Haiti gripped by protests

ACTIVISTS DEMAND: ‘STOP THE MASSACRES!’

By John Parker

After 15 years of a military occupation of Haiti, the United Nations “peacekeeping” force will close operations in 2025.

Growing protests now gripping Haiti began last year in reaction to the announcement by President Jovenel Moïse’s government of up to 50 percent increases in fuel prices. Protesters have shut down businesses, airports, legislative buildings and the national airport.

The UN.org website says: “The current U.N. peacekeeping mission closes on 15 October 2019 and will be replaced by a political mission, building on the progress made with the Haitian authorities to reinforce stability, security and governance as well as the rule of law and human rights.”

According to the publication Dominican Today, the Dominican Republic hosted a meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Oct. 3 to encourage a continuation of the U.N. military occupation. Dominican Foreign Minister Miguel Vizcaíno stressed his government’s support for Haiti’s “democratically elected” President Jovenel Moïse. “What we see in Haiti these days would seem routine, but it is unacceptable for countries such as those represented in the Security Council, who believe in dialogue, the rule of law and the scrupulous observation of human rights,” Vizcaíno said in a statement.

Both the U.N. statement and Foreign Minister Vizcaíno’s concern for maintaining “the rule of law” run in the face of the killing of hundreds of protesters by the Haitian government and paramilitary forces who were enforcing “the rule of law.”

Rules and laws, like everywhere, serve class interests and the representatives of the ruling class in Haiti, who held rigged elections with the assistance of the U.S. and other imperialist supporters of the Moïse government. They use the U.N. to maintain their dictatorial and brutal government. Haiti and Venezuela

The imperialist assault on Haiti by the U.S. is linked to its assault on Venezuela, but neither Republicans nor Democrats want that connection to be seen.

In Miami, at a town hall meeting on Oct. 3 hosted by U.S. Representative Frederica Wilson, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and six Haitian panelists, Pelosi made that clear, responding to the Haitian panelists.

As reported by Haiti Liberté: “The meeting began with mostly vapid politician remarks by Pelosi, Wilson, Menendez and Joseph. But then it erupted (much to Pelosi’s discomfort) into a trial of and outcry against U.S. policy in Haiti.”

After indictment upon indictment of the U.S. for supporting weapons and rigged elections and imperialism in general against the Haitian people, Carline Paul, one of the panelists, felt empowered to speak and charged that the Trump administration “is supporting Jovenel Moïse for voting (at the OAS) against (President Nicolas) Maduro in Venezuela.”

Washington “didn’t like it, because Venezuela has helped Haiti” and then the Haitian government was “forced to vote against Venezuela.”

“The United States is telling them: Don’t get in contact with China. Don’t get in contact with Venezuela. Don’t get in contact with so and so,” she said, concluding that “Trump, in the background, is supporting Jovenel Moïse, the people of Haiti say no interference, no more support for Jovenel Moïse as president of Haiti.”

Pelosi made a floundering and desperate defense of the policy of Trump and the Democrats in Venezuela, while dismissing the vital aid Venezuela sent to Haiti to save Haitian lives: “You’ve been candid, and I’m going to be candid,” Pelosi lied. “Maduro is a thug, so I’m not taking any respect for what Maduro might be doing in Haiti [sic]. I’m glad that there may be some benefit, but I’m not erasing the injustices, the horror, the killings that he is doing in Venezuela because he is part of spreading the corruption and the rest [sic]… Not to get involved in a full-fledged discussion about Maduro, but I can’t leave a meeting where you’re saying … I cannot let my view of Maduro go unspoken in a group of this kind.”

According to the article to the interests of the people of Haiti, Venezuela and the world.