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Haiti: Violation of Human Rights in the midst of Several Crises

SAGNIK SENGUPTA¹ AND SHASHWAT TYAGI²

ABSTRACT

Haiti and Dominican Republic are two very different countries on one single island. If a person is born in Haiti, he is 2.5 times more likely to die as a baby than if he is born in the Dominican Republic. He'll be 10 times much poorer and have a much shorter life expectancy when compared to Dominican Republic. "Dominicans don't like the Haitian, we are never treated as equals" – Haitian Border Market Vendor. This senseless discrimination embodies the asymmetry that exists on this island.

Haiti is poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and is prone to natural disasters due to the change in climate and French colonization. It also has a history of corruption and incompetent governments which in more than one instance have been overthrown either by the military or due to riots against the government. In recent years, the country of Haiti has faced a number of natural and man-made crises, some of which are still not resolved. Even after such extremely difficult humanitarian circumstances the Haitians face, racism and discrimination adds another blow to the condition of the local people. Such racism and discrimination comes from their only neighboring country in the island of Hispaniola, the Dominican Republic.

The immigration policy and citizenship policies in the Dominican Republic has been changed in the recent years. The government is keeping an eye on the Haitians existing in the Dominican Republic by knowing where they are, what they are doing, how many there are through a 'regularization program', which basically a euphemism. This so called program is targeting anyone of Haitian descent, even citizens rounding them up and then deporting them.

This paper is going to focus on the very core of racism and discrimination faced by the Haitians on a regular basis along with several human rights violations, the history of the country, the different crises that the country has faced and still facing, international aids by different countries and organizations and how beneficial such aids has been.

Keywords: *human rights, violation, climate change, crises, natural disasters, discrimination, racism.*

¹ Author is a student at Amity Law School, Amity University, Noida, India.

² Author is a student at Amity Law School, Amity University, Noida, India.

I. INTRODUCTION

Haiti and Dominican Republic are two very different countries on one single island. If a person is born in Haiti, he is 2.5 times more likely to die as a baby than if he is born in the Dominican Republic. He'll be 10 times much poorer and have a much shorter life expectancy when compared to Dominican Republic. "Dominicans don't like the Haitian, we are never treated as equals" – Haitian Border Market Vendor.

Hours after the Dominicans settle in the border markets are the Haitians allowed to enter. This senseless discrimination embodies the asymmetry that exists on this island. Where one country flourishes the other one rots.

Haiti and the Dominican Republic had a vast history shared between them which were influenced by two European superpowers, French and Spanish respectively. In fact Christopher Columbus setup a colony in the new world on his first voyage back in approximately 1490.

This racism which has been embedded into Haiti's history is very much alive even today. In the present times it has been embedded in the Dominican Constitution which harms the very rights of the Haitians living in Dominican Republic which in numbers are approximately 200,000.

Today Haitians in the Dominican Republic experience racism that is overt enough to be enshrined in law. After hearing and reading about these entire atrocious acts, the main question that arises out of these is:

1. What part does the island's history play?
2. How did this vast island produce two very different countries?
3. Why does this racism still exist in the 21st century? And
4. Is there an amicable solution to solve the issue of racism?

The objective of this paper is to study the existence of racism in the 21st century, to analyze the history of the island of Hispaniola, to analyze the human rights violation in the country of Haiti, to study carefully the ongoing and emerging crises in Haiti along with critically analyzing the foreign aids given to Haiti. The solution to curb the human rights violation in the country of Haiti is also mentioned in this paper. Regarding methodological approaches, the present study can be classified as an Analytical study. Haiti, once one of the richest colonies on earth, now hell or home or just another victim of racism and ignorance? The issue is divided into two parts.

II. HISTORY

There are a few key things that explain how this island produced two very different countries, but if you want to get to the very root of it, we will have to travel back in time when this island was owned by two European powers: France and Spain. This island is actually the first place that Christopher Columbus setup a colony in the new world on his first voyage back in approximately 1490³.

