

Chapter 6: Midnight at the Oasis: The Haiti Debacle

*In the strange circle of life, it all comes back to Haiti.**

* Quote from *Haiti holds a special place in the hearts of Bill and Hillary Clinton* by Philip Rucker, The Washington Post, January 16, 2010

At midnight on January 12, 2015, exactly five years after the devastating earthquake that shook Haiti, a political tremor occurred as Haiti's parliament was dissolved upon the expiration of the terms of the remaining members of the House of Representatives and all but ten senators.

This orchestrated event followed the replacement in 2012 of every elected judge, mayor and local executive member in the country, which after years of behind-the-scenes maneuvering effectively left Michel Martelly as Haiti's official dictator.

This chapter will connect the dots as to how this turn of events happened and much, much more. Haiti's example of "successful" regime change has, over the last two decades, been implemented with devastating results in many other countries – a transformation of "dysfunctional democracies" into the more desirable Agenda 21-inspired governance model of "stabilization" and "sustainable development".

Philip Rucker's article, referenced above, paints an idyllic picture of Bill and Hillary Clinton's first visit to Haiti in 1975 on their honeymoon vacation, a trip paid for by "a friend".

Keepsakes in the form of Haitian art from that honeymoon decorated their homes over the succeeding years to evoke memories of a wreath laying to celebrate Haitian Independence Day, a tour of the hotel where Hemingway once stayed in, the voodoo high priest that made such an impression...these memories no doubt along with those of the sights and sounds of a vibrant Port-au-Prince marketplace and the pristine beaches that drew tourists from far and wide.

The emotional trauma described thirty-five years later by Bill Clinton, on news of the humanitarian disaster in the aftermath of the earthquake, would come as no surprise to anyone. "Bill Clinton said he was 'personally emotionally affected.' His wife, he said, became 'physically sick.'"



Photo 30: Port-au-Prince, Haiti in ruins after 2010 earthquake

In January 2010, what better team could possibly be put in place, one could ask, than Bill Clinton – U.N. Special Envoy to Haiti, head of the Clinton Global Initiative and Clinton Foundation and partner with former president George W. Bush in another foundation – and Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, to head up the global relief and recovery effort? This question was affirmed by former senator Tim Worth, president of the U.N. Foundation when he said “The two agencies in the world that can run these things are the United States and the United Nations, and the Clintons sit atop this package.”

Paul Farmer, Deputy U.N. Envoy to Haiti, is quoted by Philip Rucker, in recounting the Clinton charisma during an initial trip to survey the destruction.

“He kind of charged into the crowd. He was so happy. It sounds corny, but I’ve seen that again and again. He has this real connection. He is regarded as someone who’s fundamentally sympathetic to the Haitians, someone who has argued they have a right to dignity and respect – and to choose their own leaders.”

After their visit to Haiti early in 2010, Rucker reports that “Clinton and Farmer convened a long-scheduled meeting in Clinton’s Harlem office of about 50 philanthropists, financiers and leaders of non-governmental organizations interested in the long-term development of Haiti. Clinton said his strategy is to ‘build back better’”.

According to Rucker, Clinton was regarded as a “harbinger of hope to the Haitian people”.

For those who have read Jonathan Cahn’s *The Harbinger*, or seen any of his YouTube talks, these last two quotes may cause a small cloud of doubt to appear over the otherwise supreme benefactor imagery of the U.S. and U.N., with “the Clintons sit(ting) atop this package”.

Let’s now look at six woes of the Haiti debacle.

1. PREDATORY CAPITALISM

I was tempted to title this first section “An introduction to the vampire squid’s matriarch” but refrained from doing so in the interest of brevity.

I am grateful for Paul Jackson's online article titled *The Debt that Obama and Clinton Owe to the Haitian Poor* in *Canadian Dimension*, February 8, 2010.

It serves to remind us in this first aspect of the Haiti debacle that history is often the best teacher, although its lessons are often ignored or forgotten.

If we recall the fact that the Clintons' honeymoon trip to Haiti in 1975 was paid for by "a friend", this seemingly innocuous piece of trivia, like George W and Laura Bush's trip out west to Texas at the start of their marriage, is of little interest unless one knows the rest of the story.

As it turns out, and according to Bill Clinton's autobiography, this gift came on the heels of a failed bid for Congressman and was from David Edwards, an executive at Citibank.

