
NEWS RELEASE

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HAITI: OAS STRENGTHENS SANCTIONS, CANADA TO HELP POOR

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister for External Relations and International Development, the Honourable Monique Landry, today said that Canada and the Organization of American States (OAS) will strengthen sanctions against Haiti, but will help citizens who are suffering as a result of the sanctions. This decision follows discussions by foreign ministers prior to the opening of the OAS General Assembly in Nassau.

"Along with our OAS partners, we want to maintain strong pressure on Haiti's illegal regime, not to hurt the people of Haiti," said Mrs. McDougall.

"The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will make sure that food and medicine reach those who need it most in that tragic country," said Mrs. Landry.

Mrs. Landry said that CIDA will donate \$5 million worth of food and medical supplies, which will be distributed by the OAS and Canadian non-governmental organizations.

Mrs. McDougall said that OAS foreign ministers condemned continued human rights abuse and reiterated that a peaceful, negotiated solution to the crisis in Haiti was required. OAS ministers believe that the February 23 Washington agreement offers the best hope for restoring democracy to Haiti.

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