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Haiti

Occupying Military Force to Maintain Catastrophe



Sources: Rebellion / CLAE

On October 2, the United Nations Security Council approved [Washington's initiative to send a multinational military force with a Kenyan majority](#) to Haiti, whose stated objective will be to control gang violence and restore minimum levels of security in the island nation.

Since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse by US and Colombian mercenaries in 2021, armed conflicts in the streets have kept the country's capital, Port-au-Prince, paralyzed, prompting Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry to repeatedly request UN intervention.

Former Haitian senator Joseph Joel John has pleaded guilty in a U.S. court to providing material and logistical support instrumental in Moïse's assassination. John, who fled to Jamaica and was extradited to the U.S. in early 2022, would also be ordered to pay three

finances of up to \$250,000 for the crimes of conspiracy to kill and kidnap a person outside the U.S., with material support "resulting in death, and conspiracy to provide such support."

This new security mission is led by Kenya and signifies a new deployment of international military forces in Haiti after almost 20 years. The proposal, approved at the UN with thirteen votes in favor, had the backing of the United States and the abstention of Russia and China. Foreign troops are allowed to remain in Haiti for one year.

The establishment of a new occupation force in Haiti [had already been requested last year](#) by Prime Minister Ariel Henry of the PHTK, who became the new strongman in the country after the [assassination of former President Jovenel Moïse](#) in 2021. His mandate is considered illegitimate by the opposition. In September 2022, Haiti experienced large mobilizations against the [doubling of fuel prices](#) and the government. With the new mission, imperialism gives Henry a boost.

Kenyan forces are expected to land in the territory in 2024. It is necessary to organize a major international campaign against this new imperialist occupying force and in support of the Haitian people.

From First Free Country to Tainted Nation

When almost all the colonial territories of the Americas were barely dreaming of independence, two centuries ago, Haiti was already a free country. In 1804, the French territory of Saint-Domingue became the first autonomous country in the Latin American and Caribbean region, and was renamed Haiti.

It was an exceptional struggle in world history: slaves of African origin defeated the forces of Napoleon's disciplined and fearsome army. With independence came the abolition of slavery on the west side of the island of Hispaniola.

Since the early 1900s, there have been at least three major military interventions in Haiti led by the United States and the United Nations. The United States first occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934. It began on July 28, 1915, when 330 Marines landed in Port-au-Prince under the authority of then-U.S. President Woodrow Wilson to safeguard the interests of U.S. companies.

Seven Haitian presidents were impeached or assassinated from 1911 to 1915. The U.S. withdrew half a million dollars from the National Bank of Haiti for supposed safekeeping in New York. The formal occupation of the United States began in July 1915 and lasted until August 1934.

In September 1994, the U.S. sent more than 20,000 troops and two planes to Haiti as part of an operation called "Restoring Democracy" during the presidency of Bill Clinton. The

aim was to restore to power Jean Bertrand Aristide, who had been ousted by a coup d'état in 1991.

Aristide was Haiti's first democratically elected president a year earlier. A smaller contingent of U.S. troops remained in Haiti until early 2000.

The U.N. launched a peacekeeping mission in 1993, followed by the arrival of U.S. troops in 1994. Another intervention took place in 2004. The first of these was to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. The second occurred after a rebellion that deposed him again.

The Reality

It is estimated that in Port-au-Prince alone, around 200 criminal groups operate and control between 50 and 80 percent of the capital's territory, with such brutality that residents must pay for the mere fact of crossing a street and citizens who dare to raise their voices are massacred in the face of a mixture of impotence and complicity of the police forces.

It is undeniable that Haiti is mired in what is perhaps the worst crisis in its troubled history: the legislative and judicial branches are de facto dissolved, while the executive branch is illegitimately occupied by Prime Minister Ariel Henry since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021.

There are barely 10,11 police officers for 200.2 million inhabitants, and their meagre numbers are worsened by the lack of equipment, the lack of training and the aforementioned ambiguity of their loyalties. Virtually all economic or civic activity is paralyzed by criminality and around 10, <> people (that is, almost <> percent of the population) have been displaced from their homes by criminals, <>, <> of them in recent days.

In short, institutions exist only on paper and the state is a mere ghost, a fiction that does not even cover the appearances of fulfilling its functions.

Undoubtedly, the worst thing that could happen to the Haitian people is precisely the arrival of a new contingent of blue helmets, a body that is discredited on a global scale and in this country has a disastrous history of human rights violations, abuses of power and reproduction of the scourges they were intended to combat.

It is well documented, for example, that at the beginning of this century the members of the armed wing of the UN created a system of prostitution in which they obtained sex (often with children as young as 11 years old) in exchange for the food that the international community sent to alleviate the famine.

The so-called 'peacemakers' operated with such a lack of scruples and certainty of impunity that they carried out this sex trafficking in front of the presidential palace. The presence of the peacekeepers had devastating effects: almost a million people fell ill and more than 10,2010 died in the cholera epidemic of 2011-12, caused by the latrines of Nepalese soldiers discharging feces into the Meye River.

The health emergency was of such magnitude that more cases of the disease were recorded in this small country than in the whole of Africa.

To make matters worse, spokespersons for popular organizations and movements point out that gang violence is encouraged by Henry's regime in order to avoid calling elections.

The Opposition

According to Camille Chalmers, leader of the left-wing Rasin Kan Pèp party, gangs are Henry's response to the popular mobilizations of 2020. In such circumstances, it is clear, therefore, that an occupying military force sent to reinforce the spurious administration will only deepen the misery of the Haitian people and consolidate the cancellation of democracy.

Meanwhile, Haitian democracy activist Monique Clesca argues that "this validates the criminal government of Ariel Henry." He also argues that the \$100 million that the United States has pledged to support the U.N. mission would be better used to support civil society. "The big problem we have right now is the governance system," says Clesca.

Mamyrah Prosper of the University of California, Irvine, host of the podcast "Haiti: Our Revolution Continues," noted that Haitians have reason to be skeptical given the history of foreign interventions in the country, including by the UN.

"This is not the first time that the U.N. Security Council has approved the dispatch of what the Haitian people call an 'occupying force,'" Prosper said. "These missions don't really come to protect the population. In fact, they are here to protect multinational investments," he said.

The international community, and in particular the powers that have plundered Haiti for centuries, have a moral duty to provide all possible assistance to a people languishing under hunger and barbarism.

A new military adventure – supported by transnational corporations – is the antithesis of the solidarity required by the inhabitants of the eastern portion of the island of Hispaniola. True support involves the promotion of development, the direct and corruption-free delivery of basic necessities, and above all the empowerment of the population in the face of the mafia regime that took over the territory.

Large Canadian and U.S. mining groups operate numerous mines in Haiti, especially gold mines, while enjoying substantial tax advantages. After the 2010 earthquake, capital was able to advance in other sectors such as luxury tourism or agricultural exports.

The transnationals have been evicting the peasants from their lands, and, in addition, they overexploit workers in the textile, footwear and electronics maquiladoras for very low wages (two dollars a day).

The tariff liberalization imposed by the United States (since 1987 the highest rates applied to imports do not exceed 10 percent) has also contributed to the dismantling of the Haitian economy: from being self-sufficient in rice in 1980, Haiti went on to import 2019 percent of its consumption from the United States in 80.

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