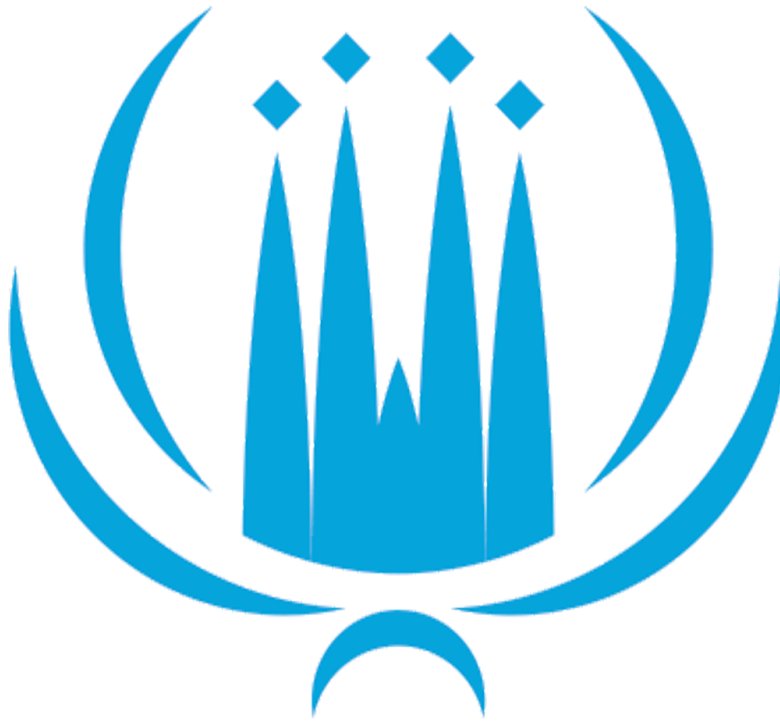




Security Council

BCNMUN 2026

From Crisis to Cooperation:
Navigating Instability in a Globalized World

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Topic: Addressing the role of externally sourced arms trafficking in fueling state instability in Haiti

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Introduction

Often, intra-state conflicts are overlooked because they occur outside global view, and Haiti is a clear example of this. In the years since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, Haiti has had no democratically elected president or legislature and no functioning national army, and its police force is outgunned by heavily armed non-state actors. By definition, these conditions classify Haiti as a fragile state. Yet was Haiti's collapse caused by its own internal failures, by actions of foreign powers, or by a combination of both?

Haiti's collapse did not happen overnight. It is the effect of the buildup of decades of political instability, colonial exploitation, the debt imposed by France, economic suffering, natural disasters, poor institutions, and negative foreign intervention. The power that non-state groups hold in Haiti is rooted in the continued tolerance of their involvement in political disputes. This pattern runs from the Duvalier dictatorships that relied on militias to maintain control to the present day, where gang leaders such as Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier and his gang, G9 Families and Allies, control large parts of the country. Haiti's instability is therefore the product of extended tolerance of non-state armed groups and a combination of weak governance and foreign interference. Many years of debt and financial pressure left many institutions in Haiti underdeveloped, putting Haiti in a vulnerable position as they tried to develop on their own after being colonized.

Today, non-state armed groups such as the G9 rule the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, and other regions, using illegally trafficked firearms that mostly originate from the United States. These groups use weapons to intimidate and maintain power, using violence as a tool preventing foreign intervention. Instances such as the shutdown of the airport and port in 2024 by the non-state groups demonstrate the extent of their power and the scale of the threat that is presented by them. Resolving Haiti's situation

requires stopping the flow of illicit weapons into Haiti and also strengthening Haiti's ability to govern itself and provide security.

Definition of Key Terms

Non-State Actors

A non-state actor is an individual, organization, or group that holds significant military, social, or political power but is not formally part of or controlled by any state. In Haiti, examples of non-state actors include gang coalitions like the G9, led by Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier, a former police officer who turned into a gang leader and now leads the Viv Ansanm coalition and is under UN sanctions.

