


SECURITY REPORT

JANUARY 20TH TO JANUARY 27TH, 2025

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**SWEN YO
GRATIS**

**MEDECINS
SANS FRONTIERES**

PNH Bolsters Ranks with 739 New Officers Amid Growing Challenges

The Haitian National Police (PNH) expanded its ranks with 739 new officers, including 213 women, graduating from the National Police Academy in Pétion-Ville on January 10. This 34th cohort underwent five months of intensive training, with 500 officers slated for specialized units focused on combating gangs. The ceremony was attended by senior Haitian officials, including the President of the Transitional Presidential Council, Leslie Voltaire, and international representatives such as Godfrey Otunge of the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM). The new officers join the PNH at a critical time, as the force addresses limited staffing and resources, as well as rising gang violence.

The PNH's collaboration with the MSSM, which began deployment in 2024, has been central to recent successful operations. The integration of these officers marks a significant step in the PNH's efforts to counter gang activity, restore security, and prepare for constitutional and electoral processes in Haiti.



Médecins Sans Frontières Resumes Emergency Services in Turgeau

After a two-month closure, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reopened its Emergency and Referral Center in Turgeau on Monday, January 20, 2025, resuming its specialized medical and trauma services. The decision follows negotiations with Haitian authorities, who assured MSF of increased protections for ambulances and medical personnel amidst ongoing violence in downtown Port-au-Prince. MSF had suspended its operations in November 2024 after a violent incident involving the Haitian National Police, which highlighted the challenges of operating in the volatile region. While MSF partially resumed services in other areas in December, its leadership continues to call for respect for medical staff, facilities, and patients, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the right to healthcare during this period of heightened insecurity.



Haitians Embrace Sports and Recreation in a Renewed Spirit of Community



In recent weeks, Haitians in the Port-au-Prince area, particularly around Pétion-Ville, have been participating in a variety of organized sports, bringing new energy and positivity to their neighborhoods. From football (soccer) and basketball to tennis matches, these activities have attracted participants ranging from school-aged children to older adults. Many local residents have remarked that such organized recreational activities have not been seen in several years, signaling a hopeful shift in the community's daily life.

This resurgence of recreational activities appears to be closely tied to the Haitian National Police's (PNH) efforts to combat gang activity in several areas of Port-au-Prince. Increased pressure on gangs and the deployment of additional resources by the PNH in these areas have contributed to a greater sense of security, allowing residents to reclaim public spaces for sports and community gatherings. The presence of night-lit soccer fields, a rare sight in recent months, has allowed evening matches to take place, drawing sizable crowds of spectators and players alike.

In speaking with many Haitians, sports serve as a unifying force, offering a much-needed escape from the challenges of daily life. While organized recreational activities and facilities remain limited compared to other countries, the recent resurgence of sports has provided a sense of normalcy and joy. In addition to organized games, informal gatherings for card games, dominoes, and cockfighting—a traditional Sunday pastime in neighborhoods and villages across the country—remain popular. These activities are deeply rooted in Haitian culture and provide opportunities for camaraderie and entertainment.

Gambling often accompanies these gatherings, with considerable sums of money exchanged at events like cockfighting. In many communities, successful trainers become influential figures. Similarly, the street-corner lottery known as borlette is a common form of gambling found throughout Haiti, further emphasizing the cultural connection between recreation and gaming.

This renewed enthusiasm for sports brings hope to communities across Port-au-Prince. The increased efforts by the PNH have been instrumental in making these activities possible, demonstrating how improved security can have a direct and meaningful impact on community life. As night matches continue to light up the fields, they hopefully will symbolize not just a return to normalcy but also a spirit of unity, resilience, and hope in the face of adversity.

Revitalizing Pétion-Ville: Road Repairs and Fiber Optic Expansion Underway

As of January 2025, significant efforts are being made to improve infrastructure and services in several neighborhoods around the Pétion-Ville area of Port-au-Prince. These initiatives include road rehabilitation, cleaning, and pavement repair, as well as the installation of fiber optic cables in surrounding neighborhoods by contractors from the telecommunications sector.