Citibank is the vast New York headquartered global financial colossus that has evolved from its earlier forms known as Citigroup, Citibank, and before that National City Bank of New York.

In order to get some perspective, we need to go way back to the years 1913-1915, when Woodrow Wilson was US President and William Jennings Bryan was Secretary of State. This is the same William Jennings Bryan that was legal counsel for the World Christian Fundamentals Association in the famous 1925 Scopes Trial.

Bryan did his best to defend the idea of a young earth, but wilted under Clarence Darrow's in-court questioning and the published ridicule of H.L. Mencken. Bryan later became the brunt of further ridicule through the portrayal of the cowardly lion in L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

In the period just prior to the World War I, the United States wanted to consolidate their control of the Caribbean through a policy of "stabilization".

This meant controlling these nations through a system of feudalism - in the case of Haiti a small, select French-speaking elite - over the vast majority of creole peasants.

Bryan, despite his inherent distrust of bankers, asked John H. Allen, the newly-installed American manager of Haiti's Banque Nationale in Port-au-Prince, to act as a liaison to ensure that American interests were served. National City Bank of New York had just succeeded in taking over the Haitian bank.

Bryan's reaction to one of Allen's briefings on the class structure in Haiti is reported to have remarked "Dear me, think of it. Niggers speaking French." It seems that Bryan's disdain was not limited to bankers in America.

This system of exploitation and impoverishment of Haitian peasants worked well for both Washington and Wall Street. For example, National City Bank's

Roger L. Farnham acted as both vice-president of the bank and president of Haiti's national railway.

When the Haitians refused to give up what remained of their economic sovereignty in 1915, the United States invaded and occupied the island nation and removed \$500,000 from the Banque National and deposited it into the vaults of National City Bank in New York.

In 1922, a new American puppet president, Louis Borno, was inaugurated as Haiti's president and National City Bank was awarded the contract to refund the Haitian debt, to which they sold \$16 million worth of thirty-year Haitian government bonds.

This debt load effectively kept the Haitian peasants, the bulk of the population, in bondage and perpetual austerity as very little surplus was left from their labours to develop their own economy.

The American occupation forces finally left this impoverished nation in 1934 but an uneasy alliance continued between Haiti's elite and American corporate and banking interests. This, basically, was the situation that existed when the Clintons arrived on their honeymoon trip in 1975.

We'll pick up on the regime changes that ensued subsequent to 1975 in some of the next aspects of the Haitian debacle.

2. REGIME CHANGE

As was the case in the early 20th century, the United States foreign policy in Haiti under Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton and the United Nations Haiti policy under Special Envoy Bill Clinton laid out and implemented a plan of “stabilization”.

The existing parliament was systematically dismantled in favour of a less unwieldy regime and a United Nations “peacekeeping” force was brought in to ensure that stability was maintained – this despite the fact that no other UN peacekeepers occupied a country that was not at war.

This occupying force was named the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and was there to ensure that the president deemed most suitable by the Clintons retained power and was not challenged by local “insurgents”.

MINUSTAH’s annual budget of \$500 million has been disproportionately borne by Brazil, who according to some reports has been led to believe a seat on the UN Security Council may be in their future.

Once MINUSTAH was in place, Bill Clinton went to work in earnest on the “reconstruction” effort through the establishment of the Interim Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti (IHRC).

Dady Chery, a Haitian journalist, has described this commission as a “pay-to-play” group of officials and rich businessmen from the MINUSTAH countries of Bolivia, Canada, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, the United States and Uruguay.

Even though the IHRC under Bill Clinton was able to get a state of emergency by the Haitian parliament declared for 18 months so that they could operate without the risk of liability, the removal of any possible encumbrances to the reconstruction effort did not translate into results.

According to Mary Anastasia O’Grady, in her Wall Street Journal article of Sept. 22, 2014, “three years after taking control of the post-earthquake Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, Mr. Clinton is persona non grata in much of the country due to the dismal results of his involvement”.

In December 2010 Ricardo Seitenfus, Brazil’s representative to the Organization of American States, made the following observation about the earthquake relief effort in Haiti:

“The UN system currently in place to prevent disputes is inappropriate for Haiti. Haiti is not an international threat. We are not in the midst of a civil war. Haiti is not Iraq or Afghanistan...but it looks to me as if, on the international scene, Haiti is paying mainly for its proximity to the U.S.

