

## Jamaica's drug lord 'Dudus' Coke arrested

By JUNE KELLUM  
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Jamaican police arrested suspected drug lord Christopher "Dudus" Coke at a highway checkpoint in the capital, Kingston, Wednesday afternoon.

Coke was with Reverend Al Miller when he was picked up. The reverend said they were on their way to the U.S. Embassy where Coke was planning to turn himself in, according to the Jamaican Observer.

"Coke is being held now in a secure facility, and the security forces are taking every step possible to assure his safety and well being whilst he is in our custody," Jamaican Police Commissioner Owen Elington said at a press conference. "Legal proceedings will commence immediately," he said.

So far, Coke's arrest has not sparked any violence. Last month, the Jamaican government declared a state of emergency when 70 people were killed as residents of Coke's Tivoli Gardens neighbourhood tried to prevent police from finding him.

The Jamaican Star reported that a group of Coke's followers said they would wait and see what happens to the man they see as a sort of father figure.

Coke's own father, Lester "Jim Brown" Coke, died in a mysterious fire while in police custody awaiting extradition.

The United States has called for Coke's extradition to face charges of drug trafficking and gun running.

Coke is alleged to be the leader of the Shower Posse, an international crime organization whose name derives from the quantity of automatic bullets used in its shootings.

## Peru could become world's biggest coca producer

By MARCO 'T HOEN  
Epoch Times Staff

Peru is on its way to becoming the world's biggest producer of coca, the raw material for cocaine, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in a report released June 23.

UNODC's annual coca crop survey of the Andean countries, covering Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru, showed an overall decrease in coca cultivation by 5 percent in 2009 compared to 2008.

The greatest contributor to the drop was Colombia where cultivation fell by 16 percent. By contrast, Peru's production rose by 6.8 percent to 599 square kilometres in 2009. Peru now only trails Colombia, the world's top coca producer, by 81 sq km. It is the fourth straight year Peru has posted an increase.

Colombia's success is due to effective government policies, Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of UNDOC, said in a press release.

"The drug control policy adopted by the Colombian government over the past few years—combining security and development—is paying off."

The policies not only resulted in the seizure of a substantial amount of last year's crop, but the policies have also made it less profitable to grow coca.

Costa encouraged the Peruvian government to improve law enforcement, drug treatment, and prevention programs to curb the rate of coca growth.

In Bolivia, the area of land under coca production has doubled in the past 10 years to 309 square kilometres.

"There are limits to what the Andean governments can do if people keep snorting cocaine," Costa said, reminding consumer nations, mostly in Europe and North America, of their responsibilities.



STILL IN RUINS: The Presidential Palace in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, on May 12. Five months after a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, there have been no signs of reconstruction of the palace, making it emblematic of the country's stalled rebuilding process. THONY BELIZAIRE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Haiti remains in rubble, rebuilding process stalled

### U.S. Senate Committee issues Haiti progress report

By JASPER FAKKERT  
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Five months after a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, killing 230,000 people and displacing millions, little has been achieved in terms of reconstructing the country, concludes a U.S. Senate committee report.

Published June 22, the Haiti at Crossroads report examining the effectiveness of \$2 billion in U.S. aid to Haiti suggests that the rebuilding process in the country has stalled.

"Rubble is still strewn all over the streets, the majority of buildings are damaged if not collapsed, and informal tent settlements—in penurious conditions—have sprouted everywhere," says the report.

Emblematic of the stalled rebuilding process is the Presidential Palace, which to date remains in complete ruins without any signs of reconstruction.

"As the sense of immediate crisis has subsided, so has the sense of ur-

gency to undertake bold action—the 'reimagination' of Haiti hoped for months ago," the report says.

Plans for moving millions of people out of the makeshift tent camps that mushroomed in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, remain in an early draft form. With the hurricane season approaching, "even a modest hurricane could kill many thousands," the report warns.

The rainy season has already given rise to the spread of communicable diseases in the camps that lack proper medical care or security.

Even in the absence of the disastrous earthquake, the development of Haiti was an uphill battle.

