

Forum:	Security Council
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Introduction

Haiti, known for its vibrant culture and extensive history, has recently seen unprecedented crises regularly making headlines worldwide. President Jovenel Moïse's assassination on July 7, 2021, caused chaos throughout the nation and exacerbated pre-existing problems with social stability, security, and administration. Following this terrible incident, there has been a power vacuum, which has resulted in a sharp rise in gang-related violence, extensive civil unrest, and a worsening humanitarian crisis.

But beyond the headlines, much more is at stake, and the most vulnerable residents of Haiti—5.5 million of them—are bearing the brunt of this protracted catastrophe. They will all have to rely on humanitarian assistance by 2024, yet humanitarian financing has not kept up with the rising needs, creating even more dire circumstances. Extreme political instability, marked by an absence of capable leadership and rising public unhappiness, is plaguing Haiti. The emergence of armed groups has given gangs considerable geographical control in strategic locations such as the capital Port-au-Prince, including neighborhoods like Cité Soleil and Martissant, the international airport in Port-au-Prince, and Key roads and highways leading into and out of the capital. These gangs and armed groups include but are not limited to G9 Family and Allies, G-Pèp, 400 Mawozo, Fantom 509, Grand Ravine Gang, Ti Makak, Baz Gran Grif, Cité Soleil Gang, and the Chimeres, which has led to widespread bloodshed, kidnappings, and an expanding crisis of displacement.

Definition of Key Terms

Port-au-Prince

The capital of Haiti.

Gangs

Armed criminal groups control significant areas in Haiti, particularly the capital, Port-au-Prince.

Assassination of President Jovenel Moïse

July 2021 murder of Haiti's president, sparking further turmoil.

Pétionville Accord

A recent political framework aimed at resolving the power vacuum, involving political transition, electoral reforms, the inclusion of multiple political parties, and emphasis on human rights.

Ariel Henry

The unelected prime minister of Haiti from 2022 to 2024 after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

Jimmy Chérizier

Key leader of the Revolutionary Forces of the G9 Family and Allies, a major warlord, organized attacks on March 2024.

NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations)

Organizations that play a significant role in providing aid and services in Haiti, especially after natural disasters.

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

A United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti (2004-2017) aimed at restoring order and supporting the government.

Migration Crisis

A crisis in which major sectors of the population are fleeing the nation and taking refuge internationally to avoid surging gang violence.

History & Developments

Costly independence

French Colonization (Until 1803)

The end of colonization in Haiti was marked by the Haitian Revolution, which lasted from 1791 to 1804. This uprising was fueled by enslaved people who sought to overthrow their French colonizers and abolish slavery. The revolution was a protracted and violent struggle, involving key figures like Toussaint L'Ouverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, both born into slavery in Haiti yet later became prominent leaders of the revolution. After a series of battles, Haiti declared independence on January 1, 1804, becoming the first free Black republic and the second independent nation in the Americas. However, this victory came at a significant cost, as the new nation faced international isolation and economic challenges.

In the aftermath of independence, Haiti was subjected to harsh conditions imposed by France. In 1825, under the threat of military intervention, Haitian leaders agreed to pay a substantial indemnity to the French government, compensating former slave owners for their lost property. This payment, amounting to 150 million francs (later reduced to 90 million), crippled the Haitian economy for decades, diverting resources away from development and infrastructure. The financial burdens, combined with political instability and foreign intervention, created a cycle of poverty and hardship that persisted long after colonization ended, leaving lasting impacts on the nation's socioeconomic fabric.

American Occupation (1915-1934)

The U.S. invasion of Haiti in the early 20th century began in 1915, driven by a combination of political instability in Haiti and American interests in the Caribbean. Following the assassination of Haitian President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam in July 1915, the country descended into chaos, prompting fears of a power vacuum that could lead to German influence in the region during World War I. In response, President Woodrow Wilson dispatched U.S. Marines to Haiti to restore order and protect American investments. The initial landing of troops was characterized by a swift takeover of the capital, Port-au-Prince, effectively establishing a military occupation.

