

September 7, 2008

HAITI EMERGENCY FUNDING APPEAL

""What I saw in this city today is close to hell on earth," Hédi Annabi, the United Nations special representative to Haiti, said on Saturday in Gonaïves, where children were chasing trucks carrying food and shouting, "Hungry! Hungry!""

Below, a New York Times report on Hurricane Ike that is adding to the devastation and death in Haiti caused by: Tropical Storm Fay, then Hurricane Gustav, then Tropical Storm Hanna and now Hurricane Ike.

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* UNITED STATES: Box 50887, Washington DC, 20091-0887;

* CANADA: 552 - 351 Queen St. E, Toronto ON, M5A-1T8.

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Thanks. Grahame Russell and Annie Bird (co-directors). info@rightsaction.org / www.rightsaction.org / 1-860-352-2448

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HURRICANE IKE SMASHES WEST THROUGH CARIBBEAN

By MARC LACEY, New York Times, September 8, 2008

MIAMI — Hurricane Ike barreled west across the already beleaguered islands of the Caribbean on Sunday, raising the death toll and destruction across the waterlogged region.

In Haiti, where the fourth-largest city, Gonaïves, remained underwater from Hurricane Gustav, rain fell and at least 10 more people died of drowning, according to reports from news services. By late Sunday the number of people reported killed in Haiti just from the effects of Hurricane Ike reached at least 48. The total of those killed in Haiti in the recent storms was in the hundreds.

The effect of any rain at all on Haiti worried relief workers, who were struggling to reach hungry people cut off by floodwaters from a string of earlier storms. Officials

opened an overflowing dam, further inundating residential and agricultural areas. Meanwhile, a bridge collapsed, adding to the isolation of the suffering people of Gonaïves.

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The airport in Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, was closed for part of Sunday, and flights from Miami were canceled.

The hurricane center said the storm was generating large swells at sea that could generate life-threatening rip currents along portions of coast in the southeastern United States, still recovering from Gustav, which made landfall on Louisiana and Mississippi on Monday, and Hurricane Hanna, which hit the Carolinas on Saturday and by late Sunday was dumping rain on Canada.

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