

CIDA's Key Role in Haiti's 2004 Coup d'État:

Funding Regime Change, Dictatorship and Human Rights Atrocities, one Haitian "NGO" at a Time

NCHR-Haiti

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PROLOGUE

In 2004, Haiti's President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was kidnapped and exiled in a well-orchestrated *coup d'etat*. This regime change replaced the democratically-elected, Lavalas Party government with a dictatorship that was militarily, financially and diplomatically supported by the U.S., Canada and France. The coup-installed *junta*, led by (unelected) Prime Minister Gérard Latortue and euphemistically called the "Interim Government of Haiti," unleashed a brutal hurricane of systematic human-rights abuses against pro-democracy supporters. For the next two years, Haiti's largely-impoverished population—the vast majority of whom had voted Lavalas and who wanted the return of their elected president—were hit by the unrelenting waves of state-sponsored terror that swept across Haiti.

Hardest hit by this official violence were members and supporters of Aristide's roughly-deposed, legal government. They were hunted down with impunity by police, death squads and former-military men. These brutally violent forces were shamelessly safeguarded by foreign troops sanctioned by the UN Security Council to protect Haiti's "interim" regime.

This was not the first time Aristide and his Lavalas Party administration were unjustly removed from office and subjected to a paramilitary witch-hunt. It was a *deja vu* of 1991, when—just months after being swept into power by voters in a landslide victory that was their first real exercise in electoral democracy—Aristide was ousted in a CIA-backed coup.

The armed men behind the 1991 coup—and their corporate sponsors—returned with a vengeance in the Canadian-backed coup of 2004. During both dictatorships, the most ruthlessly-targeted Lavalas supporters were those living in the destitute, urban neighbourhoods of Haiti's capital, Port au Prince.

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The Last Issue!

A Very Canadian Coup d'état in Haiti:
The Top 10 Ways that Canada's Government helped the 2004 Coup and its Reign of Terror

This Issue! focuses on CIDA-financed groups in Haiti.

The Next Issue

The next issue will expose CIDA-funded groups in Canada that helped destabilize Aristide's government, supported the illegal regime change and covered up the atrocities of the Canadian-backed Latortue dictatorship: **Alternatives, L'Association Quebeoise des Organismes de Cooperation Internationale, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace-Quebec, Christian Aid, Centre International de Solidarité Ouvrière, Concertation pour Haiti, FOCAL, International Center for Legal Resources, Oxfam-Quebec, and Reporters Without Borders Canada.**