "un super-ouragan, le plus grave depuis plus d'un siècle" sur cette partie de la côte atlantique et pronostiquait "un désastre potentiel très coûteux pour la ville de New York".

Le "désastre" était perceptible en un grand nombre de lieux, sans qu'on puisse encore en dégager la dimension réelle, dans la nuit de lundi à mardi. Une première victime, un habitant du district du Queens, a été tuée avant 20 heures par la chute sur sa maison d'un arbre arraché par les vents, qui atteignaient 185 km/h. Des arbres étaient tombés sur Broadway, la célèbre avenue qui coupe Manhattan en diagonale du nord-ouest au sud-est. L'Hudson et dans une moindre mesure East River, les fleuves entourant l'île de Manhattan, cœur de la ville et centre de son activité économique, avaient tous deux débordé, des trombes d'eau se déversant dans les rues.

Au sud de l'île, des quartiers entiers, comme le célèbre Battery Park, ou des parties d'entre eux, à Chelsea ou Tribeca, étaient inondés. Dans Brooklyn, la promenade et les rues avoisinant Coney Island étaient entièrement inondées ; dans le Queens, deux quartiers étaient dépourvus d'électricité dès 20 heures et le Midtown Tunnel, tunnel le plus important du district, était fermé pour cause d'inondation. Dans le quartier de Springfield Garden, des images télévisées montraient non seulement des habitants bottés les pieds dans l'eau, mais de nombreux bâtiments aux toits déplacés ou tombant sur le côté et des rues encombrées par des chutes d'arbres.

La situation de loin la plus inquiétante concernait Staten Island, la plus petite île de la ville qui constitue son district le moins peuplé mais aussi, proportionnellement, le plus situé en "zone A", la plus inondable. Près de l'hôpital universitaire, des rues entières étaient envahies par des crues atteignant jusqu'à 40 cm par endroits. Les pompiers étaient mobilisés pour évacuer les personnes bloquées chez elles, mais ils semblaient manquer de forces suffisantes, et sans possibilité de recevoir de l'aide dans l'immédiat, les ponts d'accès à l'île étant bloqués.

Tard en soirée, on apprenait que des gens étaient bloqués dans leur appartement sur cette île sans que les sauveteurs ne soient en mesure de parvenir jusqu'à eux.

De fait, le premier d'entre eux, le célèbre Brooklyn Bridge, au-dessus d'East River, avait été fermé dès 19 heures. On estimait en soirée que jusqu'à 225 000 personnes étaient affectées à divers degrés par les crues dans le bas-Manhattan. Quant au nombre de personnes privées d'électricité, qui semblait très limité dans un premier temps, il s'avérait au milieu de la nuit plus important. Porte-parole de la société ConEdison, Jon Miks, comptabilisait quelque 575 000 New-yorkais victimes "d'interruptions ou de coupures alternatives d'électricité", dont 235 000 dans le seul quartier de Manhattan (l'île compte 2 millions d'habitants), principalement à Tribeca, Battery Park et West Village, et 240 000 dans l'ensemble Brooklyn-Queens.

Le maire, Michael Bloomberg, était intervenu à 22 heures pour faire le point. À tous ceux qui étaient encore dans les rues, il demandait de rentrer immédiatement chez eux et de se méfier en particulier de tout câble traînant dans les rues, pour éviter tout accident dramatique. "Je vous en conjure, ne sortez pas, ne prenez pas votre véhicule, en aucune circonstance", demandait-il aux autres. "Il reste trop de chauffeurs dans les rues. C'est dangereux et vous gênez les



L'ouragan tant redouté est arrivé la côte est américaine et à New York, particulièrement touchée, dans la nuit du 29 ou 30 octobre. La tempête qui a balayé le nord-est des Etats-Unis aurait fait au moins 33 morts dans sept états, selon les bilans toujours provisoires fournis par les autorités, dont 10 dans celui de New York. Transports fermés, électricité coupée, tunnels inondés, la ville est totalement paralysée et l'île de Manhattan a enregistré une subite montée des eaux lundi soir.

secouristes. Ce n'est pas un jeu."

Il suppliait surtout la population de cesser d'appeler le numéro d'urgence habituel (le 911). D'habitude, le nombre des appels ne dépasse pas 1 000 à l'heure. Au moment où il parlait, il atteignait, a-t-il indiqué, 10 000 par demi-heure. "N'appellez ce numéro que pour les cas où une vie est réellement en danger", demandait-il.