Haiti has long been an object of negative attention from the international system. It took the UN to coalesce this power and transform Haitians into prisoners of their own island.”

Soon after making this statement, Seitenfus was relieved of his post. When the state of emergency was not renewed by the Haitian senate, their doom was effectively sealed.

Clinton and his team combed the bars and lounges near and far for a young Haitian born man with the right stuff to be president and soon found their man, Michel Martelly, a musician in financial trouble in Miami.



Photo 31: Michel Martelly, elected President on May 14, 2011

According to a December 22, 2014 article by Dady Chery titled *Haiti: Time for Clinton and Co. to Pack and Go*, “his (Michel Martelly’s) election became a mere formality after an electoral commission excluded from participation the Fammi Lavalas party, which commanded 80 percent of the electorate. Observers from Caricom and the Organization of American States (OAS) legitimized the results despite countless irregularities and ballots from only 20 percent of the electorate.”

After Martelly’s “election”, Clinton and his team set out to find a prime minister. They found one right within the membership of the IHRC, a rich Haitian businessman by the name of Laurent Lamothe.



Photo 32: Laurent Lamothe, appointed Prime Minister of Haiti on May 4, 2012

With the new regime in place things were able to deteriorate much more quickly.

Dady Chery, in the above-noted article, reports that “the electrical grid and running water services began to be dismantled in Haiti’s major cities...Martelly appointees – some with criminal records – began to ransack and even destroy Haiti’s city halls and local courts.

Peaceful protests against these insults met with violent attacks, initially from MINUSTAH and later, from a rapidly growing and increasingly militarized Haitian police force.”

According to Chery, the Martelly-Lamothe regime was also responsible for “the appropriation of Haiti’s offshore islands by the tourism ministry by decree, followed by the imprisonment and suspicious death of activists who opposed the land grabs”; and “an agreement to grant the collection of Haiti’s customs taxes to a private Swiss company for 10 years, without discussion with the parliament”.

Another area of Haiti that supposedly required stabilization after the earthquake was the peaceful, coastal town of Port-Salut, where the few reported crimes were thefts of potatoes or possibly a goat. All that changed when the MINUSTAH soldiers arrived in 2004.

In a translation of an article by Michelle Desrosiers and Frank Seguy, Dady Chery reports, “the ‘cambiar’, a practice of exchanging food for illegal products such as tobacco, alcohol and marijuana” appeared, along with child prostitution and rape.

“The opulence in which the UN soldiers installed in Haiti live is shocking, to say the least. They settle into the best hotels in the cities, they strut on the beach on the weekdays as on the weekends, even more so in Port-Salut where the beaches are especially beautiful.

In addition, they buy the young ones, prostitute them and ...rape them.

Not only do these soldiers enjoy an absolute impunity that has no place for respect of the law or any show of manners – but also their status as UN soldiers places them above the Haitian courts.”

“So MINUSTAH has been more vigilant, one might say, in almost exclusively attacking those who are most despised, humbled and impoverished. MINUSTAH can strut, rape, hang, contaminate, and lie to its heart’s content in complete calm, since its interests are one and the same as those of Haiti’s ‘respectable citizens.’”

In response to accusations about these atrocities from victims and their families and friends, we are told that “MINUSTAH investigated itself.

This investigation, of course, resulted in the total and categorical denial of the facts and concluded that these were ‘allegations of misconduct without any foundation.’”

3. HUMANITARIAN MALFEASANCE**

Haiti’s January 12, 2010 earthquake left more than 200,000 people dead and over one million homeless.

Billions of dollars have been raised towards the relief and restoration of this devastated and impoverished country.

The United Nations appointed Bill Clinton as Special Envoy for Haiti. Hillary Clinton, as US Secretary of State had the responsibility to oversee the relief effort funded by the US taxpayers via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Bill Clinton was also responsible for getting the funds raised through three foundations – the Clinton Global Initiative, the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund - to where the funds were needed most.

Great promises were made by the rich, the powerful, the famous and the beautiful as to plans and schemes to address this tragic situation.

The Clinton Bush Haiti Fund closed in December 2012 after distributing the last of the money raised with the Agenda 21-friendly assurance that “it has helped Haitians create a better future through smart, sustainable economic development” while at the same time acknowledging that “much work remains to be done in Haiti” – an understatement to be sure.

