

Storm Olga drenches southern Caribbean

by UPI

MIAMI -- Subtropical Storm Olga unleashed torrential downpours on the Dominican Republic on Wednesday and prompted evacuations in Haiti. Jamaica and the Cayman Islands were also on alert after the rare December storm dumped more than 6 inches of rain on Puerto Rico and caused mudslides that washed away 30 houses in the Dominican Republic, Dominican Today reported. A tropical storm watch was issued for the southeastern Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands but forecasters at Miami's National Hurricane Center said it was unlikely that Olga would move north toward them, Caribbean360.com said. At 5 a.m. Wednesday, the storm's center was about 65 miles south-southeast of the eastern tip of Cuba and about 110 miles west-northwest of Port au Prince Haiti. It was moving west at 19 mph with sustained 45 mph winds that extended 260 miles. Forecasters said Olga would likely weaken Wednesday to tropical depression status, although heavy rain would still be associated with the system.

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