

Committee: Security Council

Topic: Addressing the Current Situation in Haiti in regard to Gang Violence

Student Officer: Mariza Michalaki

Position: President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Mariza Michalaki and I am an 11th grade student at HAEF Athens College. This year I have the utmost honor of serving as the President in the Security Council of DSTMUN, marking my 13th MUN conference and my seventh time serving as a student officer. I am delighted to share this experience with you!

First of all I would like to welcome you to the 7th session of DSTMUN and congratulate you for your decision to participate in the conference. Through participating in MUNs I have broadened my horizons, I have become more globally aware and have made long lasting friendships. I really hope that this conference will be an eye opening opportunity for you and that you will be able to enjoy it at its fullest.

This study guide will provide you with insightful information regarding the third topic of the agenda, mainly “Addressing the Current Situation in Haiti in regard to Gang Violence”. Haiti is currently facing severe problems driven by gang violence and is in a critical humanitarian situation. This years’ conference theme is Promoting Peace: Working towards the De-escalation of International Conflicts and it is highly connected to the issue at hand due to the utmost urgency towards resolving the conflict and ensuring a peaceful environment for the citizens in Haiti. In this study guide the issue at hand will be explained, analyzed, and addressed through various aspects. Its purpose is to familiarize you with the conflict, aid and guide you through the creation of your policy statements and resolutions. However I recommend that you also conduct your own research in order to fully comprehend your nation’s policy.

I am sincerely looking forward to meeting you all this November and should you have any questions regarding this study guide or your nation’s policy do not hesitate to contact me!

Best Regards,

Mariza Michalaki (mmichalaki@athenscollege.edu.gr)

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The global community is currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis. Conflicts which create unsteady political, social and economic environments for many citizens keep arising. A prime example of those is the Situation in Haiti. Haiti is currently experiencing a dire crisis characterized by widespread gang violence, an acute humanitarian situation and political instability. The nation has transmuted into a battleground, in which armed gangs violently occupy vast areas, distinctly in the capital, Port-Au-Prince. Those actions have led to rampant displacement, with an overwhelming number of 578.000 people having to flee their homes just in the year 2023.¹

The humanitarian impact of those attacks is critical. Just in the first quarter of 2024, gang related violence has ended the lives, or injured 2,500 innocent Haitians, including children. Much needed services of the public sector have been disrupted, and access to food, medical care and water has become increasingly scant. Children, in particular, have been profoundly scarred by the crisis facing the constant fear and threat of being recruited with force by gangs, malnutrition and interrupted education.²

Unfortunately though, the issues that Haiti faces are not limited just to the well being of the citizens. The attackers have acquired control of various significant public infrastructure, such as the Palace of Justice which has resulted in the complete paralyzation of the judicial system, leaving over 90 percent of the people held in Port-Au-Prince in pre-trial detention without hope for a timely legal resolution due to them not being taken to a judge or not hearing about their cases for over a year.³

In response to the atrocities, the international community, in effort to aid the situation in Haiti, has stationed several multinational security missions in attempt to stabilize the nation and aid the Haitian National Police. Unfortunately, despite these actions, the challenges remain horrific, with little hope of resolution and the need for a comprehensive approach that simultaneously addresses the social, economical and political issues that the citizens face while also ensuring security and stability in the region.

Addressing the situation in Haiti in regard to Gang Violence is of utmost importance in order to “Promote Peace and work towards the De-escalation of International Conflicts” while also restoring stability and security in the nation. The need to address the multifaceted

¹ “No Project in Haiti “Can Be Tackled without Addressing the Security Issue”, Interim Prime Minister Tells Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *Press.un.org*, press.un.org/en/2024/sc15758.doc.htm.

² Omer, Sevil. “Haiti Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help.” *World Vision*, 23 May 2023, www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/haiti-crisis-fags.

³ “Haiti: Wave of Violence Deepens Crisis.” *Human Rights Watch*, 22 July 2022, www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/22/haiti-wave-violence-deepens-crisis.

crisis in Haiti is urgent as it constitutes one step forward towards achieving the ultimate goal of the United Nations: Maintaining International Peace and Security.⁴

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Coup d'Etat

“the sudden, violent overthrow of an existing government by a small group. The chief prerequisite for a coup is control of all or part of the armed forces, the police, and other military elements.”⁵

Extrajudicial Killings

“when someone in an official position deliberately kills a person without any legal process.”⁶

Gang Violence

“Criminal and non political acts of violence committed by a group of people who regularly engage in criminal activity against innocent people.”⁷

Militia

“a military force that is raised from the civil population to supplement a regular army in an emergency”⁸

Pre-Trial Detention

“Detaining of an accused person in a criminal case before the trial has taken place, either because of a failure to post bail or due to denial of release under a pre-trial detention statute.”⁹

Power Vacuum

“a situation where there is a lack of leadership in a government or organization, often because an existing leader has left or been lost”¹⁰

⁴ UNITED NATIONS. “Our Work.” *United Nations*, 2021, www.un.org/en/our-work.

