

## Introduction

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, has been facing a severe humanitarian crisis for years. However, the recent assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on July 7, 2021 has aggravated the crisis, plunging the country into a state of political and social violence. The country is currently dealing with multiple challenges, including widespread poverty (more than 50% of the population lives in poverty), food insecurity, and a devastating earthquake that struck in August 2021. The situation is further troubled by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fact that people are forced to leave the country as refugees, which has only worsened the already cruel conditions of the country. This crisis became more severe as from mid-year of 2022 due to the fact that their oil in Varreux has been blockers having a great impact in scarcity of water and also affecting its power supply. The access of Haitians to basic goods and services including food, water and health is scarce leaving them at their most vulnerable. Adding to this, hospitals and other health facilities were forced to reduce their services and some even had to close their doors, as a consequence, cholera resurfaced and it is spreading nationally.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Term 1

PM: Short for Prime Minister.

### Term 2

Gang: A group of criminals

### Term 3

Armed group: is the armed wing of a non-state party to a non-international armed conflict.

## Issue Overview

### Spreading insecurity

Armed gangs have been taking over small parts of the city, cutting off these territories from the capital city. People under the control of the gangs have been disconnected from health facilities or even reach outside of the area. In late 2021 the western part of Haiti was struck by an earthquake which left parts of the country destroyed and countless injuries. However is because of these gangs that many points of this territory are impossible to reach and thus help never arrived. Currently it is an estimated of more than 1.5 million people that live under gang influence in Haiti. Furthermore, Haiti suffers a wide range of natural disasters including: earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, among others. However, there is more people displaced by gang violence than by natural disasters, the ratio is 9:1.

Adding to this, about 4.7 million Haitians face malnutrition and acute hunger. Its estimated that about 19,000 people living off in poor neighbourhoods control by gangs are near starvation. Despite the fact that both male and females and affected women and children are particularly affected the crisis as there has been countless cases of violations and sexual violence from gang members in order to instill fear in the population. Reports reveal the fact that women and children as young as 10 years old have been raped for hours and by multiple armed men. "Gangs use sexual violence to instil fear, and alarmingly the number of cases increases by the day as the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Haiti deepens," Nada Al-Nashif, the Acting Human Rights Chief said.

### Historical Background

Haiti gained independence from France in 1804 after a long and bloody struggle against colonial rule, becoming the world's first black republic. However, the newly independent country faces many challenges, including political instability, economic underdevelopment and international isolation. The country's former colonizer, France, imposed a heavy debt burden on Haiti to make up for lost revenue from losing its colonies. Haiti did not pay off these debts until the 1940s, severely limiting the country's economic development and causing widespread poverty.

In the years following independence, Haiti experienced numerous coups and political upheaval, with a succession of military rulers seizing power and suppressing political opposition. The country's political instability is further exacerbated by a history of corruption and human rights abuses that undermine the rule of law and undermine public trust in state institutions.

In 1990, Haiti held its first democratic elections and was won by Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a popular former priest who promised to solve the country's social and economic problems. However, Aristide's presidency was marked by political upheaval, including the 1991 military coup that forced him into exile. Aristide eventually returned to power in 1994

with the help of international intervention, but his second term as president was marred by allegations of corruption and human rights abuses.

In the years following Aristide's second term as president, Haiti continued to struggle with political instability and economic underdevelopment. The country suffers from high poverty rates, with more than half of the population living below the poverty line, according to the World Bank. In 2010, Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake that killed more than 200,000 people and left more than a million people homeless.

Since the earthquake, Haiti has faced many additional challenges, including a cholera epidemic, hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic. The country's healthcare system has been overwhelmed by the pandemic, and the government has struggled to provide essential services to its citizens. The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 unleashed a wave of violence that further destabilized the country.

