

# Anti-Imperialist News Service

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## Study Finds No Proof of Iranian Weapons Program

On March 8, the New York Times reported that a presidential panel, appointed by George Bush, will report that there exists no proof of any Iranian nuclear weapons program.

Despite the fact that the Bush administration has repeatedly accused Iran of using its energy program to develop nukes, the latest report claims no such conclusion.

The nine-member presidential panel, which was ordered last year by Bush to assess U.S. intelligence on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, had unrestricted access to the most sensitive documents and most senior people.

In addition, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has been conducting inspections in Iran for two years, also said it has not found evidence of any weapons program.

## Beirut Rally Demands End to U.S. Interference in Lebanon

Hundreds of thousands of people rallied in Beirut on March 8, denouncing U.S. interference in the Middle East.

The huge rally, organized by Hezbollah, filled the giant plaza in central Beirut, spilling down streets and highways for miles in every direction. The exact size of the crowd was difficult to determine, according to reporters. Lebanese officials said 1.6 million people attended the rally, while other estimates placed the number at roughly 500,000.

Chanting protesters held aloft placards reading, in English, "All Our Disasters Come From America" and "No for the American Intervention." Columns of buses began flowing into downtown just after noon and lined streets for miles.

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## Video Shows U.S. Soldiers in "Ramadi Madness" Abuse

On March 7, Reuters reported that U.S. Army soldiers in Iraq filmed themselves abusing Iraqi prisoners and dead bodies in the town of Ramadi.

In the video, soldiers are seen kicking a gravely wounded prisoner in the face and making the arm of a corpse appear to wave. The film was titled "Ramadi Madness," after the city where it was made.

It was shot by Florida National Guard soldiers who then edited and compiled it into a DVD in January 2004. Section titles included "Those Crafty Little Bastards" and "Another Day, Another Mission, Another Scumbag." One section of the video showed a bound and wounded prisoner sprawled on the ground, and showed his bullet entry and exit wounds.

At one point, a U.S. soldier kicked the prisoner in the face. Army documents quoted a soldier at the scene as saying he "thought the dude eventually died. We weren't in any hurry to call the medics." In another part of the video, a soldier grabbed the arm of a truck driver who had just been shot dead and makes the corpse wave to the camera.

The video's existence had been revealed in Army documents obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union under court order through the Freedom of Information Act.

The Pentagon did not release the video, saying it believed it had been destroyed. But a Florida newspaper, The Palm Beach Post, obtained it and posted some of it on its Web site on Monday.

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## Haiti Rapes (from page 3)

Marjory is part of a growing number of girls and young women who human rights investigators say have been victims of mass rape committed by members of the disbanded military and their compatriots who patrol the countryside and Haiti's cities, hunting down supporters of Haiti's fledgling pro-democracy movement.

Marjory says she was targeted because her father's trade union organized against a wealthy businessman and because her parents are members of Lavalas, the political party led by Jean Bertrand Aristide. Other victims say they were targeted because they or their family members belong to other pro-democracy political organizations or because they work with peasant unions or local women's groups.

"Rape is becoming a common tool of oppression," explains attorney Mario Joseph whose organization Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) has investigated hundreds of human rights cases in the past year. Joseph, who assisted in the prosecution of the human rights crimes committed during the last coup says that it is discouraging to see the number of convicted human rights violators who are now walking free and serving in the new American-installed interim government.

"Women and young girls are raped because their father or another relative is a member of Lavalas or is targeted [by the political opposition]. They are raped as a form of punishment. The victims do not feel they can go to the police for help with their problems because in many areas the people who victimized them are the ones running the show; they are the ones patrolling the streets as if they are police, committing crimes with impunity under the eyes of the UN. And even in Port-au-Prince, the former military has been hired into the national police force."

According to Charles Leon, chief of the Haitian National Police, 500 former members of the Haitian Army have been integrated into the police force, with plans for an additional 500-1000 former soldiers to be hired within the next year. Haiti's army was disbanded in 1994 by then President Jean Bertrand Aristide after soldiers committed numerous human rights violations, including mass rapes, during the 1991-94 coup.

United Nations soldiers have also been accused of participating in sexual attacks. Damian Onses-Cardona, spokesperson for the UN mission in Haiti, announced this week that they are "very urgently" investigating a case in which Pakistani soldiers were accused of raping a 23-year-old woman at a banana plantation in the northern town of Gonaives.

"The foreigners grabbed me and pulled my pants down, had me lie on the ground and then raped me," said the woman who asked that her name be withheld. She says two soldiers raped her while a third watched. More than 7,000 UN troops from countries including China, Brazil and the United States, among others, are stationed in Haiti.