⁵ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Coup d’État | Political Intervention.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 15 Dec. 2014, www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat>.

⁶ OMCT. “Extrajudicial Killings.” *OMCT*, www.omct.org/en/what-we-do/extrajudicial-killings.

⁷ “Gang Violence Law and Legal Definition | USLegal, Inc.” *Definitions.uslegal.com*, definitions.uslegal.com/g/gang-violence/.

⁸ Oxford Languages. “Oxford Dictionaries.” *Oxford Dictionaries*, Oxford University Press, 2024, languages.oup.com/.

⁹ US Legal, Inc. “Pre Trial Detention Law and Legal Definition | USLegal, Inc.” *Uslegal.com*, 2019, definitions.uslegal.com/p/pre-trial-detention/.

¹⁰ “Dictionary.com | Meanings & Definitions of English Words.” *Dictionary.com*, www.dictionary.com/browse/power-vacuum#google_vignette. Accessed 17 July 2024.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Origins of Gang Violence

Gang Violence in Haiti originated after the fall of the Duvalier Dictatorship in 1986. That event led to a significant change in Haiti's political landscape, resulting in a "power vacuum" that various stakeholders desired to fill. Throughout the aforementioned years economic, social and political instability were very much apparent, creating a fertile ground for the development of armed groups. These groups arose as political militia which often used their powers in order to influence political elections and intimidate their opponents. The motivations behind their creation are closely intertwined with the desire for influence and power in the absence of a strong government. During that period there was an augmentation of disobedience towards the law and violence due to the unfearful operation towards the law by those armed groups.¹¹

The 1990s constituted a critical decade for the development and entrenchment of gang violence in Haiti. Due to the social dislocation, political instability and economic hardships that scarred the region throughout this period paved a path towards easier gang recruitment. The young and the unemployed were a prime target since joining a gang did not only guarantee financial stability, but also a sense of belonging and identity in a society in which development and growth were difficult. As the years went by, those groups evolved, but even though they maintained few of their political affiliations, many of them stopped operating on a collective level and started functioning independently with a focus on criminal activities, such as extortion, drug and human trafficking. The significant change from political militias to armed gangs constituted a vital change in the political landscape in Haiti.¹²

As armed groups became more organized, their activities expanded. Drug trafficking became a prime source of income and extortion and kidnapping were extremely common with targets such as wealthy individuals or businesses. Due to the corrupt and underfunded police and judicial systems, law enforcement was minimal and gangs were able to operate with impunity. Overall, the 1990s were an extremely transformative decade for gang violence in Haiti due to the combination of hardships that the region faced during that period.¹³

Impact of Gang Violence

¹¹ "Haiti's Years of Political Struggle Coincided with Other Calamities." *Los Angeles Times*, 7 July 2021, [www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-07-07/haiti-politics-history-moise-assassination#:~:text=Jean-Clau de%20Duvalier%20died%20three%20years%20later%2C%20and%20in](https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-07-07/haiti-politics-history-moise-assassination#:~:text=Jean-Clau%20Duvalier%20died%20three%20years%20later%2C%20and%20in). Accessed 18 July 2024.

¹² Omer, Sevil. "Haiti Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help." *World Vision*, 23 May 2023, www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/haiti-crisis-fags.

¹³ Walker, Summer. "Gangs of Haiti: Expansion, Power and an Escalating Crisis." *Global Initiative*, 17 Oct. 2022, globalinitiative.net/analysis/haiti-gangs-organized-crime/.

Armed Gang Violence in Haiti has profound and far reaching effects on the society of the region. Those include the degradation of the social and economic scene, the humanitarian situation and most importantly the public safety.