The occupation lasted until 1934 and was marked by significant resistance from the Haitian population. The U.S. military implemented extensive reforms, including building infrastructure and modernizing the financial system, but these efforts were often met with resentment. The Haitian people faced harsh repression, exemplified by the brutal tactics employed against uprisings, such as the Caco rebellion. Ultimately, growing anti-occupation sentiment both in Haiti and the U.S. led to the withdrawal of American troops in 1934. While the occupation aimed to stabilize Haiti, it left a legacy of distrust towards foreign intervention and complicated the nation's political landscape for years to come.

Internal disasters

Elected, exiled. Re-elected, re-exiled. (20th Century to Present Day)

During the late 20th century, Haiti experienced a tumultuous political landscape characterized by frequent elections and the rapid disposal of presidents. The period began with the rise of Jean-Claude Duvalier, known as "Baby Doc," who ruled from 1971 until his ousting in 1986. His dictatorship was marked by repression and corruption, leading to widespread unrest. Following his departure, Haiti saw a brief period of democratic hope with the election of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1990, who represented a shift towards democracy. However, his presidency was abruptly interrupted by a military coup in 1991, showcasing the fragility of democratic institutions in the country.

The subsequent years were marked by a cycle of elections and coups, as various leaders attempted to navigate the challenges of governance amid socioeconomic instability and external pressures. Aristide returned to power in 1994 with U.S. support, but his term was marred by political violence and economic struggles. The political scene remained volatile, with leaders such as René Prével and others facing

challenges to their authority, often leading to early exits. This era underscored the vulnerability of Haitian democracy, as external influences and internal divisions consistently undermined the establishment of stable governance.

Natural Disasters (Modern Day)

Port-au-Prince is struck by an earthquake (see **Figure 1**) with a magnitude of 7.0 on the afternoon of January 1, 2010. The magnitude in an urban environment is unparalleled. Despite promises from foreign donors totaling \$5.3 billion to aid Haiti's reconstruction, many fall short of their obligations. Public dissatisfaction with leadership is fueled by ongoing problems with funds not being used for their intended



Figure #1: 2010 Haiti Earthquake

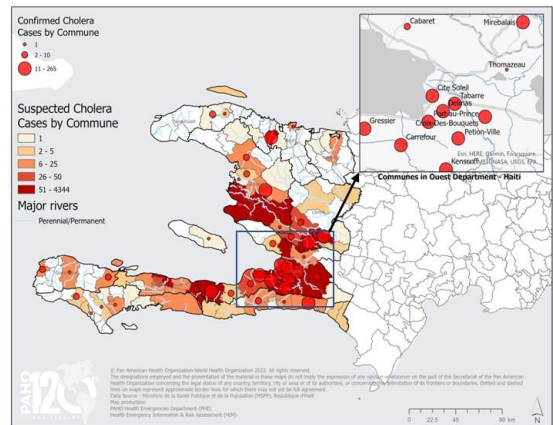


Figure #2: Haiti Cholera Outbreak

purposes, particularly since little progress has been made six months after the earthquake.

Furthermore, a cholera outbreak (see **Figure 2**), on an unprecedented scale and often considered the worst in recent times, severely devastates the nation. There have been approximately 820,000 cases for years, with 10,000 or so deaths. Michel Martelly emerges victorious from a bloody election cycle to become president. At the end of his term, he names Jovenel Moïse (see **Figure 3**) as his party's nominee.

Despite doubts about the validity of the two elections held in 2015 and 2016, Moïse emerged victorious and assumed the presidency in 2017.

Unelected Leader

The issue reaches its peak as President Jovenel Moïse (see **Figure 3**) is assassinated at his private residence, creating an unparalleled power vacuum in the nation. Amidst the chaos and without a proper election, Ariel Henry (see **Figure 4**) was put forward as the prime minister, yet this decision enraged parties of interest throughout the nation. Following a series of ensuing conflicts, including but not limited to the occupation of Port-au-Prince (the nation's capital) by gangs and armed groups and the seizing of the government's various locations of interest.



