

January 21, 2010

Dear Friend of the Campaign for Peace and Democracy,

We hope you will support the people of Haiti now with generous financial donations and political solidarity. The appalling poverty and inequity of Haitian society, caused over the years in great part by our government's policies, have been compounded by last week's terrible earthquake. **We suggest that you send donations to:**

- **Partners In Health:** Donate online at [www.pih.org](http://www.pih.org) or mail your check to Partners In Health, PO Box 845578, Boston, MA 02284-5578
- **Doctors Without Borders:** Donate online at [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org) Call toll-free 888-392-0392. or mail your check to: Doctors Without Borders, 333 7th Avenue Fl 2, New York, NY 10001-5004
- **Haiti Action:** Donate online at <http://www.haitiaction.net/About/HERF/HERF.html> or mail your check to East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, 2362 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

Please let your political representatives know that you believe that this crisis must not be used as an excuse to further impoverish the mass of Haitians with more neoliberal prescriptions, and that all relief funds the U.S. sends to Haiti should be in the form of **grants, not loans.**

Doctors without Borders and many other organizations have pointed out that urgently needed humanitarian aid has repeatedly been turned away by U.S. forces. **Let your representatives know that the practice of turning back food, water, and medical assistance is unconscionable, and must stop.**

The massive deployment of troops raises the suspicion that our government is contemplating an ongoing occupation in the name of preserving "order." If so, this would be yet another episode in a long and disgraceful history that included US military occupation of Haiti 1915-34, support for the vicious Duvalier dictatorships, and complicity in the enforced exile of the democratically elected leader of Haiti, Jean Bertrand Aristide. **We need to state clearly and firmly now that we oppose the U.S. military occupation of Haiti.**

President Aristide has said he wishes to go back to his country now. Please call the State Department at (202) 647-4000 and ask for the opinion line, and say that **Aristide should be allowed to return to Haiti now to stand with his people as they face this horrific calamity.**

**The U.S. should cancel Haiti's debt, and pressure international financial institutions and other countries to do the same.** Haiti needs every bit of available money for food and reconstruction, not debt repayment.

**Finally, all Haitians in the U.S., whether documented or not, should be able to**

**remain here, not forced to go back to a country in catastrophic crisis,** and there should be a quick release of Haitians in U.S. detention facilities because of their immigration status.

Thank you for your support.

In peace and solidarity,

[Joanne](#)                      [Tom](#)

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