Public Safety and Human Rights

Armed groups have distinctly disrupted public safety in Haiti. The extensive presence of gangs has led to exponentially high rates of criminality, with kidnapping, murders, assaults and armed robberies being extremely apparent. Just in 2023, hundreds of innocent people were killed because of gang related violence, making it extremely hard for citizens to live their daily lives. The control that is being exercised by armed groups in Port-Au-Prince leads to the restricted movement of the citizens and neighborhoods under gang control often become no-go zones, severely limiting residents' ability to travel for work, education, or medical care. Furthermore, the state's authority towards law enforcement is significantly minimized due to inadequate funding and corruption in the Haitian National Police (HNP).

Gangs regularly participate in extrajudicial killings, utilizing inhumane methods to keep control and intimidate the population. Reports of torture and other forms of brutal treatment are common, giving rise to a climate of fear. Additionally, the vulnerable part of the population, women, are constantly subjected to sexual violence perpetrated by members of armed gangs, who compromise their dignity and integrity.¹⁴

Economy

Gang violence in Haiti has significantly hindered economic development, exacerbating poverty and limiting growth opportunities. Many businesses, constantly living under the threat of extortion and robbery were forced to close, leading to loss of livelihoods. Commercial activities were also restricted due to the frequent disruption of transport services, markets and shops, leading to the reduction of economic transactions. Consequently, the degradation of businesses, deterrence of investment, damage to infrastructure, decline in tourism, and challenges in the agricultural sector collectively stifle economic growth and exacerbate poverty.¹⁵

Case studies

Haiti has undergone various significant gang attacks in the past years, emphasizing the critical impact of gang violence on the security and stability of the region. Two of the most notable ones are the "La Saline Massacre" and the "Bel-Air Massacre".

¹⁴ Weissenstein, Michael. "Why Is Haiti so Chaotic? Leaders Used Street Gangs to Gain Power. Then the Gangs Got Stronger." *AP News*, 10 Mar. 2024, apnews.com/article/haiti-gangs-violence-142c57f868c5f8b0cdf01627b3f5350b.

¹⁵ Human Rights Watch. "World Report 2021: Rights Trends in Haiti." *Human Rights Watch*, 16 Dec. 2020, www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/haiti.

La Saline Massacre

The La Saline Massacre is one of the most horrific episodes of gang violence that has ever occurred in Haiti, underlining the critical political instability and the uncontrolled violence that to this day plagues the nation. It took place over several days in the La Seline neighborhood of the capital of Haiti in November 2018. According to the reports crafted by the United Nations, at least 71 people were killed, due to the systematic attacks towards citizens, which included brutal killings, rapes and burning down of homes. The perpetrators employed extreme violence, leaving bodies dismembered and mutilated, terrorizing the local population.

The humanitarian impact of the La Saline Massacre was broad and devastating. Hundreds of residents were forced to flee their homes due to violence and had to seek refuge in other cities. This incident left many unhealed wounds to the community with survivors experiencing severe losses and trauma. The degradation of homes and property further aggravated the dire living conditions in La Saline, a neighborhood already battling with extreme poverty and inadequate access to basic services. Fortunately, after the massacre a significant growth in the provision of essential services, such as shelter, food and medical care was observed, targeted to the vulnerable population. In reaction to the La Saline massacre, the United Nations urged the Haitian government to address the root causes of gang violence and to take profound actions to safeguard civilians.¹⁶

Bel-Air Massacre

The Bel-Air Massacre is considered one of the most gruesome episodes of gang violence that has ever occurred in Haiti. On November 4, 2019, heavily armed gang members launched a brutal attack on the Bel-Air neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, resulting in at least 24 deaths and countless injuries. Armed gang members ruthlessly set many homes on fire, shot an obscene amount of citizens and engaged in various extremely violent activities.¹⁷

Similarly with the La Saline Massacre, the massacre in Bel-Air enabled widespread displacement throughout the whole region, due to the mass fleeing of homes by citizens in order for them to escape the violence. The already existing critical humanitarian situation in the capital of Haiti was furtherly augmented, as those who fled were forced into overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, with limited access to basic necessities such as food, water, and medical care. The local population was deeply affected by the massacre, leading to increased fear and distrust within the community. In Bel-Air, as well as in other

¹⁶ "Men Dressed as Police Massacred Civilians in Haiti, Witnesses Say." *PBS News*, 14 Jan. 2019, www.pbs.org/newshour/world/men-dressed-as-police-massacred-civilians-in-haiti-witnesses-say. Accessed 20 July 2024.