Figure #3: Jovenel Moïse

Figure #4: Ariel Henry

Shortly afterwards, Ariel Henry resigned after this gang insurrection causing extensive chaos for months, leaving the nation under the authority of an interim government.

Major Parties Involved

G9 Family and Allies

A powerful coalition of gangs led by Jimmy Chérizier, commonly known as "Barbecue," the G9 Family and Allies emerged as a dominant force in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. This coalition controls significant neighborhoods and has been involved in various violent crimes, including kidnappings, extortion, and turf wars. The G9's rise is rooted in the socio-economic instability and lack of governmental authority, allowing them to fill the power vacuum. Chérizier has positioned himself as both a criminal leader and a self-proclaimed champion of the impoverished, leveraging public discontent to gain support among certain communities.

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was deployed from 2004 to 2017 in response to the political turmoil following the ousting of President Aristide. Its primary objectives included restoring order, supporting the Haitian National Police, and fostering a secure environment for humanitarian assistance. Despite some successes, MINUSTAH faced criticism for incidents of misconduct, notably the introduction of cholera to Haiti, which resulted in a devastating outbreak. The mission's withdrawal in 2017 left behind ongoing challenges related to governance, security, and public trust in international forces.

United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)

Established in 2019, the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) was created to support the Haitian government in promoting stability and governance. Building on the lessons learned from MINUSTAH, BINUH focuses on facilitating political dialogue, strengthening institutions, and addressing human rights issues. The office collaborates with various stakeholders, including civil society, to enhance the rule of law and foster sustainable development. However, its effectiveness has been challenged by the persistent violence and political fragmentation in the country.

UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) plays a crucial role in providing humanitarian assistance in Haiti, focusing on the health, education, and protection of children. In a nation where a significant portion of the population is under 18, UNICEF implements programs aimed at improving access to clean water, nutrition, and educational resources. Their initiatives also include efforts to combat child trafficking and protect vulnerable youth in conflict zones, making them vital actors in addressing the long-term impacts of the ongoing crises on Haiti's youngest citizens.

World Food Programme (WFP)

The World Food Programme (WFP) addresses the acute food insecurity and malnutrition that plague Haiti, especially following natural disasters and socio-political instability. WFP implements food assistance programs, including emergency food distributions and school meal initiatives, to support vulnerable populations. Their efforts aim to enhance food security and resilience among communities, particularly in rural areas where agricultural production has been severely impacted. The organization also advocates for sustainable agricultural practices to improve long-term food security.

United States of America (USA)

The United States plays a significant role in Haiti, providing humanitarian aid, economic assistance, and a history of political intervention. The U.S. has influenced various aspects of Haitian governance and security through both diplomatic efforts and military interventions, notably during periods of crisis. Despite intentions to support democratic processes, U.S. involvement has often drawn criticism for prioritizing stability over genuine democratic development, leading to complex relationships with both Haitian leaders and the populace.

Canada

Canada has been actively involved in Haiti through diplomatic efforts and humanitarian assistance. The country has provided financial support for development projects, health care initiatives, and disaster relief. Canada also plays a role in international discussions about Haiti's future, advocating for political stability and supporting governance reforms. Its involvement reflects a commitment to fostering sustainable development, although some critics argue that Canada's approach has sometimes lacked the necessary engagement with local communities.

France

As Haiti's former colonizer, France has a complicated historical relationship with the nation. In recent years, France has engaged in various developmental initiatives, including providing technical assistance to reinforce democratic institutions, implementing health programs to combat diseases, and supporting post-earthquake reconstruction efforts. However, France's legacy of colonialism and historical reparations continues to be scrutinized, leading to calls for a more equitable partnership that respects Haiti's sovereignty and addresses past injustices.