On January 12, 2015, the fifth anniversary of the Haiti earthquake, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon issued a press release, which read in part:

“Last year, I returned to Haiti and saw the progress that has been achieved...Haiti’s recovery has not been easy. There have been – and continue to be – setbacks along the way, and there is much work still to be done to ensure political and institutional stability, democratic governance and sustainable development. However, let today be a day of remembrance and one of hope for a stable and prosperous Haiti. Together, let us strive towards a bright future for Haiti.”

** Jonathan M. Katz, who recently penned a Feb. 25, 2015 article with the above-noted title, had this to say in that same article on slate.com, starting with the subtitle...

“The United Nations is responsible for killing more than 8,000 Haitians in 2010. And it’s not even willing to say it’s sorry.”

Katz then goes on to describe what he characterizes as “a massacre of negligence” on the part of the UN, a mistake of epic proportions which allowed a cholera outbreak to kill 8,000 more people and sicken another 647,000.

How could this happen? A UN peacekeeping force, described already by its French acronym of MINUSTAH, was still stationed in Haiti since an uprising following a military coup in 2004.

This force, now dealing with a post-earthquake situation, was due for a rotation and the next contingent came from an area in Nepal – an area with an active cholera outbreak.

These infected soldiers should never have been allowed in this earthquake-ravaged island, an island that had never experienced cholera, but since they were, they should have first been checked and then quarantined if found to be carriers of cholera.

Instead, they were stationed at a rural UN base beyond the earthquake zone but which was known to leak raw sewage into a major river system that millions of Haitian men, women and children used for drinking, bathing and farming. Within days, people downstream started getting very sick and many were dying.

A team of investigative reporters from Aljazeera has filed a number of reports that are available on YouTube, although the hostname has been severed.

The following Aljazeera articles, as well as others on the cholera issue, can still be accessed through a Google search.

1. UN hit with cash demand over Haiti cholera – YouTube
2. UN denies responsibility for Cholera outbreak – YouTube
3. Anti-Un protests in Haiti: “They’ve Brought Us Disease and Humiliation” – YouTube

Following is a picture of the Artibonite River, the lifeblood of a huge segment of the Haitian people, infected by human feces from one of its tributaries with what scientists eventually determined was a Nepalese strain of cholera.



Photo 33: Artibonite River, carrier of cholera

Sadly, and to compound this further tragedy, Katz uncovers the fact that “from the outbreak’s first

days, the officials and staff of an organization dedicated to establishing respect for the rule of law (the UN) chose to lie, dissemble, destroy evidence, persuade allies to change the topic, and cajole critics.”

He goes on to describe how the victim’s families “found themselves in the awkward position of waiting for the organization whose negligence had killed their loved ones to decide whether it would consider prosecuting itself.”

Based on the dodging and deflecting of questions to that point, the result was predictable. Katz advises that “the U.N. claimed total immunity from prosecution, liability and the law.”

To use their words, “the claims are not receivable.” The case was, for lack of a better term, thrown out.

So much for working together and striving towards a bright future for Haiti! Let’s recall what the Bible has to say about high sounding words that are not backed up by genuine love – love for our fellow man that impels us to action.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13:1

Though shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 22:39

Who is our neighbour? Everyone who is in need.

4. EMINENT DOMAIN

Mary Anastasia O’Grady, in another article for the Wall Street Journal, dated May 18, 2014, reminds us of the key role that Hillary Clinton had in the Haiti reconstruction effort as Secretary of State responsible for USAID.

Technically, due to the fact that the United States had the lead role in this effort, Bill was actually reporting to his wife.

O’Grady mentions also that “Cheryl Mills, Mrs. Clinton’s chief of staff and counselor to the State Department (an advisor and counselor to the secretary), traveled to the country an estimated 30 times in four years” as a reflection of “the high priority the United States places on Haiti’s recovery and development.”

Grady goes on to inform us that “the Clinton crowd has a lot of experience in Haiti. After President Clinton used the U.S. military to return Jean Bertrand Aristide to power in 1994, assorted Friends of Bill went into business to milk Haiti’s state-owned telephone monopoly.