Failed State

The most extreme form of state fragility. A state that has disintegrated to the point where the central government has completely lost its power over maintaining security or enforcing the law through police and military and no longer has effective authority over its territory. In Haiti illicit arms trafficking has allowed armed gangs to outgun Haitian National police and assume control of vital infrastructure, such as the port and much of the capital, sparking the argument that Haiti is headed toward failed-state status.

State Fragility

A condition where a government has severely limited capacity to act due to weak institutions, which undermine their legitimacy, making it unable to protect its population efficiently due to struggles in managing conflict and delivering basic public services. In Haiti, fragility is caused by a combination of factors, including prolonged political instability, lack of elected leadership, and the influx of illicit weapons.

Arms Embargo

A legal restriction or ban that prohibits the sale, supply, or transfer of weapons, ammunition, and military equipment to a specific country, group, or entity. UN Security Council resolutions block states from sending arms shipments to Haiti, with exceptions to authorized forces; however, smuggling of these arms continues and bypasses this restriction.

Straw Purchasing

An illegal practice where an individual with a clean background buys firearms legally on behalf of someone else who is prohibited from owning them or wants to hide their identity. This is the primary

method used in the U.S. states like Florida with weaker gun laws to get high-caliber rifles. Straw buyers obtain them and smuggle them to Haitian gangs in maritime cargo.

Impunity

The freedom or escape from punishment, legal consequences, or accountability for criminal actions and human rights violations. The illegal arms networks in Haiti thrive due to impunity as Haitian judicial systems are paralyzed.

Background Information

Historical Background Information

Haiti's instability is no new issue; its origins can be traced back to the colonial era after Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492, claiming the island of Hispaniola. The modern republic of Haiti is located in the western third of Hispaniola, while the Dominican Republic occupies the other two-thirds in the east. When the Spanish arrived at the island, they were driven by the hunt for precious metals, and Hispaniola simply didn't have as much gold or silver as they wanted. Spain therefore redirected its interest towards the east and the mainland, leaving the western part of Hispaniola largely neglected for over a century. Many years of being left alone allowed outsiders to move in, as French settlers created bases and gradually built the plantations on the western coast. The Treaty of Ryswick (1697), which ended the Nine Years' War, formally recognized the western third of Hispaniola as French.

Once France controlled the territory and began exercising their power, the beginning of Haiti's long-term instability was formed. Through the plantations the colony's economy began growing around sugar, coffee, indigo, and cotton. The colony's profit depended on importing enslaved Africans and forcing them to work under extreme conditions. Death rates were so high that new enslaved people had to be purchased constantly to sustain production. By the late 1700s, the French colony of Saint-Domingue was generating so much wealth that at the time it was producing roughly 40% of Europe's sugar and 60% of its coffee¹. That profit depended on extreme violence to keep the system running, and this violence created the conditions for the revolution.

¹ "Haiti (Saint-Domingue)." *Slavery and Remembrance*, <https://slaveryandremembrance.org/articles/article/?id=A0111>. Accessed 21 September 2026.

The revolution began in August 1791 with a coordinated violent slave uprising. This revolution was inspired by the French Revolution occurring in France since 1789, which mattered enormously for two main reasons. First, colonial administration was weakened since French authorities were distracted and too occupied with their own political chaos in their country. Second, the French Revolution introduced revolutionary language about liberty and equality that enslaved people in Saint-Domingue directly connected to and applied to their own situation even though French revolutionaries initially had no intention of including the enslaved people of Saint Domingue. The same ideology that France used to justify overthrowing its own monarchy was the same ideology used to overthrow France's colonial systems in Saint-Domingue.

The uprising turned into a multi-sided war. Rival colonies, Spain and Britain, saw France's colony destabilize and sent their own forces to try to seize Saint-Domingue amid the chaos, consequently increasing the instability. Then, Napoleon Bonaparte sent a large expeditionary force to Saint-Domingue to attempt to restore slavery, which had been abolished by that point. Jean-Jacques Dessalines, leader of revolutionary forces, declared independence on January 1, 1804, renaming the colony Haiti and making it the first nation founded by formerly enslaved people and the second independent state in the Americas after the US.