¹⁷ Onz Chéry. "Battle for Bel Air Turns Fatal as Residents Resist Gang Takeover." *The Haitian Times*, 2 Apr. 2021, haitiantimes.com/2021/04/02/battle-for-bel-air-turns-fatal-as-residents-resist-gang-takeover/. Accessed 20 July 2024.

Haitian communities, residents faced a difficult situation, contending with the aggressive methods of gangs and the limited protection offered by the government.¹⁸

Current Situation in Haiti (As of July 2024)

Haiti is currently facing a dire crisis characterized by widespread violence, humanitarian challenges and instability. The public safety situation remains critical, with gang violence being apparent in many regions of Haiti. From January to May 2024, there were over 3,200 homicides, and the violence has resulted in the displacement of nearly 600,000 people.¹⁹ In spite of those horrific incidents there have been some efforts towards the restoration of democracy. The establishment of the Transitional Presidential Council in April and the appointment of an interim Prime Minister, Garry Conille, in June are viewed as encouraging developments. Nevertheless, the current state is still unsettled due to persistent gang domination in large areas of the capital city and considerable hindrances to providing humanitarian aid.²⁰

With almost half of the Haitian population being under dire conditions and requiring help, humanitarian needs are colossal. The violence has significantly affected access to healthcare, with only 20% of health facilities in the capital operating in normal capacity. The situation has also maximized gender-based violence, with over 841,000 people being in need of related services.²¹ The international community, along with the deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission led by Kenyan police, is working towards assisting the Haitian National Police in their efforts to combat gang violence. Despite these efforts, the security situation remains a hindrance, and there is an urgent need for substantial financial and logistical support to effectively address the crisis.²²

¹⁸ "Haiti Massacres Reveal Active Gang Support from Police, Officials." *InSight Crime*, 3 May 2021, insightcrime.org/news/gang-led-massacres-relied-support-police-state-officials-haiti/.

¹⁹ "Haiti, July 2024 Monthly Forecast : Security Council Report." *Www.securitycouncilreport.org*, www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2024-07/haiti-25.php. Accessed 20 July 2024.

²⁰ "Haiti Crisis: UN Chief Calls for "Urgent Action" to End Rampant Insecurity." *Haiti*, 2024, haiti.un.org/en/262526-haiti-crisis-un-chief-calls-%E2%80%98urgent-action%E2%80%99-end-rampant-insecurity. Accessed 20 July 2024.

²¹ "Haiti Situation Report #5 - 09 July 2024." *United Nations Population Fund*, 2024, www.unfpa.org/resources/haiti-situation-report-5-09-july-2024. Accessed 20 July 2024.

²² "Haiti: UN Envoy Welcomes Democratic Progress amidst Alarming Violence | UN News." *News.un.org*, 3 July 2024, news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1151771. Accessed 20 July 2024.