Telecom revenues were one of the few sources of hard currency for the country so the scheme hurt Haitians.” Haitian filmmaker Raoul Peck made a documentary in 2013 titled “Fatal Assistance” which exposed a litany of IHRC and USAID urban renewal failures.

These included Bill Clinton's "reconstruction initiatives" in conjunction with IHRC as well as USAID's (under Hillary Clinton) massive failure with underfunding of the minimally-developed Caracol Industrial Park and half-finished, related port facility to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars.

The State Department, under Hillary Clinton, promised that the park would support 65,000 direct jobs by 2020. Halfway along this ten-year timeline, a grand total of 1,500 jobs have been created.

There was to be forty 10,000 square foot factories for garment assembly constructed in this time frame as well. The fourth building is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2015. A much-needed power plant was completed on the site, supplying the industrial park with power to spare, but local reports tell of wastewater surges causing floods and spoiled crops.

"Fatal Assistance" also documents "shoddy housing projects plopped down where there is poor infrastructure and few job prospects" according to Ms. O'Grady. In addition "the GAO report cites other housing snafus. USAID underestimated funding requirements. Its budget went up by 65%, and the number of houses to be built came down by 80%. 'Inappropriate cost comparisons were used; and Haitians, it turns out, prefer flush toilets.'" The Clinton machine "controlled the bankroll and could award the lucrative contracts."

After spending billions of dollars, Judicial Watch advises that “a large number of Haitians still live in deplorable, shanty town tent cities” and conclude a July 2013 online article with the observation “makes you wonder if someone is pocketing the money.”

The capital city of Port-au-Prince was by far the largest casualty of the earthquake, both in loss of life and loss of property, so one must necessarily evaluate what has been accomplished there in order to get the full picture of misery’s aftermath.

By the time the summer of 2014 came along, the Martelly regime’s program of eviction and forced dispersal of Port-au-Prince’s poor and downtrodden populace was well along.

SWAT police and bulldozers worked in tandem during the night to terrorize the helpless and destroy their homes – all in the name of “eminent domain”.

Seth Donnelly’s on-location August 21, 2014 article in CounterPunch titled *Haiti: Where Will the Poor Go?* describes the scene in Port-au-Prince in painful detail...

“These survivors came to us with tears, anger, and backpacks full of the only possessions they had left. They spoke of having to sleep in parks or on roofs, of children being put on the street, of vulnerability to infection and ongoing harassment by the government. One man, speaking on behalf of the

Representatives of the Citizens of Centre-Ville Against Forced Displacement, stated that more than 62,000 people had lost their homes in downtown Port-au-Prince since May 31st (2014).”

Donnelly goes on to describe Martelly’s reign of terror in downtown Port-au-Prince, in violation of the Haitian Constitution. The widespread property destruction with very little record of any type of compensation, all in the name of urban renewal, is meant to facilitate “not just the reconstruction of the administrative center, but the transformation of the downtown into an upscale, commercial zone.”

Witness the brand new Oasis Hotel, for example – described by Donnelly as “a huge, elite structure built to court rich tourists and foreign investors. It is ‘awkwardly’ close to the houses and shacks of the poor that lack decent sanitation, plumbing and electricity.

The Clinton-Bush Fund allocated \$2 million in ‘aid’ to construct this hotel. Clinton is likewise allocating more Foundation aid into the construction of a new Marriott Hotel.”

So just where are all these displaced people from Port-au-Prince going? Seth Donnelly followed them to find out, and provides the following visual:

“We gained a sense of where so many desperate people are relocating when we visited Canara, a ‘city’ of approximately 200,000 people seeking to

eke out an existence in the arid, ‘dust-bowl’ hills in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince.

Out of sight, out of mind – that is for foreign tourists and Haitian bourgeoisie who stay at the new Oasis Hotel or who perhaps will shop soon in downtown Port-au-Prince.

The people of Canara do not have any meaningful access to water, electricity, education, healthcare, food, and employment, let alone even the cement and cinder blocks to complete many of their houses. Here is Bill Clinton’s sustainable development, eco-friendly, repurposing solution - for the cinder blocks at least - as the aforementioned “harbinger of hope”:

Research editor Alice Crites of the Washington Post writes in a January 15, 2010 article just days of the earthquake...

“To Clinton, Haiti’s promise can be summed up in a single briquette. Haitians cook mostly with charcoal fire, but coal is an expensive resource there.