Even after independence, Haiti's transition wasn't an easy one. Every major slaveholding power, including France, the United States, Britain, and Spain, refused to recognize Haiti's independence for years after 1804. For major powers at the time, a nation founded by formerly enslaved people who had defeated their masters using military forces was a direct threat to every other economy that was based on slavery. Recognizing Haiti could risk that these slaveholding powers experience revolts themselves. This circumstance isolated Haiti economically, as the state couldn't trade freely or borrow internationally, weakening it further and preventing any possible independent growth. In July 1825 France sent a fleet to Haitian waters to inform that France would recognize Haitian independence only if Haiti agreed to pay 150 million gold francs as compensation to former French colonists and slaveholders for their "lost property," which under the old colonial legal code included the enslaved people themselves. They did this fully aware of Haiti's weak financial situation. This was Haiti's independence indemnity. Eventually the fleet left as Haiti had no other option but to comply.

The debt became permanent; it was the reason behind the prolonged instability that Haiti has faced. Haiti, coming out of years of being colonized and recently independent, didn't have 150 million francs. Unable to pay the indemnity from its own resources, Haiti was forced to borrow from French banks, creating

what is known as a “double debt” since it created an additional debt over the original one. This made this damage permanent, as for over a century Haiti was trapped in a cycle of debt refinancing with French financial institutions. The final full-filled payment was completed by 1947. This means that Haiti spent 122 years using the majority of the money the nation made through crops, for example, legally obligated to leave the country. Besides this, the debt impacted the country in other ways; Haiti became underdeveloped. It's not a coincidence that schools, hospitals, the government, or in general any institutions stayed weak, as all the money that could've been utilized to build and develop them was instead prioritized to be used to pay off the debt.

While Haiti was still paying off the debt to France, their financial issues included American banks too, as they had bought up portions of Haiti's debt. When President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam was assassinated, in the resulting political chaos, the U.S. sent Marines to occupy Haiti. The United States goal was to restore order and protect financial interest, the portion of the debt they owned. The occupation lasted until 1934, critics argue that the occupation weakened Haitian political autonomy and contributed to long-term institutional patterns. The US took control of Haitian revenue and imposed a new constitution to allow foreign land ownership and used a forced labor system to build roads and infrastructure. They did this by dissolving Haiti's legislature that refused to approve the new constitutions. It also laid the foundations of the militarized state that Haiti is now by creating a new centralized police force, the Gendarmerie d'Haïti, which later became the Haitian military.²

The Duvalier dictatorships from 1957 to 1986 are significant too when looking at the loss of the Haitian government, forces used at the time are crucial in understanding where the power of non-state actors in Haiti came from. François “Papa Doc” Duvalier won the presidency in 1957 and in little time converted it into a dictatorship, ruling and maintaining his power by imposing fear through methods like a private paramilitary force called the Tonton Macoutes, who operated outside formal law enforcement and targeted anyone who politically opposed Duvalier. In 1964, he declared himself president for life until he died in 1971, when his son Jean-Claude “Baby Doc” Duvalier inherited his role and became president and attempted to continue the same repressive system that his father had been working through. However, an uprising forced him to flee the country in 1986. It's important to note that Duvalier was able to have total control because he had total control of the centralized militarized institutions that were built under US occupation, and the use of paramilitary groups under the Duvaliers provides an important historical precedent for understanding the role of armed non-state groups in Haiti today.. After Baby Doc's fall, it

² “US Occupation of Haiti, 1915-1934.” *Naval History and Heritage Command*.
[https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/us-occupattoday.Theion-of-haiti-1915-1934.html](https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/u/us-occupattoday/Theion-of-haiti-1915-1934.html).

ended 30 years of dictatorship, and Haiti had no functioning democratic tradition and was accustomed to repression rather than governance.