Before the earthquake, less than 30 percent of Haitians had access to electricity, and half of those tapped into the power grid illegally. Eighty percent of Haitians lived on less than \$2 a day.

Haiti's leaders remain in "shock and mourning," as large numbers of senior leaders and civil servants died in the earthquake, according to the report.

"Almost all the ministry buildings were damaged or destroyed due to their proximity to the epicenter of the quake, immediately killing a huge number of civil servants and shattering the backbone of Haiti's government," it says.

At present, most ministries are

operating out of makeshift offices, including tents, without working computers. Most civil servants have not received any salaries since the earthquake.

"The effort to rebuild Haiti must be led by Haiti's government, starting with President Préval. To date, the government has not done an effective job of communicating to Haitians that it is in charge and ready to lead the rebuilding effort," the report states.

Concerns exist over Haiti's fragile democracy being further imperilled as parliamentary elections in November, originally scheduled for last February, face large challenges in registering voters since many government records were lost in the quake.

The report also ascribed some blame for the chaotic situation to the donor community, saying that disagreement and fragmentation have led to conflicting messages on important matters being submitted to Haiti's leadership.

"Current donor efforts are marked by excessive fragmentation and a proliferation of approaches and strategies that are undercutting recovery and rebuilding," it says.

The donor community, say the authors, needs a unified and consistent voice to represent its interests and to align its priorities within an overall rebuilding framework.

## Kyrgyz security forces abused civilians, says report

By ANDREY VOLKOV  
Epoch Times Staff

Kyrgyz troops abused civilians during security operations in southern Kyrgyzstan, concluded Human Rights Watch in a report published Monday.

The incident took place in the village of Nariman, described by HRW as one of the flashpoints in the ethnic violence that erupted on June 21 near the southern city of Osh. Two people were killed and 20 wounded in Nariman.

In the violence overall, at least 190 people died and an estimated 2,000 were injured, according to figures published by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health. However, the state admits that their unofficial figures are 10 times higher.

The abuses in Nariman occurred after military forces removed barricades erected by Uzbek residents to protect the village, says the report.

Kyrgyz police and military forces entered the village about 6 a.m. local time to conduct a search-and-seizure operation. They went from house to house demanding documents and looking for those responsible for the killing of the village police chief.

Nariman residents told HRW that after several people had presented their documents, the security forces began to beat them with rifle butts. A 58-year-old man died five hours after the forces had beaten him, according to one of the witnesses.

The military officers also smashed cars, furniture, windows, and took money.

HRW condemned the military saying they should not have escalated the situation.

"These incidents underscore why so many Uzbeks say they don't trust the security forces. The police and army should be protecting people,

not abusing them during security operations," said a statement by HRW emergency researcher Ole Solvang, who is in Osh.

The ethnic violence in the southern region of Kyrgyzstan has produced an estimated 400,000 refugees, both Kyrgyz and Uzbek.

Kyrgyzstan's interim government accused deposed officials of the previous government of instigating the disorder in an attempt to cancel the scheduled referendum for June 27. The referendum seeks parliamentary reform and will limit the power of the presidency.

In April, there was a violent coup, which left more than 80 opposition protesters dead and ousted President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who later fled to Belarus. Bakiyev has denied any role in inciting the violence.

Despite the conflict situation, the Kyrgyz officials say they will conduct the referendum this weekend.

## Russia cuts back gas supplies to Belarus

Belarus cannot pay with 'butter, cheese or pancakes,' says Russian president.



Alexander Medvedev, second in charge at Russian gas supplier Gazprom. SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

By ANDREY VOLKOV  
Epoch Times Staff

In a move reminiscent of previous Russian gas cuts that left parts of Europe starved for gas, Moscow started to turn off the natural gas tap to Belarus on Monday following a debt dispute.

In a televised talk between Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and chief executive of Russia's state-controlled gas-giant Gazprom, Medvedev ordered the company to start cutting off gas supplies.

Alexei Miller, Gazprom's chief executive, said the company would cut gas supplies to Belarus by 85 percent in the coming period, starting with 15 percent immediately. The move came after days of talks between Gazprom and Beltransgaz, a natural gas transportation company part owned by Belarus, did not yield results.

