

# Hurricane Isaac Continues to Lose Power

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Hurricane Isaac remained deep in the Atlantic Ocean and posed no immediate threat to land as its winds decreased to 105 mph Monday, forecasters said.

The system began losing power Sunday and that drop continued into Monday, said forecasters at the National

Hurricane Center in Miami.

At 5 p.m. EDT, Isaac was about 1,300 miles east of the Leeward Islands, at the eastern edge of the Caribbean, and moved to the west-northwest at near 10 mph.

"It's very far from land, and in three days it's still going to be very far away from the islands," said hurricane specialist James Franklin. "If it continues on

its present track, it would pass well north of the islands."

Isaac became a tropical storm Thursday and quickly built into a strong hurricane with winds of 120 mph by Saturday. But other weather systems began affecting it, and its maximum sustained winds dropped to 105 mph Monday.

Satellite photographs showed that its once well-defined eye had dropped from sight then reappeared less defined, said hurricane specialist Richard Pasch.

Meanwhile, forecasters were tracking a system in the far eastern Atlantic, about 500 miles west-southwest of the Cape Verde Islands off northwestern Africa.

That weather system, which developed from a tropical wave, became better organized Monday and formed into a tropical depression with 35 mph winds.

# Activists to Rally in Raleigh

**Protesters say they are targeting policies that do not provide enough aid to Latin American nations.**

By EMORY DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Activists are meeting today in Raleigh to rally for protection of human rights and against government policies that harm Latin America's poorest nations.

The rally is part of the International Day of Action for Global Justice and coincides with the joint meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary and Financial Committee in Prague, Czech Republic.

Activists are holding the rally to call for the suspension of policies that they claim intensify hardship on people living in Third World countries.

"We are protesting policies that hurt the poor," said Gail Phares, a representative of Witness for Peace, one of several groups sponsoring the Raleigh rally. The protesters hope to encourage the federal government to support complete debt relief for the 40 poorest nations in the world, said Eric Stanford, a volunteer with Witness for Peace.

He said members of organizations like Witness for Peace are concerned that U.S. policies are not providing enough financial aid to Latin American countries such as Guatemala and Nicaragua, which number among the poorest nations.

Stanford said the World Bank and the IMF have imposed policies that have caused environmental damage, eliminated schools, abused workers and reduced the availability of health care.

According to a press release from Witness for Peace, Latin American bureaucrats have further damaged their economies by instituting "structural adjustment programs" that eliminate services targeted to the public such as education and transport.

Stanford said these reasons contributed to the need for debt relief in Third World countries.

The U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee has recommended for approval only half of the \$1 billion needed for full relief.

"We're not talking about luxuries, we're talking about basics," Stanford said.

"These countries need unconditional relief so that all their money doesn't have to go towards loan repayments to wealthy countries."

Phares said these Third World countries have the opportunity to achieve stability, provided their debts are canceled and the damaging policies suspended.

"Economically it doesn't make sense to keep these countries subordinate to wealthier nations," said Dennis Markatos, a member of UNC Students United for Responsible Global Environment.

Markatos said the U.S. and European governments have acted to alleviate some of the debt.

"They've made progress, but they haven't gone far enough," he said. Raleigh is just one of about 100 U.S. cities, including Seattle and Washington, D.C., where rallies will be held.

The rally for global economic justice will be held at Fayetteville Street Mall in Raleigh from noon to 1 p.m. today.

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

## Sarah Dessen

will read from her new novel  
**Dreamland**

Wednesday  
Sept. 27th  
2:00pm

Sarah Dessen teaches creative writing at UNC. She is currently at work on her fifth novel.



*I unwrapped Cass's present slowly, folding the paper carefully as I slipped it off. It was a book, and as I turned it over I read the letters on the cover: Dream Journal. All around the words were comets and stars, moons and suns, scattered across a light purple background... The first page was an introduction about dreams, what they mean, and why we should remember them. This was Cass's thing—she had been into symbols and signs in the last year. She said you never knew what the world was trying to tell you, that you had to pay attention to every second.*

— from *Dreamland*



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