Security Council

The situation in Haïti

Research Report

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"Out of this world"

Forum: Security Council

Issue: The situation in Haïti

Position: President

Introduction

Haïti, a country in the Caribbean, full of natural wonders, Caribbean life and of course, chaos. Gang violence, a corrupt government and on top of that storms sweeping through the island at the worst times imaginable. This is what has been happening in the last 3 years in Haïti.

Haïti is a country with a wider history than many people are aware of. According to some historians, the wave of revolutions during the enlightenment period was inspired by a slave revolt on the island. The inhabitants of Haïti have always been a people accustomed to freedom, so once this was taken away, the nation was doomed to fall apart.

The chaotic current situation is due to the thanks of many steps throughout history that led to the collapse of the island. Current ruler of Haïti is Garry Conille, the third different president in the last 4 months. The President 2 terms before him, Ariel Henry, was met with heavy controversy after refusing to cooperate with authorities concerning the assassination of the previous president.

There are many more reasons to be alarmed by the situation in Haïti, all to be named later on, but most importantly is to think about solutions, and not the ones currently in place. A huge police and armed forces presence sent by the UN only creates more uncertainty. Rebuilding infrastructure and preventing further escalation is what needs to be done to solve this conflict.

Definition of Key Terms

Gang Violence:

Gangs in Haiti control a major part of the land and politics. Gang violence is violence by gangs. This happens in many different forms. Some of those forms are intimidation, sexual abuse, murdering or injuring civilians and plain violence.

Hurricane:

A hurricane is a meteorological phenomenon that mostly occurs in the Caribbean and East Asia. This storm has gusts of wind of immense speed and cause catastrophic damage to the areas it strikes

Hispaniola:

Hispaniola is an island in the caribbean shared between the Dominican Republic and Haïti

General Overview

Pre modern era

Before our modern era, Haïti had already suffered numerous disasters and rough periods. It starts with the discovery of the new world by Columbus. He landed at the island Hispanialo, the island shared by the Dominican Republic and Haïti, and this moment is regarded as the first in written history for Haïti. After this discovery in 1492, the nation suffered immensely under European rule. However, some historians argue that Haïti is the birthplace of revolutionary ideas after a slave revolt. These ideals lead to the eventual liberation of Haïti. Now that the Hatïans once again live oppressed, many wonder what will happen next in the region.

Gang warfare

Figure 2: Kenyan and Haïtin forces in Port Au Prince

The root of most of Haïti's problems lies with the power of gangs located in the country. Currently these gangs control some major ports and have the population in their power. Currently there are an estimated 200 gangs present in Haïti, a majority of them having some presence in the capital city of Port Au Prince. In Port Au Prince around 80% of the city is controlled by gangs which is one of the highest numbers for this large city in the world. The two greatest gangs, or rather alliances are the G9 and allies or just G9 and GPep. G9 is led by former police officer Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier. GPep is led by Gabriel Jean-Pierre, Also known as Ti Gabriel. Until recently the gangs were in a conflict but in February 2024 both the leaders decided to hold a truce to prevent international interference and to kick out unelected leader Ariel Henry. Now in June, after declaring a peace deal in the important neighbourhood of Cite Soleil, both alliances joined together once again this time to fight the combined effort of Kenya and others to bring peace to the region. Kenya has sent 400 police officers to the country hoping to bring stability to the region. Another 2.100 men have been promised, with Kenya offering another 600 officers. The problem with gang violence is the inability of the government to act upon it. Whilst controlling a significant part of the country its hard for any and all task force to fully operate. When looking in detail at some situations, it can be compared to Cold War Berlin or more modern day frontline villages in the Russo-Ukrainian war. Another difficulty that rises to the

foreground is the lack of properly trained, not corrupt officials, both in the police and political department. One of the gang leaders is a former police officer and many others are on their payroll or are merely scared to act upon acts of violence, both because of their own safety and that of their family. One of the more recent attacks on Pont Sonde saw gang members wreck havoc on the city whilst police officers were nowhere to be seen, with many concluding it as either an act of cowardice or them simply being outgunned.