Un numéro pour les cas moins vitaux a été mis à la disposition du public, mais il a très vite été complètement saturé. Seule bonne nouvelle, indiquait M. Bloomberg, le pic des vents était passé. Selon ses services, la majeure partie des eaux se seraient écoulées dès 6 heures du matin (11 heures en France) et la plupart des rues seraient alors asséchées.

Un des motifs de la gravité des dégâts, expliquaient les spécialistes en soirée, est que les côtes du New Jersey, au sud de la ville, et celles de Long Island, à l'Est, forment presque un angle droit, avec un "trou" à leur intersection, qui constitue l'entrée vers New York. De sorte que les vents tourbillonnants s'engouffrent dans ce goulot qui renforce instantanément leur puissance.

L'une des questions que posaient lundi soir les commentateurs était celle de la rapidité des déblayages des voies routières et ferroviaires, une question clé pour la reprise de l'activité économique de la cité. On ne connaît pas l'état dans lequel on les découvrira une fois la tornade passée. Une autre interrogation portait sur le nombre possible des victimes. Eric Ulrich, un élu municipal, pestait : trop de gens "ont ri des mises en garde, se souvenant de l'ouragan Irène, il y deux ans, qui s'était avéré moins grave qu'annoncé. Ces gens ont eu complètement tort et j'espère qu'aucun New-Yorkais ne le paiera trop cher".

En fin de soirée, le nombre des victimes potentielles montait comme une préoccupation majeure des services de sécurité et de secours. Les images de files ininterrompues d'ambulances parvenant aux hôpitaux envahissaient les écrans de télévision. "La ville qui ne dort jamais reste éveillée par un cauchemar", disait la présentatrice de NY1.

S: LeMonde.fr

NBA: le Heat entre en jeu et dompte les Celtics

MIAMI (Reuters) - Sacrés champions de NBA en juin, les joueurs du Miami Heat ont étreint leurs bagues de diamants mardi soir en match d'ouverture de la saison régulière en battant avec assurance les Boston Celtics (120-107).

Très attendus cette année, les Los Angeles Lakers ont de leur côté chuté d'entrée face aux Dallas Mavericks (99-91) dans un match où le Français du Texas Roddy Beaubois s'est distingué en inscrivant 11 points et en faisant cinq passes décisives.

Dans le dernier match de la soirée, les Cavaliers de Cleveland ont battu sur leur parquet les Washington Wizards (94-84), qui jouaient sans Kevin Séraphin.

Pour cette reprise du championnat, le Heat n'a donc pas tremblé à l'heure d'entamer la défense de son titre, le deuxième de l'histoire de la franchise et le premier depuis la

formation à l'été 2010 du trio LeBron James, Dwyane Wade et Chris Bosh.

En début de rencontre, les joueurs ont reçu leurs bagues de champion et une banderole célébrant leur titre a été déployée dans leur salle.

LeBron James, sacré l'an dernier MVP de la saison régulière, a marqué 26 points mais a dû sortir pendant la majeure partie du dernier quart-temps en raison de crampes au mollet.

"A ce moment, ça ne servait à rien de forcer", a déclaré à l'issue de la rencontre l'entraîneur de Miami, Erik Spoelstra, néanmoins satisfait de la performance de son équipe.

BRYANT ET GASOL N'ONT RIEN PU FAIRE
"C'est bien d'avoir pu terminer cette nuit par une victoire,

c'était un moment émouvant pour toute l'organisation de voir cette banderole dépliée avant le match. Cela nous a rappelé toutes les émotions et les souvenirs de ce qu'il a fallu faire pour vraiment accomplir cela collectivement."

Dwyane Wade, en forme après son opération au genou, a été le meilleur marqueur du Heat avec 29 points, tandis que Bosh a terminé avec 19 points.

Miami menait de 19 points au dernier quart-temps mais les Celtics ont profité de l'absence de James pour revenir à seulement quatre points de retard à deux minutes de la fin.

Quant aux Los Angeles Lakers, ils ont dû s'incliner face aux Dallas Mavericks malgré le coup de pouce tardif de Kobe Bryant. Le quintuple champion de NBA, handicapé par une blessure au pied pendant une semaine, s'était dit suffisamment en forme pour jouer en cette ouverture de saison.



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