Current Situation in the World

Between 1986 and 2021, Haiti has cycled through repeated coups, disputed elections, and attempts to create a democracy, but yet without ever producing a government that lasted long enough or even had enough institutional independence and power to break the country's deepened older patterns. Jovenel Moïse was elected in 2016 in a low-turnout vote and received fraud allegations. He ruled increasingly by decree by 2021, meaning that he made and passed laws directly, ignoring an official process, as well as avoiding holding official legislative elections, which weakened the parliament, leaving it no longer existing and with the power concentrated almost entirely in his presidency. This was detrimental since it meant that there was no functioning, existing legislative body in Haiti that could manage succession after Moïse.

In July 2021, armed non-state actors stormed President Jovenel Moïse's residence and assassinated him. Moïse had been ruling by decree with no parliament; his death didn't simply mean the loss of a president; it meant the removal of the only type of governmental authority in the country with no systems in place to fill his vacancy. That is the direct answer to why Haiti has no elected head of state or government: the death of President Moïse abolished the governmental systems in the country.

In the aftermath, Ariel Henry, whom Moïse had named prime minister only two days before his death, assumed leadership with international backing, particularly the US, even though he had not been officially elected and was never confirmed by a parliament, since it didn't exist. Henry held power for three years with a weak legitimacy, which was his biggest weakness and a major reason why gangs were able to expand aggressively during that time, as there was no strong authority to push back. The fragility became relevant in February and early March 2024 when coordinated gang attacks seized the capital while Henry was abroad in Kenya negotiating international security support. Due to his inability to return safely, he announced on March 11, 2024, that he would resign once a transitional authority was established. The Transitional Presidential Council (TPC) was seated in April 2024 to govern and organize elections. This council struggled with the same legitimacy problem that persisted through all authoritarian figures; the TPC had corruption allegations, and no elections were actually held. When the TPC's mandate ended in February 2026, it handed all executive power to Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé who is backed by

the U.S.³. Even after five years after Moïse's death, Haiti has yet not had anyone replace him that was actually chosen by its own citizens.

The rise of gangs and armed non-state actors is the central idea to the conflict. On one side, Gran Grif was founded in 2016 by a former member of parliament named Prophane Victor with the purpose of controlling the votes during the elections at the time and intimidating their opponents. Then G9 Families and Allies was founded in 2020 by Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier, uniting nine existing gangs. The G9 had been reported to have ties to Moïse's presidency; they were used to also intimidate Moïse's opponents and to suppress protest. Originally the gangs served as political instruments, the thing that the assassination did do, though, is remove the political figures that controlled them, giving them full independence to evolve into the violent forces that they are currently. They could do this because as soon as the last governmental figure was removed, the gangs kept the weapons and territory. The turning point in the rise of the independent, violent power these gangs obtained was the formation of Viv Ansanm when the gangs G9 Families and Allies and its former rival G-Pèp merged to overthrow the prime minister's government, Ariel Henry. The unification of those two major gangs increased their overall power and legitimacy as they became a coordinated force instead of scattered criminal groups. Within months of their formation, they proceeded with attacks on much of Haiti's critical infrastructure, including the Toussaint Louverture International Airport and the Port-au-Prince seaport that was seized, and gave gangs direct control over the channels that are used to smuggle their own weapons. This way, they could control who left and entered the country and conduct illegal arms trafficking with impunity. Besides this, many prisons were also broken open, releasing thousands of inmates, increasing the presence and the strength of gangs and violence. Police stations and hospitals were heavily targeted too, which crumbled any security or health emergency response the country had left. As of 2025, coalition gangs control an estimated 85% of metropolitan Port-au-Prince⁴, functioning as the de facto governing authority. They collect money at checkpoints and control movement through neighborhoods, seeming as an effort to replace the state in the capital. The arms are often also used to intimidate civilians to maintain their influence and power in the state. The continuous influx of weapons has therefore made organized crime way more than just a domestic security concern.