France wanted to colonize this island for its resources where they would grow crops like coffee and sugar the island into two parts: one side would be the Spanish colony of Santo Domingo and the other side was the French colony called Saint-Domingue which is the same but in French⁴.

This is one of the most important part of understanding this whole situation or issue, is how these imperial powers treated their colonial possessions. The French exploited their part of their land. The French brought in many slaves in Haiti to help the French in exploiting the Haitian land using it for monetary gains. Harvesting same kind of crops again and again without any breaks or intervals year after year, destroyed the fertility of the soil. These overly abused slaves could not live in these conditions and rebelled against the French.

The Spanish on the other hand had a different approach when it came to their part of the land. After establishing domination on this island, the Spanish unlike the French were not much interested in slavery and colonizing the island for themselves. Instead they went to different other countries in the west to look for precious commodities for trade which was found in abundance in places like USA, Mexico, and Peru etc.

In lieu of this given situation, the Spanish integrated with the remaining indigenous population by recognizing the native leader's authority and intermarrying with the locals. The result was a smaller and more racially mixed population, with a sustainable economy and a political system, which was missing in its entirety from the colony of their French counterparts.

Haiti soon declared itself an independent nation with an all black and former slave colony which became the first ever black republican nation. This was done at a time where slavery was at its peak hence the newly born country of Haiti was isolated with no support whatsoever provided to them or their crippling government. Hence making their downfall

³Richard. A. Haggerty, Saint Louis University Law Library, *Dominican Republic and Haiti country studies*. (Nov. 13, 1991), ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00001341/00001/3j.

⁴Richard. A. Haggerty, University of Hawaii Law Library, *Dominican Republic and Haiti country studies*. (Nov. 13, 1991), ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00001341/00001/3j.

was inevitable.

As they were the first black Republic, the rest of the world isolated them instead of offering their help. The U.S didn't want to recognize the independence of a black nation due to their negative mindset where they thought that Haiti would become a slave empire and seek revenge against them which in terms of accusations was completely baseless⁵.

The French, soon after the independence of Haiti showed up to the shores of Haiti and started asking for the 'economic debt' that the Haitians owed the French for all the assets that they 'stole' when Haiti became independent for the next thirty years or so. Haiti did payback the crippling and unnecessary debt over the years, but this in turn really hampered their development. In the year 1937, a Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo led the Dominican Republic and was obsessed with pale skin, under his rule, around 10 to 25,000 dark-skinned Haitians living in Dominican border towns were murdered.

Haiti had its first ever general elections in the year 1950 where Paul Magloire a colonel in the Haitian army won the elections. In the year 1954, a Hurricane named Hazel hit the islands which left Haiti's infrastructure and economy in a completely devastated state. The hurricane relief was in adequately distributed and misspent and as a result, it worsened the country's condition. To make the matters even worse than it already was, he shut down newspapers and jailed his opponents.

After his tenure ended, he refused to step down from his post as the leader of the country. A general strike, led to the shutdown of Port-au-Price's economy, Mangloire fled and left the government in chaos which led to new elections and a rural doctor by the name Francois Duvalier was elected.

Francois Duvalier was another dictator who exploited Haiti. At first he provided Haiti with a constitution for the solidification of power and changed the legislation from bicameral to a unicameral one. On June 14 1964, Duvalier started his dictatorial rule, where he did had the military under his control and would do anything to maintain power.

The National Security Volunteers called 'Tonton Macoute' locally was established by Francois Duvalier which was the secret police and had pervasive influence over the rural areas of Haiti. He was also notoriously corrupt. He stole from various government agencies and gave that money to only those officials who were loyal to him. Almost as much as 30,000 people were killed under his rule, and many immigrated to Cuba, Canada and The U.S.

⁵Jon Henley, The Guardian , *Haiti: A Long Descent to Hell* (Jan. 14, 2010), www.theguardian.com/world/2010.

Duvalier died in 1971⁶.