Engineers and technicians from the Ministry of Public Works are working to improve the poor condition of certain road sections. Efforts are underway to fill "potholes" and rehabilitate key streets, including areas near Rue Grégoire, Rue Metellus, and Avenue Panaméricaine. These improvements aim to enhance transportation and ensure safer and smoother commutes for residents and businesses.

Mechanical cleaning and debris removal are ongoing in areas such as Laboule, Juvénat, and parts of Delmas. The teams are also focusing on clearing clogged drainage systems to prevent flooding during heavy rains. In addition, the reprofiling of roads and supply of materials are taking place on steep, heavily trafficked routes like those in Montagne Noire and Bellevue. Concrete reinforcement and drainage upgrades are being carried out on smaller connecting roads to ensure longevity and improved accessibility.

The Ministry of Public Works has also launched cleaning services and manual road maintenance in areas such as Clercine and the DCPJ zone. These efforts include the removal of waste and vegetation encroaching on roads, which has long posed safety hazards to drivers and pedestrians. These combined initiatives signal a major step forward in addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges in the Pétion-Ville area and nearby neighborhoods, with more projects planned for the coming months.

U.S. EMBASSY VEHICLE ATTACKED IN HAITI AMID ESCALATING GANG VIOLENCE

On Monday, January 20, 2025, an armored vehicle belonging to the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince was struck by gang gunfire, resulting in injuries to a Haitian contract employee who works as a gardener in the embassy's housing complex. The injured individual was transported to a medical facility and is in stable condition, according to a spokesperson for the embassy.

A video surfaced that shows a Chevrolet van with several bullet impacts visible, including three on the front windshield and at least two on the driver's side windshield. "They waited until I was almost there and then stepped into the road. At that moment, I maneuvered to avoid them and accelerated," explains a voice-over that appears to belong to the vehicle's driver.

The U.S. Embassy has condemned the increasing gang violence across Port-au-Prince, including these recent attacks. The State Department and the embassy emphasized that the safety of U.S. government personnel and all embassy employees remains their highest priority. However, specific details regarding security measures or related adjustments were not disclosed.

This incident is part of a troubling pattern of attacks targeting U.S. Embassy vehicles in Haiti. In October 2024, two armored vehicles from the embassy were fired upon by gangs, with one vehicle being struck multiple times. Fortunately, no personnel were injured in that incident.

VIV ANSANM POLITICAL PARTY RALLIES AMID PROTESTS ORGANIZED BY GANG LEADERS



On January 24, 2025, reports surfaced detailing demonstrations led by gang leaders affiliated with the "Viv Ansanm Family and Allies Political Party." The first protest, organized by gang leader Chen Mechan in the Santo area, aimed to oppose ongoing Haitian National Police (PNH) operations. The planned route stretched from Shada to Bon Repos, and unconfirmed reports indicated that Chen Mechan had instructed local businesses to close in anticipation of the event. Roadblocks were erected in parts of Santo, particularly between Santo 9 and Santo 15.

Ahead of the demonstration, a flyer attributed to Chen Mechan circulated, urging mass participation. Residents from areas including Croix-des-Missions, Butte Boyer, Damien, Marecage, Fon Kaka, Cazo, Santo, and Marin were called to assemble at the Shada gas station. The flyer condemned alleged abuses committed by PNH's Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, donated by the U.S. government, and appealed to victims of police repression to join the protest. Despite these efforts, Chen Mechan struggled to rally significant support from the local population within his areas of control.

The demonstration proceeded peacefully, with a group of 400 to 500 participants in the La Plaine area led by gang leader Jeff. Protesters carried signs and banners bearing the name "Viv Ansanm Family and Allies Political Party," signaling their allegiance to the gang alliance.

Simultaneously, another protest was led by gang leader Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier in Delmas 24, with an estimated crowd of 2,000 participants. Speaking as the self-proclaimed "President and Spokesperson" of the Viv Ansanm Political Party, Cherizier called for the disbandment of the Transitional Presidential Council (TPC) and the installation of a Supreme Court Judge to oversee the transition. In a video statement, he asserted that the demonstrators were unarmed and emphasized their peaceful intentions to influence regime change. However, Cherizier warned that if the TPC did not step down voluntarily, armed force would be employed to impose a new government.