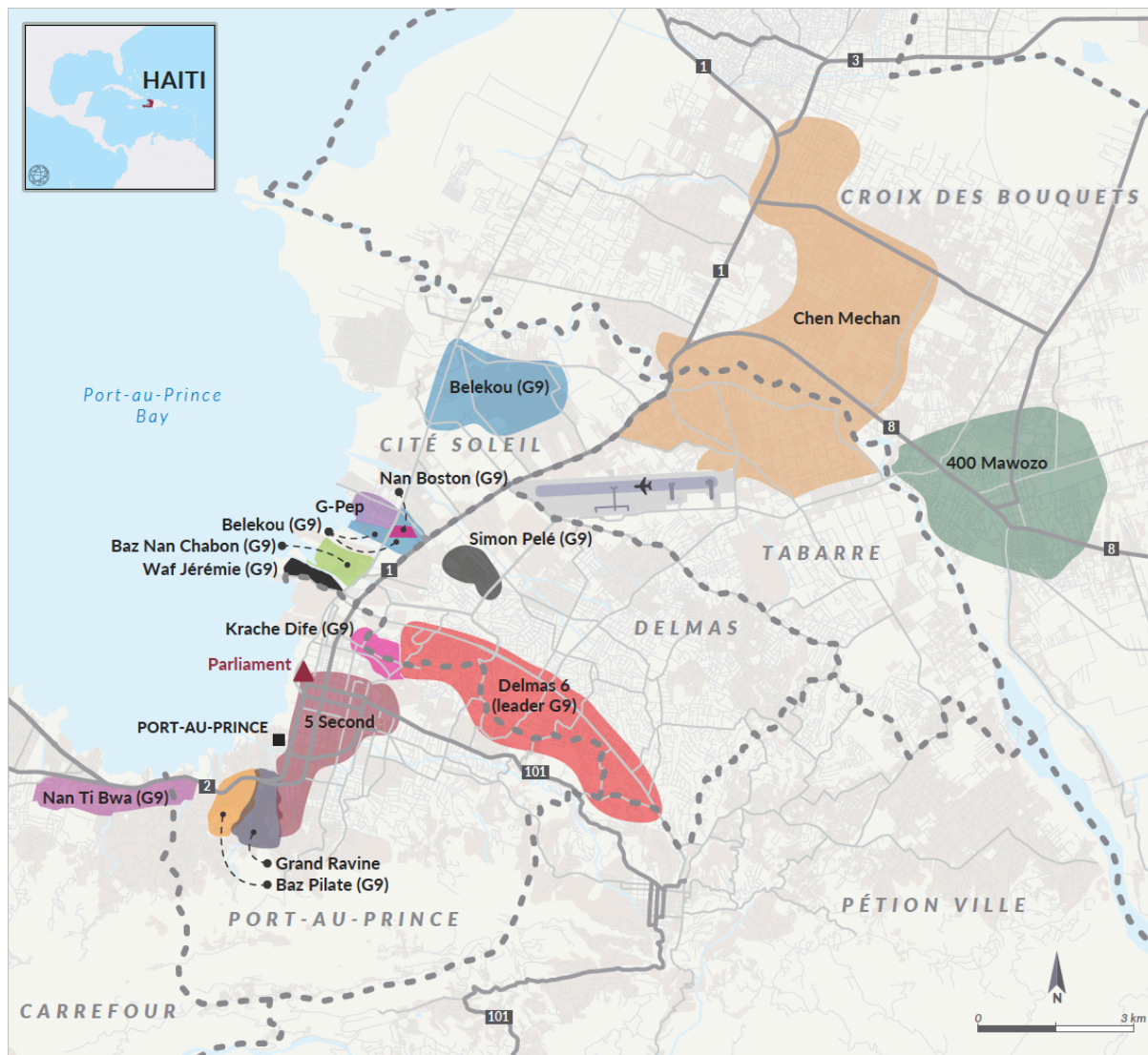


Figure 1: Expansion of Haitian Gangs²³

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Canada

Canada has taken an active stance in addressing gang violence in Haiti through various means such as financial assistance, sanctions and international coordination. Firstly the Canadian government has imposed sanctions on several Haitian gang leaders and political figures actively involved with gang violence. Their aim is to hold accountable those responsible for all of the atrocities while also suspending their operations. Recently, Canada has sanctioned three gang leaders under the Haitian Special Economic Measures

²³ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. "Gangs of Haiti: Expansion, Power and an Escalating Crisis | Global Initiative." *Global Initiative*, 9 July 2024, globalinitiative.net/analysis/haiti-gangs-organized-crime.

Regulations.²⁴ Since 2022, Canada has committed over \$400 million in international assistance to Haiti, which includes support for emergency food, health, and protection services. As of February 2024 Canada announced the donation of another \$123 million in order to enhance the Haitian Security. The \$80.5 million out of this funding are designated for the MSS and \$42.5 million will be spent towards the combatting of sexual and gender based violence. Canada supports the MSS mission to improve the Haitian National Police's efforts towards maintaining public order and tackling gang violence. Canadian contributions have included equipment, training, and logistical support for the Haitian National Police.²⁵

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The International Organization for Migration has taken an active stance in combating the situation in Haiti, focusing on the humanitarian aspect of the issue. The IOM is constantly providing shelter and material items to IDPs. They are responsible for the distribution of materials for emergency shelters and for those forced to flee their homes due to rising gang violence.²⁶ The IOM is coordinated with other humanitarian agencies that work towards overcoming the security challenges that the residents are facing. Alongside with those they ensure a comprehensive response to the crisis and work towards overcoming the public safety issues that the affected populations face. In addition to providing shelter, the IOM also offers other much needed services, including health care, psychosocial support, and protection services. They help establish safe spaces for women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to gender-based and sexual violence in displacement settings such as emergency shelters. The IOM has addressed both the long term and the immediate needs of the Haitian population that are posed by gang violence and displacement.²⁷

Kenya

Kenya, through its leadership position in the Multinational Security Support (MSS), has taken an active stance in aiding the situation in Haiti. The MSS is a significant initiative, authorized by the United Nations Security Council, which aims to support the Haitian police towards the effort of tackling gang violence. Kenya is also committed to sending a substantial number of police officers to the neighborhoods in Haiti that experience gang violence. As of June 2024 approximately 200 police officers from Kenya have been deployed

²⁴ Canada, Global Affairs. "Canada Imposes Sanctions against Haitian Gang Leaders." *Www.canada.ca*, 21 June 2024, www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2024/06/canada-imposes-sanctions-against-haitian-gang-leaders.html. Accessed 20 July 2024.

