



# Caribbean Research Center

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## THINGS FOLKS CAN DO

Send letters [fax, email or hardcopy] to the editors of any article pertaining to the issue. In particular the NY Times, article dated Monday, August 9, 2004 titled "US Is Ending Haven for Families who Fled volcano on Montserrat in the 1990s" by Nina Bernstein. Also Washington Post did an article on Monday, August 16 titled "Volcano Absurdity". Carib News has been posting articles weekly, also Caribbean Life, Baltimore Times, and many others throughout the country.

Fax letters to your local Representatives in Congress in Washington [House of Representatives] and locally [fax, email or mail hardcopy]. Call [fax] the two main Senators from NY Schumer and Clinton or wherever you live, that is the House of Senate, Washington, [Council/City, Assembly, Senate members for your areas - they are not necessarily Federal lawmakers like those in Washington, but can lend valuable support]. Go to website [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and you will get the telephone and fax #s etc. {NB: I have the complete fax list, so I can email it to you} Go the Major Owens website he has an article posted there. There are 44 [could be more than that posted] cosponsors to the Bill HR 603 call on them also to ensure the passage of the Bill as soon as possible. I have Press packages ready for news personnel, just let me know where to send them. {NB: faxing may be easier, than trying to call, so let us do that} **WE HAVE TO START THE FAX LOBBYING NEXT WEEK. DO NOT RULE OUT ANYONE.**

Our best chances of bringing closure to this situation is to have Congress pass immediately Bill HR 603 which has been languishing in the House since 2001 and re-introduced in February 2003. This will give each and everyone their permanent status. So when you write the Lawmakers, you say:

"I am writing to seek your support for Bill HR 603 introduced in the House on February 3, 2003 by Congressman Major Owens and which has been languishing in Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims since that time. The passage of the Bill will ensure that the 292 Montserratians earmarked for deportation on February 27, 2005 will not occur if this Bill is enacted. So it is of the utmost urgency and importance that these folks and of course, their children who are United States citizens be not subjected to this terrible state of affairs. We are counting on your humanitarian record to ensure that these victims of a volcano do not have to suffer a third devastation in their lives." ... Respectfully. Your name, address, telephone number [optional but important enough] must be included. Be brief and to the point. {See Things Folks Can Do}.

Telephone numbers: Attorney General Ashcroft (202) 616 9885; fax (202) 514 0293  
President Bush: Tel (202) 456 1414 fax; (202) 456 2461  
Chairman, Immigration & Border Security, Hon John N Hostettler, IN (202) 225 5727;  
fax (202) 225 3284; Hon Sensenbrenner, WI, Fax (202) 225 3190.

You may send/fax them a copy of the Fact Sheet. I hope that you are all computer savvy. The Fact Sheet can also be found on our website: [www.caribbeanrescenter.org](http://www.caribbeanrescenter.org). For further information contact Vera Weekes (917) 549 6635; (718) 270 6082 or vera@mec.cuny.edu.