These demonstrations underline the growing political ambitions of gang leaders associated with the Viv Ansanm alliance and their efforts to influence Haiti's transitional governance amidst ongoing security challenges.



TACTICAL PROCEDURES FOR OPERATING ARMORED VEHICLES IN HAITI

Halo Solutions Firm S.A. would like to provide some tactical considerations for International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Embassies, and private individuals operating armored vehicles in Haiti. It highlights that while armored vehicles enhance safety, they do not offer complete protection against the evolving threats in Haiti's current security environment. Gang attacks on individuals utilizing armored vehicles in Port-au-Prince last week underscore the need for vigilance, preparation, and adaptive strategies.

Operating armored vehicles in Haiti presents unique challenges, as recent incidents have demonstrated. Complex kidnapping-for-ransom (KFR) operations have become more frequent, with attackers using coordinated tactics, including blocking roads with large vehicles, ramming target vehicles, and deploying armed assailants to force occupants out. Surveillance and insider information are often used to facilitate these attacks. Additionally, diplomatic and Honorary Consul vehicles have been targeted in ambushes, resulting in injuries to drivers and passengers despite the use of armored vehicles.

To mitigate these risks, thorough pre-mission planning is essential. Conduct detailed threat assessments and route analyses, monitor recent incidents, and identify high-risk areas. Team briefings should ensure all personnel understand their roles, planned routes, and immediate action drills. Vehicle inspections must confirm the readiness of all equipment, including ballistic glass, run-flat tires, and communication systems.

During operations, maintaining situational awareness is critical. Be vigilant for potential threats, such as suspicious vehicles, blocked roads, or unusual gatherings. Avoid routine patterns by regularly varying routes, times of travel, and vehicle configurations. Where possible, use unmarked or locally common vehicles to blend into traffic and minimize visibility of security measures. Maintain clear and redundant communication with a central operations center or support team to ensure real-time updates and coordination. Traveling in convoys, when feasible, provides mutual assistance and enhances security, though care must be taken to avoid the appearance of a traditional motorcade.

In the event of an ambush or other threats, it is crucial to "get off the X," or move out of the ambush zone immediately. Use evasive driving techniques to escape the danger area. If the vehicle becomes inoperable, evacuate to a safe location using cover and concealment, following pre-planned extraction procedures. If attackers escalate threats, such as attempting to breach the vehicle, maintain composure and use non-lethal measures until forced to exit. Compliance with demands may be necessary to preserve life, allowing security personnel to coordinate recovery efforts.

At venues, identify safe rooms with solid, lockable doors and communication access. Position vehicles discreetly to avoid prolonged visibility near entry or exit points, and coordinate arrivals and departures to minimize exposure time. Conduct After-Action Reviews (AARs) after each mission to identify lessons learned and refine procedures. Report all incidents to the appropriate authorities and update threat assessments accordingly.

Armored vehicles should be carefully selected and maintained. Use vehicles with appropriate armor levels based on the threat environment and rotate vehicles regularly to avoid identification by hostile actors. Integrate communication equipment discreetly and adapt vehicles to blend into the local environment.

Operating armored vehicles in Haiti requires a comprehensive approach that combines vigilance, preparation, and adaptability. By integrating these tactical procedures, organizations can enhance the safety of their personnel while navigating a complex and unpredictable security environment. It is critical to remember that armored vehicles, while valuable, do not offer total protection and must be supported by sound operational practices and situational awareness. Halo Solutions Firm S.A. Protective Operations Division is available for consultations for organizations or personnel operating armored vehicles in Haiti. Consultations include mitigation techniques, case studies, and detailed analyses of tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) that gang members have used to immobilize armored vehicles in Haiti.