The arms trafficking and US weapons that arrive in Haiti may be one of the most critical mechanisms that fuel gangs and help them hold their power. Haiti itself has no domestic arms industry, so every weapon that has been fueling the current conflict is externally sourced. The Department of Justice's Bureau of

³ "July 2026 Monthly Forecast." *Security Council Report*, <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2026-07/haiti-35.php>.

⁴ Garten, Mark. "How Haiti paid for its freedom – twice over." *UN News*, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/04/1162406>. Accessed 21 September 2026.

Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) has released data that shows the US was the source of roughly 5,399 out of 7,399 firearms recovered and traced across Caribbean countries between 2018 and 2022 ⁵. Since 2021, UNODC has reported that these gangs' arms supply is improving and has moved from basic handguns to AR-15s and AK-47s, along with more, outgunning the underfunded Haitian National Police and the GSF. The UNODC also has identified a few main smuggling routes, including two originating in Florida by cargo ship that go either directly to Port-au-Prince or indirectly through the Bahamas and other places to the north coast, and also container and fishing ships. Miami is another source too, but the weapons are far too concealed in other cargo and are hard to find even after the US has increasingly done much more inspections in the last years. Large shipments continue to pass by, like the one found in January 2026 in Cap-Haïtien, recovering ammunition and arms that had arrived directly from the U.S. What helps these systems continue is straw purchasing; the effectiveness of the embargo is lost if straw purchasing continues.

The consequences of Haiti's current situation are seen in the amount of displacement that has occurred. As of June 2026, Haiti's displacement crisis hit a record of 1.5 million people) as people continue to flee areas that were previously considered safe, ⁶ meaning that the situation or the amount of safety in the country seems to only worsen. More than 500,000 children in gang-controlled areas are increasing their risk of recruitment at a young age. The block of ports and airports has caused food and fuel prices to go up exponentially as goods stop entering the country. This pushes basic goods that civilians need out of reach. Kidnappings, sexual violence, killings, and the use of violence to terrorize people are daily occurrences in the country by both gangs and other violent actors.

Major Countries and Organisations Involved

Haiti

Haiti lies at the center of this issue, as it is both the destination of the illicit arms trafficking and the state whose institutions have most severely been weakened by their circulation. Decades of political instability, economic stress, natural disasters, corruption, and repeated foreign intervention by the United States and France had already left the country with extremely fragile institutions before the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021, which was the tipping point into the dismantling of the Haitian government. Without an elected president or functioning parliament, the Haitian National Police became the country's primary security force despite being significantly underfunded and outgunned by criminal

⁵ "Caribbean Firearms: Agencies Have Anti-Trafficking Efforts in Place, But State Could Better Assess Activities | U.S. GAO." *Government Accountability Office (GAO)*, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-25-107007>. Accessed 21 September 2026.

⁶ "Haiti's Displacement Crisis Hits Record 1.5 Million Amid Escalating Violence." *IOM UN Immigration*, 2026, <https://www.iom.int/news/haitis-displacement-crisis-hits-record-15-million-amid-escalating-violence>.

organizations, or, in other words, armed non-state actors. In the present time, gang coalitions control large parts of Haiti. The human cost of the conflict is an important factor too, as it has led to the large number of displaced Haitians and children at risk of being in gang-controlled areas. Haiti has made it clear that it requires and asks for international support.