²⁵ "Canada to Send Warships to Haiti over Gang Violence – DW – 02/17/2023." *Dw.com*, www.dw.com/en/canada-to-send-warships-to-haiti-over-gang-violence/a-64736739.

²⁶ "IOM Haiti." haiti.iom.int, haiti.iom.int/.

²⁷ "Haiti Crisis Response Plan 2022-2024 | Global Crisis Response Platform." *Crisisresponse.iom.int*, crisisresponse.iom.int/response/haiti-crisis-response-plan-2022-2024.

in Haiti, with the total expected to reach 1000.²⁸ The job of those officers is to support the efforts of the Haitian National Police towards the regaining of control in the gang-dominated areas. Even though Kenya experienced some internal legal issues due to the deployment of the police officers in Haiti, since there are constitutional implications when sending troops abroad, Kenya has continued to advocate for peace and stability in Haiti.²⁹

United States of America (USA)

The USA is actively involved in promoting stability and security in Haiti. They have supported the establishment of the Multinational Security Support and they are engaged in various discussions under the aegis of the United Nations in regards to the issues that Haiti is currently facing. They have supported several Security Council resolutions that aim towards achieving peace and stability in Haiti.³⁰ The USA has also provided crucial humanitarian aid to Haiti, with a focus on health, development programs and humanitarian assistance. They are also involved in efforts to mitigate internal displacement, by providing shelter, food and medical care to a large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The USA has also provided training and equipment to the Haitian National Police in order to enhance their capacity to maintain order and face gangs. Overall, the involvement of the USA in the effort towards addressing gang violence in Haiti is multifaceted, combining diplomatic, humanitarian, security, and political support.³¹

World Food Program (WFP)

The World Food Program is crucially involved in combating the issues that Haiti is currently experiencing, the humanitarian aspect of gang violence. The WFP is providing those affected by gang violence with much needed food assistance, including hot meals to IDPs in emergency shelters and other groups affected by the crisis. Under the aegis of the WFP over 5.500 hot meals have been delivered to about 3,000 people living in newly formed emergency shelters.³² The WFP has signified Haiti as a “famine spot of highest concern”, emphasizing the intense food insecurity that plagues the nation. The WFP experiences critical issues when delivering aid due to the security situation. Gang control over large parts of the capital and other areas makes humanitarian access really difficult. In spite of these

²⁸ Mohamed, Hamza. “Why Kenya Volunteered to Lead UN-Approved Forces to Haiti.” *Www.aljazeera.com*, 3 Oct. 2023, www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/3/why-kenya-volunteered-to-lead-un-mission-to-haiti.

²⁹ Kenya-Led Security Mission Prepares for Deployment in Haiti | Human Rights Watch. 28 May 2024, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/28/kenya-led-security-mission-prepares-deployment-haiti>www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/28/kenya-led-security-mission-prepares-deployment-haiti.

³⁰ Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. “U.S. Relations with Haiti - United States Department of State.” *United States Department of State*, 6 Jan. 2020, www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-haiti/.

³¹ Cameron, Chris. “As U.S. Navigates Crisis in Haiti, a Bloody History Looms Large.” *The New York Times*, 19 Dec. 2021, www.nytimes.com/2021/12/19/us/politics/us-haiti-intervention.html.