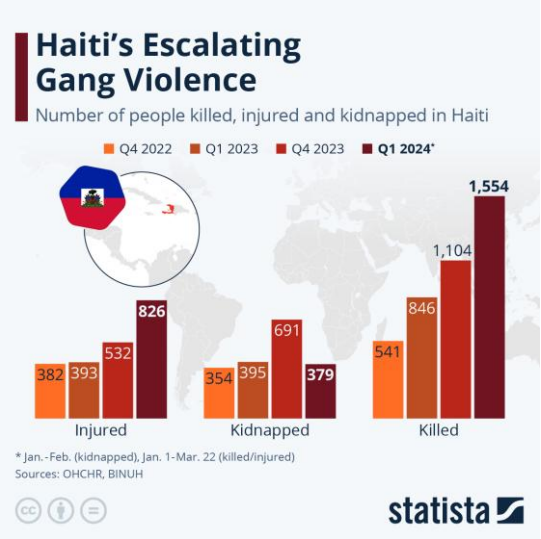

Figure 1: A graph showing all those affected by the gang violence in Haïti

Humanitarian crisis

The crisis that follows from this conflict is the humanitarian crisis on the island. In the last 3 years, the Haïtian population suffered 5 different natural disasters, with 2021 being the origin of 3. The current problem started in this year when in this order a hurricane, an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 and another hurricane hit the country. On July 4 hurricane Elsa dismantled the country. With a mont ro rebuild, one of the largest earthquakes known to Haïti struck the country killing over 2000 people, with more missing, even more injured and the people affected by the earthquake are off the charts. 3 days later hurricane Grace landed and delivered the final blow. In the next 2 years, also because of 2 floods in those years, the population suffered immensely and still there seems to be no way out. A 2024 UN report notes that about 50% of the entire population is affected by the current crisis, with little to no help. The report estimates that a fund of 28 million US dollars is needed to fully help the population, but only 5.2 million has been made secure. This doesn't take into account the difficulties with providing humanitarian aid to the country. Due to the gang violence the UN has many difficulties delivering the humanitarian supplies directly to the ones in need. Because of so many issues in the country the situation in Haïti

Major Parties Involved

Kenya

Kenya has a major stake in the conflict as the main contributor to the UN peacekeeping mission. Nairobi has already deployed 400 troops to the region and has promised to deliver 600 more.

Garry Conille

Garry is the current president of the Haïtian republic. Like many of his predecessors he had a medical career before officially being appointed as prime minister in 2011. He held this position until 2012 when he submitted his resignation. On 28 May he was restored to his role as prime minister after being appointed by the council.

United States of America

The USA is one of the major reasons the conflict spiralled out of control. Firstly the USA deports many of the immigrants who have fled to Florida. Secondly, almost all of the small arms present in the nation originated from the United States.

Dominican Republic

The island of Hispanialo is shared between two nations, Haïti and the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic could be considered as the more stable country, as no real conflict has happened in the last couple of years. The Dominican Republic isn't loved by many Haïtians, as they have chosen to deport most of the Haïtian refugees back to their worn down counterparts.

Timeline of Events

1492	The discovery of Haïti by Columbus. This marked the beginning of Haïtian written history.
1697	The Kingdom of Spain delivers jurisdiction over the western half of Haïti to The Kingdom of France.
January 1st, 1802	The people of Haïti officially declare their independence from The Kingdom of France.
1825	After the war for independence France offered for a debt of 150 million francs the official independence of Haïti. Afterwards the Haïtians agreed and Haïti.
1844	The Spanish part of Hispaniola, the Dominican Republic, broke loose from Haïti and became its own nation.
July 4th-August 17 2022	A hurricane, an earthquake and another hurricane struck Haïti in the span of less than 2 months. Many passed away, were injured or left homeless.
January 31st-	Two major floods hit Haïti once again, just after the rebuilding of the

February 1st 2022 and June 2nd-3rd 2023	island began.
June 25th 2024	The first Kenyan troops arrive in Haïti to help the government protect their people after a recent surge of gang violence

Possible Solutions

Armes smuggling

The main reason the gang violence continues in Haïti is because of the constant supplies of small arms that are being smuggled across the sea borders. Smugglers set sail from the American coasts and traverse the dangerous Caribbean to retrieve huge profits in the gang controlled harbours. Without arms or ammunition, the gangs would lose power quickly and bloodbaths like the one in Pont Sonde wouldn't happen as frequently. To achieve such a high goal, all neighbouring countries would need to contribute, both to patrol the land and sea borders. The United States needs to commit more money and personnel to the coast guard in the seas near Haïti, the Dominican Republic needs to guard their own borders better and other UN states could help Haïti control their own ports.

Humanitarian aid

As stated before there is already a decent amount of humanitarian supplies being delivered to the country. The main problem with this influx of aid, is the problems with delivering it to those in need. Besides gang members interfering with the transport of supplies by abusing their power of the road network, another problem is the accessibility of the towns in need of supplies. Many roads and other supply routes, like airports, have and could be destroyed by natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods. It is of the utmost importance that a solution for the problem is delivered to the Haïtians directly. This can be guarded transport of the supplies or creating new roads, which is part of another important solution to the conflict.

Long Term development

One of the issues that has played a significant part in the situation at hand is the lack of any long term development program that has been put into place. Surrounding islands, nations and neighbours should try to coöperate on a longer time span to ensure the future of the Haitian republic. Countries like the USA could set up development projects and at the same time make promises on the flow of

immigrants to the United States. Secondly more long term investments would revamp the country into a potentially well developed country, which it has all the capabilities for

Gang violence

A lot of the conflict in Haïti can be traced back to one thing, the elephant in the room, gang violence. In the first quarter of 2024 around 4.000 people have been killed or injured, leaving out any victims to sexual abuse, traumes caused by the violence, unreported deaths and any extorted people by those gangs. Solving such a case can become quite complicated, as the risk of harming the local community is quite high

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