After the death of Francois Duvalier, Jean-Claude Duvalier was in charge of running the Haitian Government. He was raised in isolation as he was the son of a Dictator and was never fond of politics and was always interested in living a lavish lifestyle. Initially he was considered better than his father in terms of ruling the country as he was gentler and less formidable than his father. Hence he was well-liked which also resulted in many countries coming forward to provide help and aid Haiti, including the aid provided by USA which was discontinued.

But the endemic corruption continued to exist and much of Jean-Claude Duvalier's wealth came from establishing a Tobacco Monopoly in the country which was basically a slush fund i.e. funds stored for illegal purposes. Conditions of the country worsened with the outbreak of many pandemic diseases like the African swine fever and the HIV/AIDS due to the negligence of the Duvalier regime compiled with inadequate infrastructure. Tensions rose even further when he married a light-skinned woman which was perceived as an act of betrayal of Francois Duvalier's legacy of supporting the middle class black families⁷.

In the year 1983 when Pope John Paul II visited Haiti during a time of discontent and economic hopelessness, in a speech at the capital the Pope called for equitable distribution of income and a more egalitarian social and political structure. This led to revolts and riots breaking out in different parts of the country.

Duvalier tackled this situation by firing cabinet officials and cutting down food prices. He further closed down several independent radio stations and deployed army and police personnel to quell the uprising; however it failed to pacify the rioters.

In January 1986, pressure started amounting towards Duvalier to leave the country which at first he accepted and was ready to take asylum in Jamaica. But later he rescinded the offer and decided to remain in Haiti. This led to U.S cutting back its aid to Haiti and the riots spread to the capital.

In the month of February 1986 the military confronted Duvalier and his regime and was demanded to leave the country. With no support from the legislature as well as the military, Duvalier left for France after naming of an interim legislation consisting of three civilians and

⁶ Thayer Watkins, San Jose State University, *Political and Economic History of Haiti* (March. 04, 2011), www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/haiti.

⁷ Thayer Watkins, San Jose State University, *Political and Economic History of Haiti* (March. 04, 2011), www.sjsu.edu/faculty/watkins/haiti.

two military personnel, thus transitioning to a full democratic rule⁸.

III. SITUATION IN 21ST CENTURY

As of today not many people are aware about the current situation of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Today the Dominican Republic enjoys higher quality of life than Haiti, and the differences which began in the 15th century still exist today. In more recent times, if a person is born in Haiti, he is 2.5 times more likely to die as a baby than if he is born in the Dominican Republic. He'll be 10 times much poorer and have a much shorter life expectancy when compared to Dominican Republic⁹. "Dominicans don't like the Haitian, we are never treated as equals" – Haitian Border Market Vendor. This senseless discrimination embodies the asymmetry that exists on this island. Now the main question arises that why is this senseless discrimination still existent on this island even in the 21st century?

The immigration and citizenship policies in the Dominican Republic have been changed in the recent years. The government is keeping an eye on the Haitians existing in the Dominican Republic by knowing where they are, what they are doing, how many there are through a 'regularization program', which basically a euphemism. This so called program is targeting anyone of Haitian descent, even citizens of Dominican Republic rounding them up and then deporting them.

There has always been an anti-Haitian sentiment in the Dominican Republic which usually resulted in racist violence. Since 2010 this sentiment has caved its way into legislation, which basically means that it's now becoming a part of the Constitution of the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Constitution which was drafted in the year 1929, say that anyone born in this country will be automatically considered a citizen, even if a person's parents were undocumented immigrants, which is same as many countries including U.S¹⁰.

But in 2010 the Dominican Republic rewrote its Constitution where it would only provide citizenship to those born in the Dominican Republic i.e. to legal residents. In 2013, the high court in the Dominican Republic stated in a ruling that this new law would be applied ***retroactively***, all the way back to 1929 when their Constitution was first drafted. This basically means that, citizens who had been born in the Dominican Republic to undocumented parents would have their ***citizenship revoke***.¹¹

⁸ Robert Lawless, Editor of Encyclopedia Britannica, *Haiti* (March. 17, 2020), www.britannica.com/place/Haiti.