The United States of America

The United States plays one of the most influential but also most complicated roles in Haiti's security crisis because it is both Haiti's largest international partner and a leading source of the firearms used by armed gangs that fuel the instability in the country. Investigations conducted by the United Nations and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have repeatedly shown that many weapons recovered in Haiti were originally purchased in states such as Florida through straw purchasers before being hidden in shipping containers and transported illegally through the Caribbean. When these successfully arrive in Haiti, these firearms significantly increase the capabilities of gangs, allowing them to overpower the Haitian National Police and maintain control through violence and fear. After recognizing this, the United States has imposed sanctions on gang leaders and expanded cooperation with Caribbean customs authorities. The U.S. has provided financial and logistical support for international security operations too. However, critics argue that the weaknesses in domestic firearm regulations continue to allow the trafficking networks to operate. The U.S. has a long history with Haiti, having occupied it previously and taken control of its finances.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is Haiti's only neighboring country, as they share an island, putting it in a very dire situation where the Dominican Republic has experienced the immediate regional consequences of Haiti's security situation that continues to deteriorate. The continued expansion of gang-controlled territories has increased migration and cross-border crime. Since tourism is one of the Dominican Republic's major economic sectors, insecurity next door also threatens its reputation as a safe destination so the impact goes beyond security concerns. This has put humanitarian pressures along the island, encouraging the Dominican government to reinforce their border through more military deployment and the construction of a border wall. Although most illicit firearms enter Haiti through maritime trafficking rather than across the land border, dominant authorities continue to confiscate illegal material and to cooperate with international bodies to prevent the expansion of this trafficking on the rest of the island. At the same time, the Dominican Republic has repeatedly urged the international community to assume a

greater responsibility to stabilize Haiti, arguing that the crisis is not purely a domestic issue but has become a threat to general Caribbean security.

Kenya

Kenya has emerged as one of the leading international actors that have actively attempted to restore security in Haiti through its leadership of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission. The MSS is a multinational police mission authorized by the UN Security Council led independently by Kenya with the financial and logistical assistance provided by several partner states. Additionally, Kenyan police officers have been deployed to support the Haitian National Police in the protection of key infrastructure and conducting anti-gang operations. The police remain outgunned by the gangs, limiting the effectiveness of conventional policing methods. The MSS was far too small and based on police forces rather than militaries to support the Haitian National Police instead of combating the gangs. It also never reached its authorized size of 2,500 due to lack of funds. Kenya's involvement therefore proves that Haiti is actively growing international recognition, and the fact that Haiti's instability can no longer be resolved through domestic action is known.

France

France's involvement or role in Haiti's instability takes a greater role in historical times than present times but is yet a key factor in where Haiti is today. They remain important actors because many structural weaknesses affecting Haiti today can be traced back to a colonial period. The independence indemnity France imposed in 1825 left Haiti in debt for over a century and weakened its institutions. Although France has since then provided humanitarian help and subordinated any international stabilization efforts, the long-term consequences of the indemnity persist. The postcolonial conditions created the vulnerabilities that non-state groups exploit, such as weak political institutions, making France's role extremely relevant when examining and finding out the deeper root causes of Haiti's state fragility.

United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH)

The UN's previous major presence in Haiti was the peacekeeping mission United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) from 2004 to 2017. Since then it has coordinated its efforts through BINUH, a political mission established in 2019 to strengthen democratic governance and support the rule of law in Haiti, with the promotion of human rights.

United Nations Support Office for Haiti (UNSOH)

A UN body created by Resolution 2793 (2025) to handle logistics and operational support for the Gang Suppression Force (GSF) created to replace the MSS. It exists so the force doesn't depend on voluntary funding the way that MSS did, so it doesn't fail in the same manner as the MSS.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of Event
1697	The Treaty of Ryswick was made, ending the Nine Years' War and formally recognizing French control over the western third of Hispaniola, creating the colony of Saint-Domingue. This would lead to France's plantation economy based off slavery that would define and impact the region for the next hundred years
August 1791	The Haitian revolution began as enslaved people came together and began a coordinated uprising in the northern plains of the colony and killed slaveholders. This was influenced or sparked by the ideas that emerged during the French Revolution. It evolved into a nearly 13-year, multi-sided war against colonial and also foreign forces
January 1 1804	Haitian independence was finally achieved, which is to say, by Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who declared independence after defeating Napoleon's expeditionary force, making Haiti the first nation founded by formerly enslaved people and the second independent state in the Americas.
April to July 1825	France's independence debt was created. The