INDIAN CONSULATE VEHICLES TARGETED IN HAITI: ONE KILLED, FOUR INJURED

Three vehicles belonging to the Indian Consulate in Haiti were ambushed by armed gangs on the morning of Wednesday, January 21, near the airport road in Port-au-Prince. The attack claimed the life of the consul's assistant and left four others injured. Two of the targeted vehicles were armored and carried diplomatic plates. A family member of the honorary consul, traveling in one of the armored vehicles, sustained a gunshot wound to the leg. Another driver suffered a critical abdominal injury, while a second driver was wounded in the leg and remains in stable condition.

The third vehicle, which was unarmored, faced the most severe assault. A female passenger was fatally shot, while the driver and another passenger managed to escape before the car was set ablaze. The survivors, both injured, later sought medical assistance at La Paix Hospital, located nearby.

THE PERILOUS JOURNEY TO HAITI'S SOUTHERN PENINSULA

Traveling to the southern regions of Haiti, such as Jacmel and Les Cayes, has become an arduous and dangerous ordeal. What was once a relatively straightforward journey now requires travelers to navigate treacherous terrain, makeshift toll stations, and high security risks. With the main route through Martissant and Gressier under the control of armed gangs, travelers are forced to take alternative paths, such as the winding and hazardous Morne Ka Jacques or Degan routes. These roads, often washed out or blocked by landslides, are nearly impassable for standard vehicles, let alone fully armored ones, leaving motorcycles and specialized off-road vehicles as the only viable options.

The journey is fraught with logistical and financial challenges. Travelers often encounter locals demanding "voluntary contributions" at numerous makeshift toll stations along the route. Armed with sticks or machetes, these individuals block the road until payments are made, adding to the already steep transportation costs, which can exceed 16,000 gourdes for a round trip from Port-au-Prince to Tiburon. Additionally, sections of the route require travelers to disembark from their vehicles and cross ravines on foot or horseback, further complicating the journey and increasing vulnerability to theft or assault.

Security concerns along these alternative routes are a constant threat. Banditry is rampant, with reports of robberies and attacks on vehicles, especially in remote areas where police presence is nonexistent. Prison escapees from recent jailbreaks have reportedly established themselves along some routes, preying on travelers. The lack of infrastructure and law enforcement, coupled with the dangers posed by unregulated drivers and precarious road conditions, leaves travelers exposed to both criminal activity and accidents. Medical facilities are scarce, further heightening the risks of traveling in these regions.

While many expatriates and organizational leaders look at a map and see what appears to be a viable route to Haiti's southern peninsula via National Route #1 to avoid gang-controlled areas leaving Port-au-Prince, Halo Solutions Firm S.A. strongly advises against any attempts to use these paths. The firm emphasizes the extreme dangers of these routes and recommends exclusively utilizing air travel options for safe access to Haiti's southern regions. Without significant investments in road infrastructure, security, and law enforcement, the southern peninsula remains largely cut off, forcing residents and travelers alike to face extraordinary challenges to access this vital part of the country.



SPIRIT AIRLINES TO RESUME FORT LAUDERDALE-CAP-HAÏTIEN FLIGHTS IN MARCH 2025

Spirit Airlines will resume its direct flights between Fort Lauderdale (FLL) and Cap-Haïtien on March 5, 2025, after a suspension that began in November 2024 due to security concerns at Port-au-Prince's Toussaint Louverture International Airport. This relaunch restores a critical connection for travelers between northern Haiti and the United States, particularly for the Haitian diaspora relying on Fort Lauderdale as a major transit hub. Reservations for the route are now open, marking a significant step toward revitalizing air travel between Haiti and the U.S.



HAITI'S MULTINATIONAL SECURITY SUPPORT MISSION: PROGRESS AMID GANG CHALLENGES

In response to escalating violence and instability, the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) was established in October 2023 through a United Nations Security Council resolution and began its deployment in June 2024 under Kenyan leadership.