⁹ Anonymous, The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, *Hispaniola* (Sept. 06, 2017), www.britannica.com/place/Hispaniola.

¹⁰ AbbyPhillip, Washington Post, *The bloody origins of the Dominican Republic's ethnic 'cleansing' of Haitians* (June. 17, 2015), www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/06/16.

¹¹ Carrie Gibson, The Guardian, *The Dominican Republic and Haiti: One Island Riven by an Unresolved Past*

Dominican law said that if these stateless people wanted to stay in the Dominican Republic, then they would have to go to a government office and put down their on a certain foreigner registry. The government gave these people a time period of one year to either get their names on this registry or face deportation. Since the June 2015, over 55,000 have officially been deported according to the United Nations. The New York Times even called it ‘The Dominican Time Bomb’¹².

The United Nations have also estimated that 128,000 people have voluntarily fled to the already volatile and impoverished Haiti, a country where many of them had never lived in. Some of the people started camping near the border where they had been living in limbo for a few years. “Having 200,000 people being able to vote in an election could change the outcome of it”. –A border camper. While crossing from Haiti to Dominican Republic, there are approximately 8 security checkpoints at the border and people crossing the borders are sometimes checked by security personnel for papers and only the darkest people from the rest are checked just to make sure that there are no Haitians crossing the border.

In one case lady and her children were brought in front of some security personnel. She spoke in perfect Dominican Spanish claiming that her children are Dominican and she was brought to this checkpoint because she was black. None of it really mattered to the guards; she didn’t have her papers and her skin color was the only thing the guards needed to see or car about.

Today, Haitians in the Dominican Republic experience racism that is overt enough to be enshrined in law¹³.

In another border-market town all the way up to the north, where the same discriminatory dynamics played out as it did in the other market down south. This market was built by funding done by the European Union as well as the United Nations development program. This was done with the specific intention of creating a space where communities from Haiti and the Dominican Republic can buy and sell on equal terms. Here to the Dominicans were again let in first to setup shops. At the border a group of Haitians were paying the border guard to be let in early. The condition was worse here as the border guards have no problem hitting Haitians with sticks. Similar to the south border market are Haitians finally let in the market. They have no choice but to give in to this kind of mistreatment as their livelihood

(Oct. 07, 2013, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree).

¹² Jonathan M. Katz, The New York Times, *The Dominican Time Bomb* (July. 02, 2015), www.nytimes.com/2015/07/02/magazine/the-dominican-time-bomb.

¹³ Richard Andre, American Quarterly, *The Dominican Republic and Haiti: A Shared View from the Diaspora* (July. 28, 2014), www.americasquarterly.org/fulltextarticle.

depends on it¹⁴.

As per Humanitarian Law experts, the island of Hispaniola where the two countries are located is on the brink of humanitarian crisis due to the recent law changes aforementioned. Human Rights expert have even said that the Dominicans openly discriminate against Haitians because they are perceived to be blacker despite both cultures having African ancestry.

The 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti and the Dominican Republic were very quick to jump to Haiti's aid. After the earthquake, more and more Haitians started taking refuge in the Dominican Republic. After the 2013 High Court ruling Haitian Dominican tensions have escalated to extreme violence with Dominicans burning the Haitian flag as well as calls for deportation of all Haitian refugees.

In Haiti anti-Dominican marches are being conducted and boycotting of Dominican products is also being done and Haitians are condemning the actions of the Dominicans by burning their national flag and hate speech¹⁵. According to the Human Right Watch an international nongovernmental organization with research and advocacy in Human Rights problems and issues stated that there is still a lot of political instability within the Haitian government with their inability to calming riots and providing for its people, thus adding to this humanitarian crisis.

In 2017 the UNHRC also tried to make advancements to curb worst forms of child labor in recent times. As per a study by the ORHRC in 2015, there were as many as 286,000 domestic child workers and of which 207,000 children were lagging behind in school. Many steps were taken to curb this as a means to improve the living conditions in Haiti as well as providing education¹⁶.

