

Governance and Human Security in Post-Earthquake Haiti



© Matthew Bolton, March 2010

Visiting Fellow, LSE Global Governance, m.b.bolton@lse.ac.uk

Haiti Emergency Coordinator, Outreach International, m.bolton@outreachmail.org

Human Security Situation in Haiti

- Earthquake killed over 100,000 people, displaced millions
- Security situation initially improved
- 5000 criminals escaped from prison
- Increase in sexual assault in the camps
- Recent MSF kidnapping
- History of state violence and authoritarianism
- Gang and paramilitary violence

Adieu Babou Chéri

Au Revoir Sherlyne
Nous t'aimons

Que Dieu Vous







My Role in Haiti



- 30 schools damaged or destroyed
- About \$8 million over three years
- Small relief project, School reconstruction, Improving quality of schools
- Partnership with Article 25

Reflections on My Role

- Role traditionally would be based in an MoE
- I am not Haitian
- French is terrible, Creole non-existent
- Don't live in Haiti
- Would never be elected, or appointed as a civil servant

Emerging Complex of Governance



- Globalized
- Privatized
- Militarized
- Fragmented and Shifting

Globalized

- History of international intervention
- Logbase
 - Secure perimeter
 - Cluster system
 - Languages of choice
 - Technocracy
 - Constant meetings – information overload and yet very little real understanding



Bathroom Graffiti at UN LOGBASE

- “Does anyone know what the hell is going on?”
- “What the fuck should we do?”
- “Haiti: Hell on earth...What do we do now?”
 - “The answer is not in Logbase or in your email”

Militarized

- MINUSTAH
- US military presence, criticisms
- JOTC
- Military escorts
- Green and red zones



Privatized

- Over 10,000 NGOs
- Impossible to coordinate, but can move faster, penetrate out farther
- Called 'agencies' for a reason – myriad interests
- Privileged access if part of existing programs, religious affiliation
- 'Humanitarian Defense'
- Gangs and vigilantism



Fragmented and Shifting

- Fragmented vs. Continuous political space – UN bases
- No single address for Haitian concerns
 - Signs in neighborhoods saying ‘SOS’ or ‘We need help’
- Shifting presence of international agencies



Day 1



Day 2

Multilateralism and Legitimate Authority

- Multilateralism is not just about states
- Competing interests
- Not simple line of command and control authority in a network
- What is the equivalent of the 'constituent surgery' in this system?

Room for Progressive Politics

- Politics as art of the possible
- Creating feedback loops, participation, consultation
- Devolving authority to Haitian government
- Creating alliances and networks of progressive actors