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## U. S. Used Chemical Weapons in Fallujah Battle

An Iraqi health ministry official has accused the U.S. of using prohibited chemical weapons during its military attack against the city of Fallujah.

In November 2004, the U.S. launched a massive invasion of Fallujah, using tens of thousands of troops. Since then, many independent and non-governmental agencies have spoken out against the U.S. attack, condemning the U.S. for carrying out numerous atrocities and war crimes.

In a recent press conference, Dr. Khalid Ash Shaykhli said that the results of a medical study of the city reveal strong evidence that chemical weapons were used extensively. "I absolutely do not exclude their use of nuclear and chemical substances, since all forms of life were wiped out in that city," he said. "I can even say that we found dozens, not to say hundreds, of stray dogs, cats, and birds that had perished as a result of those gasses....During the offensive, residents of Fallujah reported seeing corpses that had melted, which suggests that U.S. troops used napalm gas, a poisonous compound of polystyrene and aircraft fuel which melts bodies" he added.

Two years ago, U.S. officials justified their invasion of Iraq by claiming Saddam Hussein "was a monster who had used, and was stockpiling, chemical weapons."

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## Beirut Rally (from page 1)

The rally was held a day after Syrian President Assad announced plans to pull back Syria's 15,000 troops in Lebanon to the eastern Bekaa Valley by the end of the month, while leaving open the timetable for a full withdrawal. At the rally, Hezbollah's secretary general, Hassan Nasrallah, said that "only two governments should decide whether Syria should stay or go from Lebanon, not international pressure." Other speakers at the rally said that if the U.S. tried to invade and occupy Lebanon, just as "In the past, they have come to Lebanon, and they were defeated...If they come again, they will be defeated. Do not interfere."

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## Ramadi Madness (from page 1)

Soldiers depicted in the new video would not face criminal charges, the Pentagon said. Army criminal investigators looked into the matter and decided no criminal charges were warranted against the soldiers. "It didn't rise to the level of criminal abuse, according to the investigations," said Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon.

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## Aristide's Lavalas Puts UN Duplicity to the Test in Haiti

*The following commentary was written by the Haiti Information Project, March 3, 2005.*

Evidence continues to mount of the United Nation's complicity in an on-going campaign by the US-installed government of Gerard Latortue to terrorize and exterminate sympathizers of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's political party known as Lavalas. Despite detailed documentation of innumerable massacres committed by the Police Nationale de Haiti (PNH) over the last five months, the UN insisted in a new report released on February 25 that "the general security environment across Haiti has improved." Any sensible observer of Haiti must ask, "improved for whom?" The recent attack by the PNH against unarmed demonstrators demanding Aristide's return on February 28 destroyed the credibility of several such statements made recently by the UN in Haiti and exposed the duplicitous role of their forces in propping up an unpopular regime.

The reality is the UN has dirtied its hands to keep the US-installed regime in power. Their main role and objective has arguably been to insure there is no resistance as the current regime undertakes a campaign to eliminate the Lavalas party. Whenever the UN moved into the poor slums of the capital to occupy it by force, the Haitian National Police (PNH) soon followed with violent incursions against the population. Wherever the UN opened the gates the PNH soon followed to tear apart their victims. Following these bloody exercises in terror, the UN dutifully covered them up by accepting the PNH's denials and justifications while twisting reality by representing the Latortue regime as a centrist government embattled between the extremes of deadly Lavalas gunmen and the former brutal military. Meanwhile, the lopsided death toll of Lavalas sympathizers versus any other identifiable sector of Haitian society is incontrovertible and exposes the UN's subservience to US foreign policy whose main goal has been to consolidate the coup that ousted the democratically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide on February 29, 2004.

Continuing a relentless campaign of misinformation by the Latortue regime, PNH spokeswoman Gessy Coicou commented on the killings of February 28 by stating, "The police broke up the march because it was violent and about half the protesters were carrying weapons." This stood in stark contradiction to press reports by the likes of Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT) who wrote, "Two days after Haitian police opened fire on a crowd of peaceful protesters and killed two, the head of the U.N. mission here said police brutality is undercutting progress and such action will no longer be tolerated." The Miami Herald also quoted U.N. Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdes as stating, "We cannot tolerate executions. We can't tolerate shooting out of control. We will not

permit human rights abuses." KRT continued by adding "He [U.N. Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdes] said U.N. peacekeepers will intervene 'and use force if necessary' if Haitian police attack unarmed civilians again."

The former statement by Valdes was disingenuous at best given that the UN has in the past given the PNH a freehand to kill Lavalas supporters with impunity in well-documented massacres in poor neighborhoods like Cite Soleil, Cite de Dieu, Bel Air and La Saline over the past five months. The latter statement of UN armed intervention against PNH for "attacking unarmed civilians" remains just words until put to the test.