³² World Food Programme. “Haiti.” *World Food Programme*, 2019, www.wfp.org/countries/haiti.

challenges, the WFP continues to discover ways to deliver significant assistance to those in need.³³

BLOCS EXPECTED

Bloc A

The first bloc includes nations such as the USA and France, which are in favor of international intervention and deployment of police officers for support under the aegis of the MSS mission and other big powers. Those nations emphasize the importance of assisting the Haitian government and citizens through contributing financially and with personnel.³⁴

Bloc B

The second bloc includes nations who are in favor of a Haitian-led and Haitian-owned solution to the situation. Some of those nations are China and Russia, who are extremely cautious when it comes to external intervention. Those nations emphasize the significance of addressing the root causes of the crisis, such as the political vacuum and the influx of illicit weapons.³⁵

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1986	The Duvalier Dictatorship fell, given a rise to the commencement of gang violence.
15 November 2000	The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through resolution 55/25.
2018	Operation Phoenix, a Haitian government-led initiative was established aiming in dismantling gang

³³ "Haiti Country Strategic Plan (2019 - 2023) | World Food Programme." *Www.wfp.org*, www.wfp.org/operations/ht02-haiti-country-strategic-plan-2019-2023.

³⁴ "Press Conference by Security Council President on Programme of Work for July | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *Press.un.org*, press.un.org/en/2024/240701_sc.doc.htm. Accessed 20 July 2024.

³⁵ "Haiti: Private Meeting : What's in Blue : Security Council Report." *Www.securitycouncilreport.org*, www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2024/06/haiti-private-meeting-3.php. Accessed 20 July 2024.

	networks while simultaneously minimizing gang violence in the region.
November 2018	The La Saline Massacre, one of the most horrific episodes of gang violence, occurred in Haiti.
25 June 2018	Resolution S/RES/2476 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 8,559th meeting, establishing the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH).
4 November 2019	The Bel-Air Massacre occurred in the Bel-Air neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, resulting in at least 24 deaths and countless injuries.
21 October 2022	Resolution S/RES/2653 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 9,159th meeting advocating for the establishment of a sanctions regime.
2023	578.000 Haitian people were forced to flee their homes due to gang violence.
2 October 2023	Resolution S/RES/2699 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 9,430th meeting addressing the critical humanitarian situation in Haiti by extending the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH).
February 2024	Canada announced the donation of another \$123 million in order to enhance the Haitian Security.
January 2024-May 2024	Over 3,200 homicides occurred in Haiti, and the violence has resulted in the displacement of nearly 600,000 people.

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

S/RES/2476

This resolution, adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 8,559th meeting on 25 June 2019 established the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH). The main objectives of the aforementioned office include supporting the Haitian government towards achieving political stability and good governance while simultaneously aiding the development of a valid electoral process and the promotion of inclusive dialogue among the two parties. BINUH is also responsible for promoting and monitoring human rights in Haiti, focusing on addressing the root causes of instability and violence.³⁶

S/RES/2699

This resolution, adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 9,430th meeting, on 2 October 2023, addresses the critical humanitarian situation in Haiti by extending the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and promoting the deployment of the MSS mission. The aim of this resolution is to maximize the efforts of the Haitian National Police, when trying to combat gang violence and stabilize the nation. It highlights the need for preservation of human rights and stability while ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid in Haiti. Finally, it highlights the significance of a Haitian-led approach towards the goal of achieving long-term political stability.³⁷

S/RES/2653

This resolution was adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 9,159th meeting on 21 October 2022 and advocated for the establishment of a sanctions regime which would hold accountable individuals and entities for disrupting the peace, stability and security of the Haitian Region. It is composed of measures such as asset freezes and travel bans for those involved in gang violence related activities and aims to minimize the logistical and financial support of perpetrators. Finally it highlights the need for international collaboration in order to coerce the aforementioned sanctions effectively, which could actively contribute in restoring peace and order in the Haitian region.³⁸

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)

The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 November 2000, through resolution 55/25. It is the prime international document in the fight against organized crime. Gang violence

³⁶ Year: 2019), UN Security Council (74th. "Resolution 2476 (2019) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 8559th Meeting, on 25 June 2019." *Digitallibrary.un.org*, 25 June 2019, digitallibrary.un.org/record/3810375?v=pdf. Accessed 21 July 2024.

³⁷ Year: 2023), UN Security Council (78th. "Resolution 2699 (2023) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 9430th Meeting, on 2 October 2023." *Digitallibrary.un.org*, 2 Oct. 2023, digitallibrary.un.org/record/4022890?ln=en&v=pdf.