Currently, the MSSM comprises fewer than 1,000 police officers and military personnel, primarily Kenyan police, with smaller contingents from Guatemala, El Salvador, The Bahamas, Jamaica, and Belize. Despite its smaller-than-anticipated size, the force is expected to expand to 2,500 personnel. Progress, although incremental, is evident in several critical areas. One notable success is the establishment of a Forward Operating Base in Delmas 2, strategically located near a compound formerly controlled by gang leader Jimmy Cherizier. Cherizier, aka BBQ, has taken refuge in the La Saline area in the port district of Wharf Jeremie under the control of gang leader Micanor Altès. Additionally, MSSM forces have assisted in operations that have disrupted gang movements and reasserted Haitian National Police (PNH) presence in areas previously overrun by criminal groups, showcasing their growing coordination and effectiveness.

Another significant achievement is the reopening of the Haitian National Police (PNH) academy. Previously under the control of the Kraze Baryé gang, led by Vitel'Homme Innocent of the Viv Ansanm Alliance, this facility had been inaccessible for over a year, halting police training and recruitment. After its reclamation, the academy has resumed full operations, recently graduating 739 new officers. This milestone represents a substantial step forward in bolstering the PNH's capacity to combat gang violence and restore stability in the country.

Additionally, security forces, supported by the MSSM, have made advances in the Artibonite department. Several neighborhoods, once controlled by armed groups, are now under PNH authority, further demonstrating the mission's impact. These achievements mark meaningful progress in Haiti's journey toward stability, even as the nation continues to face significant challenges from entrenched gang control and limited security resources.

KENSCOFF IMPLEMENTS SECURITY MEASURES AMID GANG THREATS

On January 24, 2025, the Mayor of Kenscoff announced the implementation of strict security measures aimed at safeguarding the town's population amidst escalating gang threats. These measures include the suspension of all cultural activities and the prohibition of motorcycle traffic from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Clubs, boutiques, and bars are required to cease operations by 8:00 p.m., and individuals must carry valid identification at all times, as law enforcement will conduct routine checks. A curfew from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. was also established, allowing only police, ambulances, and municipal vehicles to circulate during this period. Citizens were urged to remain vigilant and assist the authorities in their security efforts.

The measures followed credible reports of a coordinated gang plot targeting Kenscoff, Fort Jacques, and Laboule 12 during the night of January 23-24. Approximately 75-100 armed individuals, allegedly under the direction of Dimitry Hérard and other collaborators, were said to have planned attacks involving small groups traveling by motorcycle from Pétienville to avoid detection. The gang's objectives included seizing the Kenscoff police station, isolating roads to the southeastern region, and launching simultaneous attacks on other critical areas. Reinforcements from other gangs were reportedly mobilized, with leaders Vitelhomme and Ti Lapli assigned specific targets in Fort Jacques and Fermathe. Credible intelligence indicates that Kenscoff remains under imminent threat.

On the morning of January 27, reports emerged of a coordinated assault by armed groups encircling Kenscoff. One group was advancing towards Bélot via Taïfer, while another positioned itself at Carrefour Berth, moving towards Godet. At 7:10 a.m., heavy gunfire was reported in the Clemenceau area, west of Bélot, with videos circulating that captured the gunfire, which lasted for over 30 minutes and was audible from Fermathe to Thomassin 36, located across from Clemenceau. By 7:48 a.m., sources confirmed an ongoing attack by gang members in Godet. Additional reports indicated that approximately 60 heavily armed individuals were spotted on the Furcy road heading toward Kenscoff, effectively encircling the commune. Armed groups were also reported at Carrefour Bet.

KENSCOFF IMPLEMENTS SECURITY MEASURES AMID GANG THREATS (CONTINUED)

At 11:00 a.m., HALO Solutions Firm S.A. received reports that the Haitian National Police (PNH) had deployed several specialized units to Kenscoff, located in the West Department, to conduct operations aimed at tracking down and neutralizing armed individuals attempting to destabilize the area. By midday, the PNH was actively engaging gang members in the mountainous regions. Reports indicated that several gang members had been killed, while others were in hiding.