According to Gazprom, Belarus's gas debt is an estimated C\$197.59 million.

Miller told Medvedev that Beltransgaz had suggested paying the debt by bartering machinery and equipment, but the Russian leader called such a proposal unacceptable.

"The debt must be paid in accordance with the contract, and the

contract stipulates complete payment in foreign currency," Medvedev said. "By law, Gazprom cannot take pies, butter, cheese, pancakes or any other form of payment. Our Belarusian partners must understand this."

The issue creates a political reason for Moscow to make Belarus join a Kremlin-headed customs union, according to Vladimir Omelchenko, a gas expert with the Ukrainian think-tank Razumkov Centre.

Last May, Russia and Belarus failed to sign an agreement on the customs union due to a disagreement by Belarus over duties on oil and petroleum.

Russia supplies 20 percent of its natural gas to Europe using Belarus's transportation system. The rest is transported through Ukraine.

Both sides say that gas supplies to Europe will not be affected. A similar incident last January between Ukraine and Russia left parts of Europe without Russian gas for two weeks during the winter.

Ukraine has now stated that in case of an interruption of gas supplies through Belarus, it could supply the extra gas to Europe.



Crew members of the Dutch frigate HMS Evertsen look on during a military exercise on Sept. 21, 2009. HMS Evertsen is involved in Operation Atalanta, a campaign by the European Union to stop piracy off the Somali Coast. ROBIN UTRECHT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Dutch submarine to eavesdrop on Somali pirates

By MARCO 'T HOEN  
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The Netherlands will commit a submarine to the battle against piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean near Somalia, Dutch Defense Minister Eimert Van Middelkoop told reporters on Monday.

Answering a request from NATO, the submarine will use sophisticated eavesdropping equipment to gather information about pirate activities to supplement intelligence gathered by helicopters and planes patrolling the area.

"There is a need for sophisticated intelligence capacity. It will make the difference in the fighting of piracy," Van Middelkoop told Dutch media aboard of Hr.MS. Johan de

Witt just off the coast of Somalia.

The submarine mission will operate from the end of September through to the end of November. NATO will continue its anti-piracy mission until at least the end of 2012, and the European Union's mission runs out in December.

Somali pirates have been attacking ships in an ever-growing region stretching from the coast of Somalia now out to deep in the Indian Ocean. They are presently holding 16 hijacked vessels for ransom.

Although many pirates have been arrested over the past few years, last week marked the first time a European court has made a conviction. On June 17, a Dutch court sentenced five Somali pirates to five years each in prison.

## Cairo may reduce offshore drills after leak in 'Egyptian Riviera'

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Several hotels complained to the ministries of petroleum and environment, that oil was washing up on their beaches, causing damage and chasing away tourists, according to the Oil Egypt E-Marketplace website.

Government spokesman Magdy Rady on Monday described the spill as "limited," said Daily News

Egypt.

The leak has now been fixed, according to a June 23 statement by environmental watchdog group Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA). However, the government also thought it had solved the problem on June 18. Then on June 21 it was leaking again, according to HEPCA.

"Just today [June 21] I received news that the oil had started leaking again this afternoon after it had stopped Thursday," Ahmed el-Droubi, a HEPCA biologist told the Associated Press.

HEPCA claims that environmentally sensitive areas have been damaged by the slick.

"The Northern Islands protected

area is the most heavily impacted region. These islands are one of the few pristine areas in the northern Egyptian Red Sea, and are of high ecological value as they host a number of key habitats, including mangroves, sea grass beds, protected bird nesting grounds, turtle nesting grounds, and an extensive reef system," said HEPCA in a statement.

HEPCA said the problem plat-

form is situated approximately 50 nautical miles (92.6 km) north of Hurghada. However, Egyptian authorities have not yet revealed the exact identity of the rig.

"This incident clearly reveals that the oil concessions of the Ministry must be reconsidered, especially any concessions near key habitats, protected areas, and tourism hot spots," HEPCA said.