Putting the UN's threat against PNH to the test is exactly what Aristide's Lavalas party intends to do over the next weeks and months before elections designed to legitimize the coup against him are held in October and November. Nothing less than the already compromised credibility of the UN is at stake in Haiti as the world braces itself for yet another feeble justification to continue the campaign of extermination against Lavalas supporters demanding Aristide's return.

### Haiti Rapes

*The following is excerpted from a February 24, 2005 article by Lyn Duff which appeared on-line in Znet.*

It was the middle of the night when masked men armed with semi-automatic assault rifles burst into the Cap Haitian home of 14-year-old Marjory, the oldest daughter of a local trade unionist. The men were members of the disbanded Haitian military who reformed into the armed gangs who overthrew democratically-elected president Jean Bertrand Aristide one year ago. When they discovered that her father, who the political opposition sought because of his support for the pro-democracy movement, was in hiding, Marjory says, the armed men did the unthinkable.

For three hours different men raped Marjory, her mother and an 11-year-old cousin. It's been six months since she was attacked but Marjory remembers every moment of that night. She describes her attackers in detail, down to the scars on one man's hands and the smell of cigarettes on another's jacket. She avoids eye contact when telling her story, saying that she is embarrassed to tell what happened to her.

"They violated me. [When it was happening] I closed my eyes and waited for them to finish... One of the men told me to open my eyes and look at him while he [raped me]. I didn't want to look at him. They hit me when I cried."

*Continued on page 2*

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## Letter From Haitian Prime Minister Yvon Neptune

*Yvon Neptune was President of Haiti's National Assembly (2001-2002) and Prime Minister (2002-2004) under the constitutionally elected government of President Jean Bertrand Aristide. After the U.S. invasion, Neptune was replaced on March 12, 2004, by a U.S.-installed government, and was arrested on June 27, 2004 at his Port-Au-Prince home.*

To Ambassadors Juan Gabriel Valdes, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN Kenneth Modest, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the OAS James B. Foley, United States of America Claude Boucher, Canada Thierry Burkard, France Marcel Young, Chile

Ever since my unjust and unjustified incarceration at the National Penitentiary on June 27th 2004, my life has been directly threatened on three (3) occasions.

On the third occasion, Saturday February 19th of the current year, the Government made the decision to place me in isolation, purportedly for my own safety but the end result of this maneuver has been the application of further and apparently intended punishment. Indicative of this is the fact that after I returned to my initial cell after three (3) days in isolation, I am confronting new restrictions whose sole purpose are to humiliate me and above all to render me to the condition of an animal.

Dear Ambassadors, surely you are all aware of the Machiavellian reasons for which since the 29th of February of 2004 I have been the brunt of all sorts of persecutions to force me into exile. Much better than me, you are

also aware of the politically motivated vile and cynical objectives of my arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, a detention which has now lasted 8 months and in dehumanizing and insecure conditions.

Despite irrefutable evidence which you all know some hoodlums in St. Marc in collusion with the NCHR and the Government persist in associating my name with their lies. This is of course being done to achieve shameful, monstrous, and macabre political ends which would at the same time mask their own acts of vandalism and assassination.

The Government, cloaked with a spirit of vengeance and with utter disregard for the most elementary principles and practices of law and justice, proceeds with sheer arrogance, not simply to arrest me without a warrant but furthermore to mount a biased and dictatorial Highest Court of Appeals since the constitutional mandate of many of the judges of this Court have long ago expired. They are conspiring to reenact the role of Pontius Pilate in the shamefully illegal case of incarceration and prolonged detention.

It seems that the Government is so infatuated with its power of "conqueror" that it is drooling over the bountiful returns on its investments in the democide and the destruction of the liberating forces of truth which bring forth justice.

With hopes that strong and sincere voices of moral authority and the partisans of justice will say unequivocally to the Government that it must cease to ally itself with delinquents, vandals, notorious assassins, and discredited organizations which shamelessly persist in trying to make me out to be a murderer so they can justify for the benefit of the Government my eventual lynching.

I am sure that the spectacle of my slow and certain death would be much more palatable to the Government and its cohorts.

To facilitate their purpose I have undertaken a hunger strike so that one day my brothers and sisters who are made to wallow in abject misery will no longer be disdained, starved, scorned and ostracized.

*Yvon Neptune, Political Prisoner  
February 24th, 2005  
Central Prison, Port-au-Prince*

*CC: Congress of the United States of America;  
Caricom; African Union; Amnesty International  
International Human Rights Organizations;  
United Nations (UN); Organization of American  
States (OAS); The Press*

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