The **Security Council Resolution 2350** established the mandate of the **United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti** (MINUJUSTH) in the year 2017. MINUJUSTH was established for assisting the government to strengthen and support the National Police of Haiti by the United Nations. It also strengthens rule of law for various different institutions including justice and correction sectors. They also help in advancement, protection and promotion of human rights in Haiti through monitoring, capacity building reporting and analysis of human rights. With this resolution, the UNHRC and the ORHRC wants to

¹⁴ Anonymous, Center for Strategic and International Studies, *Report Roll-out: Illicit Trade and the Haiti-Dominican Republic Border* (March. 22, 2019), www.csis.org/events.

¹⁵ World Report 2020, *Human Rights Watch* (July, 2020), www.hrw.org/world-report/2019.

¹⁶ United Nations, *Human Rights* (Dec. 10, 1948), www.un.org/en.

strategically improve the conditions of Haitians by strengthening human rights.¹⁷

The Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reported an increase in deportation cases at the Haitian-Dominican border. Many human rights defendants went missing or even ended up dead. There are approximately 300,000 children in bondage in the island of Hispaniola, where most of these children belong to Haiti. They are forced into indentured, unpaid labor and are held in captivity.¹⁸

The United Nations Human Rights Council, have a set of rules which are known as Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is also the charter for United Nations Human Rights Council. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights ensures that every person is to be treated equally and not be discriminated on the basis of cast, creed, sex or gender and color. – UNHRC. According to the UDHR or Universal Declaration the sole reason that these human rights were established was to ensure that all humans are the same and are to be treated as such. In this charter, Articles 16-30 consist of Human Rights as per the Human Rights Act of 1998. These are the basic rights that are to be followed by each and every country in the world for a peaceful and harmonious living¹⁹.

Many countries do follow these rights, but when it comes to the Dominican Republic and Haitian controversy, it is not so. Racist laws have now been completely enshrined in the constitution which is against UDHR and despite being against Human Rights, not many people know about the situation in the island of Hispaniola, making more and more people down right ignorant.

After the establishment of MINUJUSTH, the United Nations sent in as much as 9000 of its troops to help the Haitian police to establish a democratic government. The responsibility of sending these troops was given to Brazil. After many insurrection that overthrew the autocratic Haitian rule in 2004, many political parties and influencers from big and wealthy Haitian families were accused by various sources, media being one of them..

These sources not only accused these various political parties, but also accused the Haitian police and the military troops sent by the United Nations for human rights abuse, the very thing they were sent to govern and protect. Approximately 1200 households were surveyed since the 2004 coupe to record any human rights abuse like theft or vandalism of property,

¹⁷ United Nations, *MINUJUSTH* (April. 13, 2017), www.un.org/en/ccoi.

¹⁸ UNSC, *UNSC calls for calming of violence in Haiti* (July. 12, 2018), news.un.org/en/story/2018.

¹⁹ United Nations Human Rights Council, *Human Rights Charter* (June. 27, 1981), www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights.

physical or sexual assault, rape, extra judicial detentions and murder²⁰.

Many women were victims of multiple accounts of rape and sexual assault from people belonging to political parties and even the Haitian government. Many identified perpetrators were political affiliates, criminals and even the Haitian police, many of the locals also witnessed homicide done by these perpetrators. These murders were mostly by stabbing, beheading, beatings and torture.

An estimate shows that over 22,000 bullet holes were found after an operation conducted by the MINUJUSTH in Cite Soleli. According to a report by H.I.P, the wounded and the dead were found in their own homes, which implicated that the soldiers shot the people indiscriminately which left the condition of the housing societies extremely precarious²¹.

IV. THE EMERGING CRISES

Apart from the racism and discrimination faced by the Haitian people on the hands of their neighbor, the Dominican Republic, the country is also facing a number of devastating crises which in turn may tear down the country of Haiti into a virtually disintegrated State. The present crises in Haiti can be connected to a number of factors which includes the 2010 earthquake, a devastating drought which compromised the countries' water supplies, the ongoing effects of hurricanes Tomas and Matthew and the incompetency of the Haitian government.

