

## Breakdown in Haiti: Kenya shoulders the responsibility

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*Please read the EDITORIAL COMMENTS by [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) on **The KENYAN MISSION to HAITI** on page 5.*

October 3, 2023: New York: **Kenya's President William Ruto** has expressed his approval of the United Nations' decision to deploy a 'critical' force to Haiti. More countries have been invited to participate. The UNSC resolution also calls for a global stop of arms sales to Haiti, except for approved security purposes.

The UNSC resolution, **drafted by the United States and Ecuador**, authorizes the force to deploy for one year, with a review after nine months. The non-U.N. mission would be funded by voluntary contributions, with the U.S. pledging up to \$200 million.

A statement by the US ambassador to the UN, **Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, described Monday's decision on Haiti as "historic" and said the mission "speaks to the **UN's ability to galvanize collective action.**"

The vote at the U.N. Security Council came nearly a year **after Haiti's government requested help** to quell a surge in gang violence and restore security so the country can hold long-delayed elections.

Though approved by the UN Security Council, the force would not formally be under UN control. Kenya has pledged 1000 police to spearhead the mission. Several of Haiti's Caribbean neighbors – **Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, and Jamaica** – have also offered support to the mission.

Kenya offered to lead the Haiti mission, citing its history in global peacekeeping missions, as well as ties between Africa and Haiti, where most of the population is of African descent.

Kenya's President **William Ruto** on Tuesday welcomed the U.N. Security Council's resolution to send a Kenya-led multinational armed force to Haiti to help combat violent gangs and pledged that it will "not fail the people of Haiti."

President **Ruto** said the Kenya-led force “will provide a different footprint in the history of international interventions in Haiti and that it will “not fail the people of Haiti.”

Ruto did not specify when the force would be deployed, but Foreign Minister **Alfred Mutua** on Monday night said it would happen “within a short time.” He said that logistics planning was underway and that key Kenyan officers were taking **French lessons to bridge the language barrier between Kenyans and Haitians.**

Kenya’s Inspector General of Police **Japhet Koome** on Friday expressed optimism that the peacekeeping mission would be a success. “Yes, we are going to Haiti, we shall lead that mission,” he said. “We have never failed.”

However, Kenyan police have long been accused, by watchdogs, of corruption and of use of deadly force, torture and other abuses.

An ex-police officer considered by many to be Haiti’s most powerful gang leader — **Jimmy Chérizier**, known as “Barbecue” — has warned that he would fight any international force deployed to the country if it committed any abuses.

Haiti’s National Police has struggled in its fight against gangs with only about 10,000 active officers in a country of more than 11 million people. Gang violence has been on the rise in recent years, with armed groups controlling large parts of the country. Journalists have also been targeted, with several being kidnapped or attacked in recent months

From January 1 until Aug. 15, more than 2,400 people in Haiti were reported killed, more than 950 kidnapped and another 902 injured, according to the most recent U.N. statistics.

The deployment of an armed force is expected to restore peace and security to Haiti so the Prime Minister can organize long-awaited general elections.

International intervention in Haiti doesn't bring back good memories to all Haitians. A U.N.-approved stabilization mission to Haiti that started in June 2004 was marred by a sexual abuse scandal and the introduction of cholera. The mission ended in October 2017.

Haiti has been plagued by political turmoil for decades, with frequent changes in government and a history of coups and violence.

The most recent crisis began on **July 7, 2021** when **President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated** at his residence in **Port-au-Prince, Haiti**. The attack also left his wife, **Martine Moïse**, injured.



***Jovenel Moïse***

*Assumed the office of Presidency of Haiti on February 7, 2017*

*Assassinated on July 7, 2021*

The assassination of the President led to a power vacuum and widespread protests. Since then, the country has been struggling to establish a stable government and restore order.

In addition to political instability, Haiti is also facing severe economic hardship. The country is one of the poorest in the world, with high levels of poverty and unemployment. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these problems, with many businesses closing down and people losing their jobs. The situation has been further complicated by natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, which have caused widespread damage and displacement.



Haiti

The **Republic of Haiti** is a country located on **the western part of the island of Hispaniola** in the **Greater Antilles archipelago** of the **Caribbean Sea**, east of **Cuba and Jamaica**, and **south of the Bahamas**.



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### The KENYAN MISSION to HAITI

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) applauds Kenya for taking the responsibility assigned by UNSC, knowing fully well that the U.N.-approved stabilization mission to Haiti, that started in June 2004, ended in October 2017 without achieving its objectives.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) notes with concern that UNSC has failed in maintaining peace and the wars at various places, including the one in Ukraine (started on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022) and Sudan (started on 15<sup>th</sup> April), continue to not only take a toll of civilians in the country at war, it is bringing hardships to the people all over the world through inflation. The people in the poorer countries, in fact, are suffering much more since their governments are not able to help mitigate the sufferings, as has been attempted (not with complete success) by the richer countries for their own citizens.

Today when there does not seem to be a way for the UN system to fulfil the hopes, with which it was set up after the end of the WWII, and when there does not seem to be a country like USA in 1945, which could pay for the Marshall Plan to bring up the war-ravaged Europe, for helping develop the Global South, the countries of the Global South will have to get rid of poverty and provide a life of dignity to its citizens through their own efforts by bootstrapping and through mutual co-operation.

When Kenya has come forward to shoulder the responsibility of helping Haiti, [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) wishes the Kenyan mission to Haiti a grand success.

[www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) **appreciates USA** for coming forward to contribute up to \$200 Mn for the mission. We hope **China**, which has huge surpluses from its world trade, will join USA in **providing financial help for the Kenyan Mission to Haiti**.

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