

Ten Things the US Can and Should Do for Haiti

by Bill Quigley, Human Rights Attorney in New Orleans

I. Allow all Haitians in the US to work. The number one source of money for poor people in Haiti is the money sent from family and workers in the US back home. Haitians will continue to help themselves if given a chance. Haitians in the US will continue to help when the world community moves on to other problems.

II. Do not allow US military in Haiti to point their guns at Haitians. Hungry Haitians are not the enemy. Decisions have already been made which will militarize the humanitarian relief - but do not allow the victims to be cast as criminals. Do not demonize the people.

III. Give Haiti grants as help, not loans. Haiti does not need any more debt. Make sure that the relief given helps Haiti rebuild its public sector so the country can provide its own citizens with basic public services.

IV. Prioritize humanitarian aid to help women, children and the elderly. They are always moved to the back of the line. If they are moved to the back of the line, start at the back.

V. Urge President Obama can enact Temporary Protected Status for Haitians with the stroke of a pen. The US has already done it for El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Sudan and Somalia. This would be a fitting commemoration of Martin Luther King Day.

VI. Respect Human Rights from Day One. The UN has enacted Guiding Principles for Internally Displaced People. Make them required reading for every official and non-governmental person and organization. Non governmental organizations like charities and international aid groups are extremely powerful in Haiti - they too must respect the human dignity and human rights of all people.

VII. Apologize to the Haitian people everywhere for Pat Robertson and Rush Limbaugh.

VIII. Release all Haitians in US jails who are not accused of any crimes. Thirty thousand people are facing deportations, but a temporary decision has been made not to deport them and it will probably stay in place for years to come. Another fitting commemoration of Martin Luther King day.

IX. Require that all the non-governmental organizations which raise money in the US be transparent about what they raise and where the money goes, and insist that they be legally accountable to the people of Haiti.

X. Treat all Haitians as we ourselves would want to be treated.

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FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

In the past the Haitian Congress to Fortify has supported Haiti when faced with the hurricane crises through a special 501©3 fund / account at Charter One Bank: Haitian Crisis Relief Fund. For this relief effort, tax deductible donations can be deposited directly into this account by accessing our web-site at www.haitiancongress.org or donations can be mailed to our offices as follows:

Haitian Crisis Relief Fund
Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti
1227 Dodge Avenue
Evanston, IL 60202

SUPPLIES:

The Haitian Congress is also collecting supplies at the above-referenced address and is in the process of contacting organizations who are capable of shipping those supplies. Please see the list of supplies below as well as information for other people and organizations that are collecting supplies throughout the city.

The following items will be most useful for Haiti at this time.

- Cotton underwear
- Pampers
- Flip-flops
- Sneakers
- Socks
- T-shirts
- Cotton shorts
- Pampers
- Baby wipes
- Facial wipes
- Rain ponchos
- Blankets
- Towels
- Sheets
- Plastic combs (for hair)
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Neosporin
- Waterproof tape
- Gauze
- Alcohol swabs
- Latex gloves
- Band aids
- Painkillers (Aleve, Tylenol, Advil, etc)
- Bengay
- Water purification tablets
- Arm Slings
- Sewing kits
- Non-perishable foods (Powdered milk, baby formula, energy/nutrition bars, etc.)
- Menstrual products

Supply drop-off locations:

Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti
 1227 Dodge Avenue
 Evanston, IL 60202
 847.475.5856
www.haitiancongress.org

Barbara Minor
 West side of Chicago
 773-826-8115

Doris Lewis
 773-624-1828

Pierre Romeus
 115th Street Indoor Mall
 11444 S. Halsted
 Chicago, IL
 Sunday, January 17th only!
 12-4 p.m.

Hyde Park Self Storage
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