- After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the country had a Global Hunger Index score of 48.8. In the next six years it improved but after that it decreased down to 34.7. The World Food Program has warned that in 2020 new clusters of the Haitian population may face severe food emergency conditions. In 2019, half the Haitian population was already considered malnourished.²² Roadblocks have been set by the Haitian people to protest against the government, but this in turn prevents all kinds of humanitarian organizations from reaching the areas where they are needed the most. At present, 35% of Haiti's population is going hungry due to food shortages. The United Nations estimated that about 19,000 children were suffering from malnutrition as of October

²⁰ A. Kolbe, R. Hutson, American Association for the Advancement of Science, *Human Rights Abuse and other Criminal Violations in Port-au-Prince, Haiti* (Oct. 2006), www.aaas.org/resources/human-rights-abuse-and-other-criminal-violations-port-au-prince-haiti.

²¹ Maria Luisa Mendonca, *UN Troops Accused of Human Rights Violation in Haiti* (Jan. 21, 2008), www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/186/34495.html.

²² Jessica Obert, *Hunger in Haiti: Ten years after catastrophe struck, a new crisis looms* (Jan. 13, 2020), The New Humanitarian, <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2020/1/13/Haiti-insecurity-famine-malnutrition-health-aid-displacement-protests>.

2019. The increasing inflation rate in the country is also fueling the Hunger Crisis as people are unable to purchase basic food supplies due to high prices.²³

- The fuel crisis is another very important crisis which has almost paralyzed the Haitian nation. Haiti used to import barrels of fuel from Venezuela. The agreement between the two countries entailed an official agreement of 14,000 barrels per day. But due to mismanagement and corruption, oil prices fell and production of oil had a sharp decline. Therefore the Venezuela state-owned oil company announced that fuel exports would be indefinitely suspended to eight nations including Haiti. Haiti was left with the only choice to buy fuel from the international market but gradually ran out of funds as it lacked the hard U.S currency needed to purchase in the international markets. Haiti at present is experiencing extreme fuel shortages with gas being sold on black markets. Basic institutions like hospitals, orphanages and other emergency services are functioning with very limited capacity due to the fuel crisis.²⁴
- The political crisis going on Haiti is another blow to the overall situation in the country. The corrupted and incompetent government of Haiti led by President Moïse has been the indirect cause of all the other crises. As a result, the people of Haiti have been to the streets to protest and demand the resignation of the President. The President has so far resisted stepping down. There have been ongoing riots happening at present for the resignation of the President. But President Moïse is backed by the United States and has the Haitian Police, who are trying to suppress the riots but are failing. Roadblocks have been placed almost all over the country and thus access in severely damaged areas are very difficult.²⁵ Moïse won the 2015 elections, which was scraped over allegations of fraud. A repeat election was held in November 2016 and in January 2017 he was declared the President. Thus, Moïse's political base has been weak from the very start.²⁶
- The climate change crisis is the last nail to the coffin in case of Haiti. This starts from when the French use to rule Haiti. Lands and forests were exploited by the French and due to overgrowing same crops most agricultural land in Haiti were left barren and

²³ Anonymous, *THE HAITI CRISIS: 5 THINGS TO KNOW* (Jan. 09, 2020), <https://www.concernusa.org/story/haiti-crisis-explained/>.

²⁴ Leonie Rauls, *Haitian fuel crisis: Petrocaribe's collateral damage* (Nov. 14, 2019), Global Americans, <https://theglobalamericans.org/2019/11/haitian-fuel-crisis-petrocaribes-collateral-damage/>.

²⁵ Keston K Perry, *What is really behind the crisis in Haiti?* (Sep. 30, 2019), <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/crisis-haiti-190927092336787.html>.