Clashes were reported in Godet and Bélot, with gang members attempting to establish illegal tolls along the Seguin route. Unconfirmed reports suggest that gang members may have established a base near the Douglas Pape farm in the Bélot area. In response, local residents in Kenscoff have armed themselves with clubs and edged weapons to support the PNH and reinforce the local police commissariat. Additionally, reports indicate vigilante actions, with citizens resorting to "Bwa Kale" lynchings of captured gang members.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF A 90-DAY SUSPENSION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO HAITI

The recent decision by the Trump administration to issue a 90-day suspension of foreign aid under the Executive Order on Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid poses a significant threat to the progress achieved in Haiti. While intended to ensure that aid aligns with American foreign policy, this abrupt halt in funding risks undermining critical initiatives, particularly those aimed at strengthening the Haitian National Police (PNH) and combating armed gangs. Such a pause could have dire consequences, reversing hard-earned gains and destabilizing an already fragile nation.

BREAKING MOMENTUM IN LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

The U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) plays an essential role in equipping and training the Haitian National Police. Over the years, this support has included providing night vision goggles, firearms, and specialized SWAT training—all of which have been instrumental in countering the growing power of organized gangs in Haiti. The PNH has made measurable progress, reclaiming control of key areas such as the police academy and conducting operations that disrupted armed groups in Artibonite and other regions. These successes, achieved through sustained international support, have demonstrated the PNH's growing effectiveness and capacity to address complex threats.

However, a 90-day pause in funding would jeopardize this momentum. Essential supplies such as ammunition, which the U.S. provided last year, are critical to maintaining operational readiness. Delayed disbursement of funds for ongoing training programs could erode the PNH's ability to confront well-armed and organized gangs. Furthermore, a lapse in funding risks damaging morale among officers and weakening public confidence in the police force. Without continuous support, the PNH could lose the hard-fought gains it has made, leaving communities vulnerable to further violence and undermining efforts to restore stability in the region.

IMPACT ON BROADER SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN GOALS

The suspension of U.S. aid extends beyond law enforcement and affects critical humanitarian initiatives. Haiti, already grappling with severe challenges, relies heavily on foreign assistance to address pressing needs in healthcare, education, and disaster response. For instance, U.S. aid has been pivotal in combating diseases like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, providing life-saving treatments through programs such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Any disruption in funding for these initiatives could exacerbate existing health crises and reverse years of progress in reducing infection rates and improving access to care.

The halt in aid also risks aggravating Haiti's political instability. A secure and functioning government is vital for implementing reforms and fostering economic growth, but without U.S. support, Haiti's ability to hold credible elections and strengthen democratic institutions may falter. This instability could ripple throughout the region, fueling migration crises and creating opportunities for transnational criminal networks to expand their influence. The U.S. has long recognized the strategic importance of Haiti's stability to the broader security of the Western Hemisphere, and a temporary pause in aid undermines these efforts.

HERO EMERGENCY HELICOPTER SERVICES: RELIABLE AIR TRANSPORT IN CRISIS

In the face of Haiti's ongoing challenges, HERO Client Rescue stands as your trusted partner for secure, rapid, and efficient air transportation. With airport closures and escalating crises, HERO is here to prioritize your safety and urgent needs.

Our Services

- **Flight Operations:** Monday through Friday, with private charters available on weekends.
- **Flight Frequency:** 1–5 flights daily, averaging 4 flights per day.
- **Destinations:**
 - **Primary Departure:** Pétiion-Ville Club, less than a mile from Hotel Montana.
 - **Arrival:** Cap-Haïtien International Airport.
 - **Additional Route:** Flights between Cap-Haïtien (CAP) and Port-au-Prince (PAP) areas.

Key Details

- **Cost:** \$2,500 per person (invoiced after completing the request form).
- **Baggage Allowance:** 20 lbs in a backpack-style bag only (no carry-ons or luggage).
- **Scheduling:** Confirmations provided a few days in advance, pending permit approval.
- **No Refund Policy:** All payments are final—no exceptions.

Priority Services

- **Urgent Medical Cases:** These are our highest priority to ensure life-saving interventions when every second counts.

Landing Zones (LZ)

- **Primary LZ:** Located in Pétiion-Ville. Specific details shared after payment for security reasons.

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- **Unparalleled access** to key destinations during emergencies.
- **Commitment to safety, security, and efficiency.**

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