



## VENEZUELA AID TO HAITI: ONE YEAR AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

- **Venezuela was one of the first countries to provide assistance to Haiti on January 13, 2010**, the day after the devastating earthquake hit Haiti.
- **Venezuelan aid to Haiti is rooted in a deep sense of solidarity with the Haitian people.** Haiti served as an inspiration to Venezuelan patriots fighting for independence, and Venezuelan liberator Simón Bolívar was aided by the people from Haiti. He also sailed from Haiti twice in 1816 in order to engage the Spanish Kingdom militarily.
- **Over the last year, Venezuela has sent 8,139 tons of food, medicines** and other forms of humanitarian assistance to Haiti by way of 23 flights and seven maritime shipments.
- **Venezuela has also provided vital financial assistance.** Through the Bolivarian Alliance of the People of Our Americas (ALBA), Venezuela established a US \$100 million Humanitarian Fund. Additionally, **Venezuela fully forgave Haiti's US \$395 million debt to PetroCaribe**, an energy cooperation agreement between the two countries.
- Venezuelan personnel have also constructed and operate five camps in Jacmel, Petit Goave, Grand Goave, and Leogâne. The camps have served 5,431 families, amounting to over 25,000 Haitians.
- In a March 2010 letter to the president of the CITGO Petroleum Corporation, which is owned by Venezuela's state oil company, **the president of TransAfrica Forum**, a human rights organization that has operations in Haiti, **noted that Venezuelan camps "are the only camps that meet the UN standards** for living conditions of IDPs [internally displaced people]."
- **Jean Charles, Executive Director of AINDOH Inc.**, a Haitian group, wrote of the Simón Bolívar camp in Leogâne on February 17, 2010: "The Bolivarian tent city is well organized, its a transitional model that should be replicated; the Venezuelan soldiers living with the refugees are social workers, teachers, cooks and community organizers."
- On health issues, **Venezuela donated US \$20 million to a Cuban project to build 10 integral medical centers** and distribute needed medicines to the Haitian people.
- **Venezuela has also remained a consistent and reliable energy supplier to Haiti.** Beyond a donation of 225,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel in late January 2010, Venezuela has continued supplying the country with oil under the terms of its PetroCaribe agreement – 7,000 barrels a day with preferential financing. Venezuela has donated over 16,000 gallons of gasoline to power Haitian medical centers.
- Other Venezuelan efforts in Haiti have included the **construction of 10 water wells** and two underground water storage tanks, the donation of seeds and agricultural equipment, and the **regularization of the status of 14,000 Haitians living without documents in Venezuela.**
- During an event in Caracas on January 12, 2011, commemorating the earthquake, **Charge d'Affaires at the Haitian Embassy in Venezuela Christian Touissaint** stated: "From the earthquake in January 2010 until this day, Venezuela, despite the problems it has faced from heavy rains...has aided Haiti."

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