³⁸ Year: 2022), UN Security Council (77th. "Resolution 2653 (2022) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 9159th Meeting, on 21 October 2022." *Digitallibrary.un.org*, 21 Oct. 2022, digitallibrary.un.org/record/3992091?v=pdf. Accessed 21 July 2024.

constitutes organized crime and the aforementioned convention is of extreme significance since it provides legal and operational frameworks that are capable of addressing the situation in Haiti. This convention can hold perpetrators legally accountable for their unlawful activities, and since all gang related activities are illegal, gang leaders can be held accountable under international law.³⁹

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Operation Phoenix

Operation Phoenix is a Haitian government-led initiative established in 2018 which aimed in dismantling gang networks while simultaneously minimizing gang violence in the region. It involved cooperation with the Haitian National Police, which would be responsible for arresting gang leaders, re-gaining control in gang dominated areas and conducting raids. Even though the operation was successful in holding accountable gang members and disrupting activities in the beginning, it ultimately failed due to various key factors. Those include the existent corruption in the Haitian National Police and the judiciary system which degraded their efforts. Additionally, the limited resources and socio-economic challenges that are existent in Haiti shifted the focus of stakeholders and undermined the efforts of the operation and suspended most of their actions.⁴⁰

Peacebuilding and mediation efforts

Peacebuilding and mediation efforts in Haiti have mainly involved actions which aim at reducing gang violence through peaceful community dialogues. These efforts have been established by local leaders, NGOs, and civil society organizations, who have frequently cooperated with gang members and community residents to negotiate ceasefires and encourage peaceful coexistence. These efforts aimed to address the root causes of gang violence, such as poverty and lack of opportunity, by facilitating community commitment and promoting non-violent conflict resolution. Again, those efforts went through major challenges due to the corruption that is existent in the Haitian government and the local authorities, due to the constant undermining of those initiatives. Finally, the pervasive poverty and extreme unemployment rates in Haiti keep driving youth toward gangs as a means of survival. The significant power of gangs, usually better armed and equipped than local police, has made it difficult to sustain peace agreements.⁴¹

³⁹ United Nations. "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime." *Unodc.org*, United Nations, 2000, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html.

⁴⁰ Adams, David C., and Frances Robles. "Preparations Ramp up for Global Security Force to Quell Haitian Violence." *The New York Times*, 7 May 2024, www.nytimes.com/2024/05/07/world/africa/haiti-security-force.html.

⁴¹ "In Heart of Haiti's Gang War, One Hospital Stands Its Ground." *AP NEWS*, 26 Feb. 2023, apnews.com/article/caribbean-port-au-prince-haiti-health-6df0e7b5bd9fd8113ab2e1e1cb3b1e2c.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Deployment of a specialized UN Peacekeeping Force

One of the main issues that the Haitian citizens face daily is the security challenges that are extremely apparent due to gang violence. In order to ensure public safety in the region, UN involvement is of utmost importance. Through the provision of logistical and specialized security support by experts the situation in Haiti can be stabilized. UN peacekeeping operations are always conducted without the unnecessary usage of arms, which emphasizes the need of a peaceful approach to the situation in order not to further exacerbate violence. The peacekeepers would be responsible for the protection of the civilians, the restoration of peace and order in the region, the enforcement of the rule of law and the safe delivery of humanitarian aid. The United Nations play a very significant role in the international community, consequently it is of extreme significance to involve them in efforts which aim towards stabilization, demilitarization and ensuring peace and order.

Imposition of sanctions

Sanctions are always a very vital tool towards addressing situations which involve weakening a greater financial power. Through imposing such that target financial and material resources that fuel the illegal activities of gangs those could be significantly minimized. Through freeing the assets of individuals or entities, widely known for supporting gang related activities and restricting financial transactions which involve gang members can vitally hinder their capability of expanding and continuing their operations. Additionally, establishing an arms embargo through the implementation of sanctions the supplement of weapons can be restricted which would limit the capacity of gangs to engage in violent activities and exert control over territories. Those sanctions can be implemented by the United Nations Security Council or various great powers which have committed aiding Haiti and have already acted towards stabilizing the situation in the region.

Reforming of the Haitian National Police

Due to the heavy corruption in the Haitian National Police, it is of utmost importance to ameliorate its operations in order to tackle gang violence. Through establishing an Internal Affairs unit, responsible for investigating corruption within the police force and ensuring that this unit operates independently and is free from influence by senior police officials, corruption could be vitally limited. Furthermore, through reshaping and altering the police officer recruitment process by conducting rigorous background checks and providing ethics training focused on integrity, accountability, and community service, misbehaved individuals that hold positions in the police force would be limited. Finally, through increasing the salaries, improving the working conditions, and benefits of police officers could limit the

temptation of bribery and other corrupt practices which constitute a big part of the reason why such forces are corrupt.

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