A group of entrepreneurial women he visited recently in a densely populated Port-au-Prince neighborhood found a solution. As Clinton told the story, they walk through the streets picking up trash. They mix the paper with sawdust and water and then press the water from the product to create organic briquettes.”

In Clinton's words, "They can sell these things for a penny or two a piece, and three of them will prepare dinner on a typical Haitian cooking stove for much, much less – 15 percent of the cost of making dinner with charcoal."

Alice Crites continues, "He was so impressed that he brought dozens of the briquettes to New York with him. He carries one in his bag every day, aides said, sometimes pulling a briquette out of his pocket during speeches to show audiences."

"For a few hundred thousand dollars," Clinton said, "We can spread this (garbage) all over Port-au-Prince."

Perhaps, after a forward-looking vision such as this, one could not be blamed for a different sort of plan – one involving a Midnight at the Oasis experience. Bill could jam with his good friend Michel Martelly!

5. CELEBRATE! CELEBRATE!

Seth Donnelly's piece, quoted previously, next provides a stark and poignant juxtaposition of imagery. "On June 19th (2014), perhaps as the bulldozers were still clearing the rubble of people's homes in downtown Port-au-Prince, Bill Clinton received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his work in Haiti from the 'Happy Hearts Fund in the NYC Cipriani Restaurant.

The award ceremony was led by Petra Nemcova, a super model who runs the foundation and whom is the girlfriend of the current Haitian Prime Minister, Laurent Lamothe.

Also in attendance was Haitian president Michel Martelly who received an award for his “leadership in education”.

This award was supposedly based on Martelly’s having doubled the rate of Haitian children going to school, but Donnelly reports that “this claim is patently false” and that “the (promised) funding...has not even been received by schools for this past year. Many teachers have not been paid in months, resulting in the recent, widespread teacher and student protests.”

Dady Chery, in her January 5, 2015 article titled *Haiti: Clinton’s Puppet Martelly Must Go* states: “In a television interview given to Carl Fombrun on December 27, 2005, Martelly said: ‘The goal of my life: to become filthy rich.’ In the past three and a half years, he was able to reach his goal in Haiti, the land of opportunity par excellence.

According to *The Independent*, ‘Martelly defaulted on more than \$1 m (\$600,000) worth of loans and has at least three properties that entered foreclosure during his time as a resident of Florida, legal documents show.’”

According to Dominican journalist Nuria Piera, Martelly was rescued from his Florida misfortunes by a post-election windfall to the tune of \$2.59 million from companies owned by Dominican Senator Felix Bautista.

In her January 14, 2015 article titled *Midnight of Haiti's Parliament on the Earthquake's Anniversary*, Dr. Chery had this to say: "At Haiti's official earthquake commemoration, Martelly took a break from his orders of police attacks on protestors, lewd insults to journalists, physical assaults on congressmen, and release of hardened criminals from prison, to discuss how much the country needs reconciliation. He should know: he needs forgiveness more than anyone.

During his rule, charges of usurpation and money laundering against his wife and son resulted in the suspicious death of the investigating judge. Numerous political activists have also died under questionable circumstances or have been killed in drive-by shootings that were essentially assassinations. In early November 2014, in a television interview, Martelly casually announced that he would rule by decree, come January 12."

In Dr. Chery's considered opinion, "A thorough audit and investigation will soon be necessary to evaluate the damage to the national coffer. Martelly's future as a free man will depend on his ability to install a puppet successor, through fraudulent elections, to avoid prosecution."

Apparently Bill Clinton wasn't able to fit in this year's Haiti official earthquake commemoration. Perhaps he's offended that his Haiti welcome mat has become worn and tattered or it could be due to the legal actions being taken against Martelly's family, Laurent Lamothe and Clinton with regard to "the disposal of earthquake reconstruction funds by his Interim Haiti Recovery Committee (IHRC)".

Clinton did find the time, however, to attend the 4th annual "Help Haiti Home" Los Angeles gala fundraiser held by Sean Penn on the same evening. Prime Minister Lamothe was also in attendance and another \$6 million was raised for "reconstruction funds".

This celebration was obviously much more to Clinton's liking, and no doubt reminiscent of the grand opening, back in 2012, of the Caracol Industrial Park with Sean Penn, Maria Bello, Ben Stiller, Petra Nemacova, Donna Karan (DKNY) and Sir Richard Branson alongside him.