²⁶ Anonymous, *Political crisis in Haiti could lead to president ruling single-handedly* (Jan. 14, 2020), <https://www.france24.com/en/20200114-political-crisis-in-haiti-could-result-in-president-ruling-single-handedly>.

infertile by the French. Haiti is situated in the path of a hurricane corridor and it also has a history of floods with its urban centers located in the alluvial plains of large river systems. Most of its crops are destroyed due to such hurricanes and floods. But the recent climate change has also brought devastating droughts to the country as well. Such droughts have been escalated due to the barren and infertile lands left by the French colonizers. Due to this climate change, the impact on the country has been massive. Floods and hurricanes lead to destruction of raw materials for food hence leading to the hunger crisis and droughts result in extreme shortages of water supplies.²⁷

These are all the problems the country of Haiti is suffering from. Even after having acute food and water shortage, fuel crisis affecting the functioning of hospitals, riots and other political tensions, the people of Haiti are the victims of extreme racism and discrimination by their neighboring country, the Dominican Republic. In the middle of such extreme humanitarian crises happening in Haiti, the Dominican Republic is deporting Haitians even if they were born in Dominican Republic. Such insensitive treatment by a country which shares the island with Haiti shows how extreme the situation of the Haitian people actually is. The next crisis which is lurking for Haiti is a refugee crisis as many people are trying to flee the country.²⁸

V. FUTILE FOREIGN AIDS

Throughout history, due to Haiti's geographical isolation, the country's foreign relations have been constrained. The United States at first did not want to recognize Haiti as an independent country but after the Civil War, President Lincoln of the United States gave recognition to Haiti without any controversy. Since then Haiti has maintained a long-standing relationship with the United States. Haiti has received huge amounts of assistance from the United States throughout the years. In recent years, Haiti has been the second largest recipient of United States aid in the region. After the 2010 earthquake, Haiti received a great sum of 505 million dollars from the United States along with another 908 million dollars in a FY2010 supplemental. But the aid to Haiti has been steadily declining over the past ten years especially after the Trump administration.²⁹

²⁷ Madeleine Rubenstein, *Climate Change in Haiti* (Feb. 01, 2012), General Earth Institute, <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2012/02/01/climate-change-in-haiti/>.

²⁸ Georges A. Fauriol, *Haiti: The Next Crisis* (Dec. 12, 2019), Centre for Strategic & International Studies, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/haiti-next-crisis>.

²⁹ Maureen Taft-Morales – *Haiti's Political and Economic Conditions*, Congressional Research Service/R45034.

But even though foreign aid to Haiti was being generated by a number of countries, it didn't have the impact it was suppose to have. After the 2010 Haitian earthquake, organizations and countries from all around the world pledged around 9 billion dollars to help rebuild Haiti so that at least the basic amenities could be restored to its people. Out of the 9 billion dollars only 5.6 billion dollars reached Haiti. The government of Haiti Action Plan identified the sectors which needed most priority and the most amount of aid money but donations were instead made heavily to the less priority sectors. Like for example, the government requested 800 million dollars for the reconstruction sector but only 100 million dollars were received. On the other hand, donations were made 510% more than the requested amount to the transportation sector. Out of the 2.29 billion dollars from the donators, only 1% was given to the Haitian government while the rest got distributed to NGO's like American Red Cross and international private contractors. American Red Cross promised to invest the 500 million dollars to build 130,000 homes while later study confirmed that only 6 homes were built.³⁰

After the failures of the foreign aid during the 2010 Haitian earthquake disaster, foreign aids are being more carefully administered to Haiti. The recent hurricane in Haiti, Hurricane Matthew has commenced discussion among the international community to be more careful during giving donations. Physical volunteers from foreign countries are being advised to not go to Haiti as food and water are already too scarce for the Haitian people and more volunteers would just create more problems. Higher emphasis is being given to donate to Haitian organizations which will actually respond to the communities in need and also to local non-profit organizations.

