



Mathurin Hybrid Initiative

Global Advisory
Report

**Resolution 2699:
Navigating Challenges
and Complexities in the
Unprecedented UN
Mission in Haiti**

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A Call for Action

The UN Security Council sanctioned [a mission](#) to assist Haitian police in tackling rampant gang violence, with criminal factions, notably the [G-Pèp and the "Revolutionary Forces of the G9 Family and Allies" \(FRG9 or G9\)](#), controlling most of Port-au-Prince, resulting in thousands of deaths and abductions in 2023. The 10,000-strong police force is outmatched due to an influx of arms, [mainly from Florida](#), and the government's prosecutorial inefficacy. The security void has [displaced 200,000 people](#), disrupted aid, spread disease, and restricted access to necessities, with 4.9 million facing severe hunger. Children are particularly at risk of gang-related harm. Despite [urgent calls for aid](#), international response is lacking, with only a fraction of the required funds received. Compounding the crisis, [over 70,000 Haitians were repatriated](#) by the US and others from 2021 to 2022, while [the Dominican Republic returned nearly 59,000](#) in 2022 alone. Border tightening by neighbors and [suspended flights to Nicaragua](#) have made escape increasingly difficult for Haitians.

A Historical Perspective on Current Instability

Haiti's instability, fueled by a history of coups, foreign occupation, and dictatorships, worsened after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's disrupted rule and subsequent exile. The 2010 earthquake deepened vulnerabilities, leading to corrupt governance and electoral unrest, exemplified by the annulled 2015 election (see: Harding, 2016) and controversial 2017 presidency of Jovenel Moïse. Moïse's 2021 assassination underscored the nation's fragility. By 2023, a power vacuum, rampant gang violence, and kidnappings had plunged Haiti into chaos, prompting [U.S. embassy staff withdrawal](#). With Prime Minister Ariel Henry's unelected government in power, and international hesitance to support undemocratic leadership, Haiti struggles to navigate a path toward stability and democracy amid deep divisions and a lack of domestic support.

Resolution 2699

On October 2, 2023, the UN Security Council passed [Resolution 2699](#), greenlighting a Kenyan-led "multinational security support mission" to Haiti, a shift from traditional peacekeeping efforts. Comprising forces from Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda, the mission aims to support the Haitian National Police in combating gangs and protecting key infrastructure such as airports, ports, and hospitals. Members are called to contribute resources and personnel, with oversight measures in place to uphold human rights and ensure operations align with international law during deployment. Despite abstentions from Russia and China, the resolution, led by the US and Ecuador, passed with 13 votes. Marking the first African Union nation to head a peace mission beyond its continent, Kenya and Caribbean nations unite to tackle Haiti's security crisis, with the deployment date yet to be announced.

Reckoning with Intervention

The Kenya-led mission in Haiti is met with skepticism due to Haiti's troubled past with foreign interventions, raising ethical and practical concerns. Critics, including [U.S. and Haitian rights groups](#), fear it might endorse an unelected government and repeat historical mistakes, potentially exacerbating Haiti's turmoil. The National Haitian American Elected Officials Network (NHAEON) and Family Action Network Movement (FANM) [call on](#) the US to cease support for the Kenyan initiative, citing risks of reinforcing the current regime, escalating political turmoil, and increasing civilian suffering and migration challenges. They worry about the Kenyan forces'

human rights record and inexperience with Haiti's complex criminal landscape. Success hinges on addressing Haiti's underlying issues and international aid, including U.S. action against transnational gun trafficking fueling violence. Should the mission falter, the U.S. faces pressure to directly intervene, a move fraught with risks of compounding mistakes.

Discussion

Expecting success from an under-resourced international mission in Haiti is misguided. Proponents haven't provided a strong rationale for another foreign intervention in recent years. Instead of military involvement, the U.S. and U.N. should focus on humanitarian and economic aid, supporting a clean transitional government, while respecting Haiti's sovereignty to enable a Haitian-led resolution. Military interventions can't fix Haiti's ingrained political and systemic issues; the focus should be on addressing the country's fundamental structural challenges.