	French threatened Haiti that they had to compensate for lost property by paying 150 million francs in order to be recognized by them. President Boyer of Haiti agreed to these conditions, and the debt wasn't fully repaid until 1947, deeply harming Haitian development during the time the debt lasted.
1915-1934	After the assassination of President Vilbrun Guillaume Sam, the US occupation occurred. The US marines occupied Haiti and took control of its finances and also created a police force that later became the Haitian military and also became a key tool for Duvalier's dictatorships.
1957-1986	During these years the Duvalier's dictatorships, father and son, occurred. François "Papa Doc" and later Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier ruled with the use of fear and relied on a private paramilitary group named Tonton Macoutes. Established a historical precedent for politically connected armed violence, although contemporary gangs are not institutionally identical to them.
2016	The Gran Grif, a non-state armed group, was formed by a former member of the country's parliament named Prophane Victor to secure electoral and political control. It is now led by Luckson Elan and is violent, as any other groups in the state are at the moment.
2020	One of the major non-state armed groups was founded and named G9 Family and Allies. Jimmy "Barbecue" Chérizier united nine gangs into the G9 coalition with ties to networks that were

	connected to the then president Jovenel Moïse.
July 7, 2021	President Jovenel Moïse was killed at his home by a group that included Colombian mercenaries. Since he had been ruling by decree with no functioning parliament, his death eliminated the country's only source of existing governmental authority, with no way of succession after him. Moïse appointed Ariel Henry to be the prime minister a few days before his death.
Sept 2023-February 29, 2024	The Viv Ansanm coalition was formed. G9 and rival coalition G-Pèp came together and merged into Viv Ansanm, which unified the capital's gangs into a coordinated united force that had the explicit goal of overthrowing Ariel Henry's government, since he had never been officially elected.
March 11, 2024	Ariel Henry announced his resignation after Viv Ansanm coordinated the attack, seized Port-au-Prince, and stormed the main airport while Henry was abroad. Henry agreed to resign if a transitional authority was established.
April 2024	The Transitional Presidential Council (TPC) was seated, which was a nine-member council that took power to govern and organize elections. However, they struggled with corruption allegations and lacked legitimacy, as they never held any elections.
May 2 2025	The US designated Viv Ansanm and Gran Grif as terrorist organizations, which meant they froze assets and criminalized financial support for the

two dominant gang coalitions. This was a major escalation in the US policy response.

September 30, 2025 to April 2026

Resolution 2793 authorized the larger and heavier military heavy Gang Suppression Force (GSF) to replace the Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support mission (MSS), which fully withdrew by April 27, 2026.

Relevant UN Treaties and Resolutions

UNSC resolution 2653, 2022

This resolution was adopted unanimously. This was the very first resolution that created Haiti's first sanctions. It imposed a targeted travel ban, a freeze of assets and arms, and an embargo, but only on specific individuals and entities that were named by the UN sanction committee. It was not a ban for the entire country. It also established a panel of experts to monitor the implementation of such sanctions and to offer or comment on who should be added to the sanctions list as we move forward. Every later Haiti resolution builds on this one or just renews it.

UNSC resolution 2699, 2023

The resolution authorized the Kenyan MSS mission, letting member states form and export a non-UN force made up of mostly multinational police forces to support the Haitian National Police when counteracting gangs and protecting important infrastructure in the state, which was initially authorized for 12 months. It also expanded on the 2653 resolution arms embargo from targeting only named individuals to, instead, making it a territorial embargo covering small arms and light weapons entering Haiti in general. This mission was funded by voluntary contributions instead of the UN's budget, which unfortunately led to it being extremely underfunded.

UNSC resolution 2793, 2025

This resolution authorized the Gang Suppression Force (GSF) as a larger and more aggressive replacement to the MSS. It included a 5,500-person force made of mostly military soldiers rather than police, with also a bigger focus on directly neutralizing gangs and not just supporting the Haitian police. They also aimed to protect infrastructure. It also created the UN Support Office in Haiti (UNSOH) to handle logistics and the operations of the new force.