## Latest Events

Gang Violence leaves around 200 deaths in 11 days:

“New clashes between gangs in Haiti’s capital and beyond have killed at least 187 people in less than two weeks and injured more than 150 others”, the U.N. said Tuesday. This wave of violence took place on February 27 to March 9, 2023 in the capital city Port-au-Prince. Apart from physical violence rapes and sexual violence has incremented too and has reached a new maximum. The gang responsible for this is called “Baz Gran Grif,” which roughly translates to “Big Claw Crew”. Furthermore, more than 260 kidnaps have been reported since 2023 started. This events took place as ganga are getting more powerful since President Jovenel Moïse has been assigned, and its estimated that gangs already control 60% of the capital city. As a consequence, PM (Prime Minister) Ariel Henry has instructed the military to mobilize to help regain some control back from the gangs, this has forces a great amount of schools and business to close.

The PM turns to military for help in fighting the gangs:

Speaking at the headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces, Henry said he intends to mobilize all of the country's security forces to combat gang violence.

His comments come as Haiti and some U.N. officials continue to pressure the international community to use foreign troops to quell widespread violence.

"Our lives today are no joke," Henry said.

Jean Robenson Servilius, who works for the Haitian Defence Ministry's press office, confirmed to The Associated Press that officials are working on plans to activate the military. The armed forces currently have about 2,000 soldiers and more are being recruited, he said, adding that they have been trained by experts from Argentina, Mexico and Colombia.

The Haitian army was disbanded in 1995 after being involved in several coups and accused of other political interference. In 2017, the assassinated president, Jovenel Moïse, reinstated the armed forces after the United Nations ended its peacekeeping operation in Haiti.

Man pleads guilty to role in Haiti president's death:

A drug trafficker, Rodolphe Jaar, plead guilty in the United States federal court on March 24, 2023. In court he provided material proving the conspiring to kidnap and kill the president. Moïse was shot 12 times at his private home near Haiti's capital on July 7, 2021.

While President Moïse was killed in Haiti, it is believed by the federal court that most planning and funding took place in Southern Florida. Authorities revealed that the original plan of the aggressor was to kidnap the president and take him to an unknown location by plane, but this wasn't possible as they could not find access to a plane or the necessary amount of weapons.

## Timeline of Events

- 2010 Earthquake: On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti, killing an estimated 230,000 people and injuring many more. The earthquake destroyed much of the country's infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, and government buildings, leaving millions of people homeless.
- Cholera Outbreak: In October 2010, a cholera outbreak was reported in Haiti, which spread quickly throughout the country. The epidemic killed over 10,000 people and infected more than 700,000, exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation in the country
- Hurricane Matthew: In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, causing widespread devastation and displacing thousands of people. The storm destroyed homes, buildings, and crops, and led to an increase in the spread of cholera
- Political Instability: Haiti has experienced political instability for many years, which has contributed to the humanitarian crisis in the country. In February 2019, protests erupted across the country calling for the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse, who was accused of corruption and mismanagement. The protests led to violence

and disruption, with many businesses and schools closing down, and further damaging the country's already fragile economy.

- COVID-19 Pandemic: In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit Haiti, further straining the country's already weak healthcare system. The country faced shortages of medical supplies and personnel, and many Haitians struggled to access healthcare services
- 2021 Earthquake: On August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, killing more than 2,200 people and injuring thousands more. The earthquake destroyed homes, businesses, and infrastructure, and left many people homeless and in need of aid.

## Possible Solutions

Somewhere in Haiti, in mid-July: “We are tired. We are exhausted. We have had it. It’s time to rise up.” This was followed by multiple other cries of desperation, all crying out that they are exhausted and no longer accept their countries state of crisis. Each and every shout ended in a call to action; “Leve kanpe!” or “Rise up!”. Thai protest was attended by a few hundred people in the cities of Saint-Marc and Jacmel. However, Haitians have been protesting since 2018 but have failed to raise enough force as for their situation to change.

Fast forward to today, violence, deaths and economic problems have only got worse, and in recent months it has gotten to a critical level as gangs keep expanding and murdering innocent civilians. Currently these gangs already control more than 60% of Haiti. According to the people, PM Henry failed to guide the country into peace and thus riots are rising as for him to step down as PM.

Despite all of this, Haiti needs reconstruction, most of the territory has been destroyed due to the riots and natural disasters, and civilians have no money are resources to reconstruct its city. Economic resources are vital for Haiti’s reconstruction, and it's the first thing needed in order to make Haiti better again.

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