Dominican Republic

Sharing the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, the Dominican Republic is significantly impacted by the ongoing crises in its neighbor. The Dominican government addresses migration issues, border security, and the influx of Haitian refugees, often leading to tense relations between the two nations. Efforts to manage these challenges involve both humanitarian responses to support displaced Haitians and measures to control migration flows, reflecting the complex interdependence of the two countries.

Brazil

Brazil contributed troops to MINUSTAH and has maintained an interest in Haiti's stability through peacekeeping efforts. As one of the largest contributors to the mission, Brazil aimed to promote security and support reconstruction efforts. Following the withdrawal of MINUSTAH, Brazil's engagement continues through diplomatic channels and development initiatives, focusing on fostering regional cooperation and stability in Haiti, although the extent of its influence has diminished in recent years.

Kenya

In recent discussions, Kenya has expressed a willingness to lead a multinational police force to help stabilize Haiti amid ongoing violence and unrest. This proposal reflects a growing interest from African nations in contributing to peacekeeping efforts in Haiti, aiming to address the security crisis through a collaborative international approach. Kenya's involvement could bring new dynamics to the situation, as it seeks to engage with other nations in addressing the urgent needs of the Haitian people and restoring order.

Timeline of Events

Date	Event Name	Description
July 7, 2021	Assassination of Jovenel Moïse	President Moïse is assassinated at his private residence in Port-au-Prince. The assassination leads to a power vacuum and increased instability in the country.
July, 2021	Political Chaos	Following the assassination, there is widespread violence and unrest. Ariel Henry is appointed as the unelected Prime Minister amid the chaos.
January, 2022	Gang Violence Escalation	Gangs gain more power, controlling large portions of Port-au-Prince. Violence and kidnappings increase, leading to humanitarian crises.
February, 2022	Political Discontent	Protests erupt against Ariel Henry's government, with accusations of corruption and failure to address security concerns, further escalating the violence.
October, 2022	Cholera Outbreak	A cholera outbreak emerges, exacerbating the humanitarian situation, which is already dire due to gang violence and political instability.
January, 2023	Failed Elections	After Haiti's government fails to hold elections, citing unprecedented levels of gang violence, Haiti is stripped of its last democratically elected officials. Critics say it exacerbated democratic decay and turned the country into a de-facto "dictatorship."
July, 2023	Haitian Government Request for Assistance	The Haitian government formally requests international military assistance to help combat gang violence and restore order.

August, 2023	Deployment of Foreign Troops Announced	The United States and several Caribbean nations announce plans to deploy troops to assist with security efforts in Haiti.
September, 2023	Ongoing Violence and Protests	Protests against the government and foreign intervention continue, with clashes reported between demonstrators and security forces.
September, 2023	Humanitarian Crisis	The humanitarian situation worsens, with millions in need of aid due to violence, displacement, and health crises.
February, 2024	Attacks	Haitian gangs carry out a series of coordinated attacks across Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, killing at least four police officers. Powerful gang leader Jimmy Chérizier, better known as Barbecue, claims responsibility for the attacks. Chérizier says he aimed to capture police and government officials and block the return of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was in Kenya to push for the United Nations-backed international police force to fight gangs in Haiti.
March, 2024	Kenya intervention	Ariel Henry signs an agreement with Kenya, which will deploy one thousand police officers to the Caribbean nation, in order to assist in restoring peace.
March, 2024	Gang Attacks	Gangs launch large-scale attacks on both the international airport situated within the capital as well as local prisons. They attempt to seize the international airport to prevent Ariel Henry from returning to Haiti but fail, yet their attack on the prisons releases thousands of convicts across the nation.