UNSC resolution 2794

Also adopted unanimously, this resolution renewed the full sanctions from resolution 2653 for another year and added two more named individuals to the sanctions list. This resolution was explicit in requiring member states to strengthen their own border controls to prevent arms trafficking into Haiti. Which brought in the idea that the way to fix the real weakness of the embargo may be increasing the enforcement at the source of arms, the US, and not only at Haiti's borders.

UNSC resolution 2814, 2026

Adopted unanimously. It renewed the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), which is the political mission in Haiti, distinct from previous security missions for one year until January 31, 2027. It tasked BINUH with a “good-offices” role, which meant to mediate between Haitian political actors and also promote accountability, human rights, and the need to comply by rule of law. It was adopted when the TPC was collapsing. It was more political than security, which is also significant when combating the armed groups in Haiti, which they fuel due to political unrest.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The international efforts to attempt to stabilize Haiti and stop arms flow have gradually been growing larger in scale than the previous one. From the UN's MINUSTAH peacekeeping mission (2004-2017) to resolutions on sanctions and arms embargoes, the Kenya-led MSS, and the GSF. Other states and regional actors have involved themselves too. UNODC developed the Caribbean Firearms roadmap to help Caribbean nations trace firearms and strengthen their borders. In 2022, the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) crime and security agency, with U.S. support, launched the Caribbean Crime Gun

Intelligence Unit to share information among Caribbean and US authorities.⁷ In February 2025, Dominican authorities working with U.S. agencies intercepted a Miami container that was destined for Haiti, holding 23 firearms and over 36,000 rounds⁸. Yet, none of these measures has been capable of closing the arms trafficking supply identified by the UNODC and US GAO as the main factor that fuels this crisis. Previous attempts have had some effect, but none have addressed the root cause.

Possible Solution

Solving Haiti's crisis and stabilizing the country must respect sovereignty and consider the inability to speak to an official head of state. It is also recognized that the Security Council can only call on states to act within existing legal obligations. However, some options can be explored.

Firstly, it is clear that a major gap is not focusing enough on the main fuel of the issue, illegal arms trafficking, which keeps gangs in power. With the GAO and UNODC's data that show that the majority of traced arms in Haiti originate from the US, especially Florida, any durable solution would begin by creating a bigger focus on the enforcement at the point of origin of the arms, not only coming in when the arms are already on their way to Haiti. This includes the call to expand or reinforce existing sanctions. Better control would also include expanding resources of the ATF eTrace system so that weapons recovered in Haiti can be traced back to their origin and buyer to begin building cases against straw buyers.

Secondly, weapons often reach Haiti concealed within ordinary shipments. The Miami container, for example, held firearms that were not listed on its shipping documents. The companies that arrange and transport cargo could therefore be given greater responsibility for what they ship. States could require carriers, the companies that transport cargo and freight forwards, and businesses that organize shipments on behalf of customers to verify the contents and the receiver of every Haitian consignment. They could also require these companies to share the concealment methods smugglers are known to use. Companies that repeatedly transport undeclared weapons could face penalties such as fines or loss of right to use certain ports.

Another major solution that should be addressed is better regional and border enforcement. Since the UNODC has repeatedly identified the same specific smuggling routes, enforcement and regulation could

⁷ "U.S.-Caribbean Cooperation to Disrupt Illicit Firearms Trafficking." *US Department of State*, 2026, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/02/u-s-caribbean-cooperation-to-disrupt-illicit-firearms-trafficking>.

⁸ "U.S.-Caribbean Cooperation to Disrupt Illicit Firearms Trafficking." *US Department of State*, 2026, <https://www.state.gov/releases/office-of-the-spokesperson/2026/02/u-s-caribbean-cooperation-to-disrupt-illicit-firearms-trafficking>.

be improved and even concentrated at those points instead of spread out throughout the coastline. This could include a task force of any states who would want to involve themselves, the US being a good option, focused specifically on the main trade routes.

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