VI. THE SOLUTION

Although the problems that exist are very complex, the solutions to these problems are quite simple. Basic human rights should be followed by each and every country in the world and the leaders of the country should ensure that these rights are to be unbiased and should be provided to all without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, religion, gender and color. Although there is racism present in Hispaniola there is still a light of hope. Many people in the Dominican Republic are against the racist ruling; they also think that the aforementioned ruling is racist. Many Haitians are even being sheltered by different NGOs as well as looking for amicable solutions to completely diminish racism in Dominican Republic towards Haitians. Haitians have to be treated equally³¹.

³⁰ Emily Hwang, *Foreign Aid in Haiti: Before and After* (Dec 01, 2016), Panoramias Scholarly Platform, <https://www.panoramias.pitt.edu/economy-and-development/foreign-aid-haiti-and-after>.

³¹ OCHA Services, *Becoming Visible and Finding Solutions for Haiti* (March. 23, 2016),

The leaders of both the countries should collectively come together and build up the mutual understanding that this racism is of the past. The mistakes of the past do not define their future. They need to understand and learn from their past mistakes made by the then leaders of the countries. Racism is a thing of the past and it should have been left and forgotten then and there itself. Haiti and Dominican Republic are two very different nations its history of racism and dictatorship and the 225 mile long border should not be the reason to define their future, instead it should be the mutual and amicable understanding in between the people of Hispaniola that every person is equal and are to be treated as equals not only for the betterment of the society as a whole but also know and make sure that an individual's color does not define them in anyway.

Different crises faced by Haiti be it shortage of fuel or shortage of other resources like basic necessities need to be tackled with utmost urgency. Different organizations need to collectively understand that the crises faced by Haiti are much more than racism it's very important to keep in check that the funds received by the Haitian Government are to be utilized in the best way for the people of Haiti.

Haiti being prone to many natural as well as man-made calamities makes it harder for Haitians to cope up with the basic necessities of the Haitian people. Lack of resources and corrupt officials are to be tried and punished, and justice needs to prevail in Haiti. The UN also needs to keep in check its forces and troops and help Haiti to be a better country for its people who are suffering even after many steps were taken to curb human rights violation. Corrupt police officials and the military that violate the very human rights that are to be protected by them, need to be punished in the most rigorous way. It's time for a revolution and that revolution needs to begin now.

VII. CONCLUSION

Today the Dominican Republic enjoys higher quality of life than Haiti, and the differences which began in the 15th century still exist today. A world of racism still very alive today made sure that Haiti being the first black, former slave republic in the world, being the first of its kind, the world chose to isolate them than to welcome them due to slavery and racism.

This is not just a simple problem that exist on this island of Hispaniola between two vastly different countries but it is a far more complex situation about policy; how centuries of racist policies in the past from the French and the U.S and policies from the Dominican Republic in the present, held and is still holding a nation from progressing. Haiti, this first ever black

republic in the world, has experienced some of the most predatory and racist policies from the outside forces. It's the condition on which Haitians live their lives.

These are two very different countries on one single island. Although they had been colonized by two different European countries they were then the richest colonies on earth. But that came with the hardship of racism, slavery and debt which continued long after the era of colonialism got over only hampered with Haiti's development. Having the same African ancestry and still choosing to ignore it is plain spiteful. Dominican Republic needs to realize that with unity comes strength and it does not matter what occurred in the past, it does not define them in anyway.

The United Nations should keep a check not only towards such policies of Dominican Republic but also towards the Haitian government and their armed forces. Such grave violations of human rights are not tolerable in today's world and the international community must step up to help the poor nation of Haiti which was once a rich colony. They should also give proper and adequate aid to Haiti through non-corrupt channels and organizations so that the money donated can actually be beneficial to the Haitian people. With such grave crises hitting Haiti one after another, without proper help from the neighboring countries, the nation will be virtually disintegrated and the Haitian people would lose everything.

The problem in Haiti is more than just racism, from corrupt governments to natural disasters, the people of Haiti have been suffering since time immemorial and although many countries and various organizations are working for the betterment of the country, they are lacking at places due to issues that can be resolved but are being ignored because of which Haitian people are suffering and are looking for a simple way to live their lives peacefully with basic amenities provided to them.

VIII. REFERENCES

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