March, 2024	Promise of Resignation	Ariel Henry agrees to resign when a transitional government is formed and ready.
April, 2024	Official Resignation	Ariel Henry resigns, transferring authority to a transitional council that will seek to regain control of the country from the ensuing gang violence.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Early military interventions were performed by the United States of America and other nations of the Americas, leading to the dissolution of the Haitian military, yet this decision laid the foundation for the internal conflict that soon followed. A lack of national armed forces led to a significant surge in gang violence without opposition, with the conflict reaching its peak after the assassination of President Moïse. To settle the initial unrest as a result of the assassination, Ariel Henry assumed the position of Prime Minister without a proper election. However, this decision enraged selective parties of interest within Haiti, and Henry's lackluster performance further worsened the situation. Henry then proceeded to seek foreign military aid in combatting the insurgencies and armed groups spread across the country, with examples such as Kenya sending a force of one thousand police to assist in maintaining order. Soon after, Henry resigned after an interim government had been successfully established, yet the new authorities still failed to thoroughly resolve the ensuing conflict. The United Nations and its associated organs have been providing humanitarian aid to the vulnerable civilian population of Haiti throughout the length of the entire conflict.

In the wake of escalating turmoil, another previous attempt to stabilize Haiti came in the form of the Interim Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti (ICRH), established in 2010 after the devastating earthquake. This initiative aimed to coordinate international aid and rebuild the nation's infrastructure, but it quickly became mired in controversy due to perceived inefficiencies and lack of local involvement. As foreign funds poured in, many Haitians felt sidelined, leading to widespread skepticism about the commission's intentions and effectiveness. Although the ICRH successfully facilitated some development projects, its failure to engage with grassroots organizations left a vacuum of trust, contributing to the persistent socio-political instability. Ultimately, the commission's limitations underscored the necessity for a more inclusive approach to governance and reconstruction, as Haiti continued to grapple with the consequences of both natural disasters and human-made crises.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established on 1 June 2004 by Security Council resolution 1542 (document S/RES/1542).

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is currently transporting aid workers, critical equipment, and lifesaving aid into and across Haiti.
- In resolution 2700 (document S/RES/2700), the Security Council renewed the sanctions (arms embargo) on Haiti imposed by past resolutions.
- In resolution 2743 (document S/RES/2743), the Security Council reiterated the need for all Haitian stakeholders to continue to advance a Haitian-led and -owned political process toward the holding of free and fair legislative and presidential elections

Possible Solutions

Political Stabilization

The formation of an interim government with members drawn from civil society, marginalized groups, and all major political parties is one particular strategy for achieving political stability. International mediators could support this government to guarantee its legitimacy and inclusion. This interim government should have a clear mission that includes resolving grievances from different community groups, setting up a national dialogue framework, and holding free and fair elections within a specified timeline. This would foster a political climate that is favorable to long-term stability in addition to aiding in the restoration of public confidence.

Economic Revitalization

A focused investment in important industries like renewable energy and agriculture can have a revolutionary effect on the economy. To improve food security and boost local economies, for example, a program that offers microloans to small farmers can be established. When combined with instruction in sustainable farming methods, this program has the potential to raise rural communities' production and revenue levels. In addition, encouraging renewable energy initiatives like solar power plants might lessen dependency on foreign fuels, provide employment, and supply electricity to underprivileged areas, all of which would enhance the general quality of life.

Strengthening Security Forces

It is essential to completely reform the Haitian National Police to address the widespread gang violence. This can entail getting help from abroad to train and outfit police units so they can better oversee public safety. Initiatives for community policing should also be implemented to foster trust between the local community and law enforcement. Residents can actively participate in crime prevention by enlisting the help of community leaders in safety initiatives. This could result in a drop in violent crime and a safer environment for all.

Infrastructure Investment

Another possible solution to alleviate the crises is to invest in crucial infrastructure, like roads, water supply systems, and sanitary facilities. The reconstruction and improvement of these facilities, which have been

harmful by years of neglect and natural calamities, can be the focus of international financing and expertise. By bringing rural communities into contact with markets, improved infrastructure would not only boost economic activity but also improve public safety and health, resulting in a more stable environment for all Haitians.

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