Hillary was there as well to give a speech and to celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary at a place they loved so much and where they honeymooned many years before.

This reminds me of an exchange between Josey Wales, played by Clint Eastwood, and Lone Watie, played by Chief Dan George, in the movie *The Outlaw Josey Wales*.

It went something like this...

Josey Wales: *Just when I get to likin' someone, they ain't around long.*

Lone Watie: *I've noticed when you get to not likin' someone, they ain't around long either.*

Back in Haiti, Martelly announced January 12, 2015 – a day of mourning and remembrance for the 300,000 earthquake victims – to be the official start of the 2015 pre-carnival activities.

6. JUSTICE DENIED?

The final chapter, so to speak, has yet to be written on the United Nations' refusal to compensate the families of the dead and those that have suffered, and are still suffering, from the ravages of the cholera plague.

Jonathan Katz puts it this way...

The claimed immunity from prosecution, liability and the law is based on “a U.N. convention, by way of a status-of-forces agreement, or SOFA, signed by Haiti's interim prime minister (a former U.N. official) in 2004” – when he agreed to the U.N. peacekeeping occupation. “Such agreements make it possible for foreign militaries to work without fear of harassment by local courts or police.

They're common – the United States has one with **nearly half the world's countries.**”

Katz points out in his article that there is an additional remedy available to an aggrieved party in the form of a “standing claims commission”, except that “the U.N. has never actually formed one.” This reminds one of Joseph Heller’s novel, *Catch 22*.

A U.N. spokesman hinted at a possible explanation for refusing to establish a commission by “invoking an exemption in the SOFA, which says a commission does not have to be formed if a claim arises from ‘operational necessity.’”

Katz rightly pressed spokesman Martin Nesirky with the question “Is the U.N. arguing that dumping infected sewage into a major river was an operational necessity?” but informs us that “the U.N. press office rebuffed my request for clarification.”

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was advised by letter on January 5, 2015 that an action has been initiated against William Jefferson Clinton at the Haitian Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes with respect to the destination and use of trust funds transferred by the international community through the IHRC for the relief and reconstruction of Haiti.

It seems that Clinton, by Presidential decree, was named the co-chair of IHRC in an Act dated April

15, 2010, making him in effect a civil servant in Haiti and subject to Haitian laws. Some have used figures as high as \$11 billion in quantifying the amount of international relief and reconstruction funds transferred to Haiti through IHRC since the earthquake on January 12, 2010.

To date, Clinton has categorically refused to submit a report on his 18-month tenure as co-chair of IHRC. This despite receiving a summons on October 13, 2014. This is perhaps another reason for not returning to Haiti. He, along with his friends Michel Martelly and Laurent Lamothe, are not looked upon with a great deal of affection by the majority of Haitians.

Fortunately for Clinton, this saga is not a Hollywood western with Clint Eastwood as judge and jury (and executioner?) on behalf of the Haitian people.

FINAL THOUGHTS ON HAITI

The UK's Mail Online published a report, updated on March 6, 2015, titled *Hillary Clinton's brother landed lucrative gold-mining permit in Haiti after Bill Clinton helped country recover from earthquake devastation.*

The report goes on to say that "Clinton's brother, Tony Rodham, was a board member of a North Carolina mining company that enjoyed prime access to Haitian gold deposits in the wake of post-

earthquake relief work organized in part by former president Bill Clinton through the Clinton Foundation.

Another board member of the firm, VCS Mining, was former Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, who co-chaired the charitable Interim Haiti Recovery Mission with Mr. Clinton.”

Peter Schweizer covers this latest scandal, and a host of others involving the Clintons, in his book *‘Clinton Cash: The Untold Story of How and Why Foreign Governments and Businesses Helped Make Bill and Hillary Rich.’*

At the beginning of this chapter, a brief picture was given of the National City Bank of New York’s close relations with the government of Haiti in Woodrow Wilson’s day. National City Bank evolved into what is now Citigroup.

In 2008, the daily wage for a Haitian peasant labourer was 35 gourdes. Vikram Pandit, the CEO of Citigroup, when including his combined earnings from salary, stocks and options in 2008, made \$38,237,437. That same Haitian peasant labourer would have to work almost 90,000 years to accumulate that amount.