



---

*Plenary sitting*

---

**B9-0450/2022**

4.10.2022

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation of human rights in Haiti in particular related to gang violence (2022/2856(RSP))

**Pedro Marques, Andrea Cozzolino, Nacho Sánchez Amor**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**B9-0450/2022**

**European Parliament resolution on the situation of human rights in Haiti in particular related to gang violence  
(2022/2856(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Regulation (EU) 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008
- having regard to its previous resolutions on Haiti, notably that of 21 May 2021
- having regard to the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review of Haiti of 4 July 2022
- having regard to Foreign Minister Jean Victor Geneus address to the UN General Assembly of 24 September 2022
- having regard to UN Security Council Resolution 2645 of 15 July 2022
- having regard to the report of the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) of 18 February 2022,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 1948,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 16 December 1966,
- having regard to the American Convention on Human Rights,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989,
- having regard to the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary,
- having regard to the Universal Charter of the Judge, and the Statute of the Ibero-American Judge,
- having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
- having regard to the Caribbean-EU partnership strategy of 2012,
- having regard to the EU-Cariforum Economic Partnership Agreement,
- having regard to the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti of 1987,
- having regard to Rule 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

- A. Whereas, since President Joel Moise’s assassination in July 2021, gangs have drastically acquired more power creating a omnipresent sense of insecurity for the population in Haiti;
- B. Whereas on 11 September 2022, the Haitian Government announced it would reduce around USD 400 million in fuel subsidies in efforts to increase revenue for social programmes, leading to increased unrest and gang alliances seizing key infrastructure.
- C. Whereas there are as many as 200 gangs in Haiti, and in Port-Au-Prince they control key ports and roads; whereas these gangs, some formerly tied to Haitian Tèt Kale Party (PHTK), such as in the case of Jimmy Barbecue Cherizier, threaten to overwhelm the government with greater resources and weaponry; whereas some Haitian politicians and business leaders, allegedly provided money and arms to gangs and other criminal groups in exchange for suppressing anti government protests; whereas gangs have exerted power and control over territory, access to fuel and the delivery of humanitarian aid, challenging the authority of the Haitian National Police (HNP) and other state institutions and hindering the HNP’s ability to combat drug trafficking and other crimes;
- D. Whereas, the United Nations (UN) has reported that since early July 2022, gangs have killed and kidnapped hundreds of people in Port-au-Prince and taken control of the Palace of Justice, further aggravating violence and obstructing access to justice in the country;
- E. Whereas, it is estimated gang violence has affected approximately 1.5 million people, left an additional 19,000 internally displaced and 1.1 million in need of assistance;
- F. Whereas, according to the UN Integrated Office in Haiti, 540 people were kidnapped and more than 780 were killed between January and May 2022; whereas in July 2022 a wave of gang violence in Port-Au-Prince resulted in more than 470 killings almost half of which centred on the Cite Soleil neighbourhood; whereas these gangs are operating in Haiti with almost total impunity; Whereas in the last five months of 2021, 396 people were kidnapped and 668 killed; Whereas there has been a spike in gender based violence and the use of systematic rape; Whereas, Haiti's highly volatile security situation jeopardizes critical humanitarian operations on which vulnerable people rely; and whereas the complete blockage of the road leading to the southern peninsula, which has been occurring since 2021, has isolated 3.8 million people living in the southern departments of Port-au-Prince;
- G. Whereas, according to the World Food Programme (WFP) 4.4 million Haitians, which represents more than a third of the population, live with food insecurity and 217,000 children are suffering from moderate to severe malnutrition.
- H. Whereas, the Deputy Executive Director of the WFP declared, at the UN Security Council briefing on Haiti on 26 September 2022, that they expect food security to further deteriorate this year, “surpassing the record high of 4.5 million people estimated to face crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity, including 1.3 million people in emergency”;

- I. Whereas gangs have deliberately targeted and plundered food aid stocks; Whereas in 2022 the U.N. and other NGOs have lost at least USD 6 million in supplies that could have helped more than 410,000 people.
- J. Whereas attacks on humanitarian workers and journalists occur frequently; whereas in September 23, two Haitian reporters were killed set on fire while reporting in a slum controlled by gangs in the capital;
- K. Whereas, Haiti is particularly vulnerable to global food and fuel market shocks because it imports 70% of its cereals, and as a result of Russia's war in Ukraine, Haiti is already experiencing inflation of 26%, making it difficult for families to afford food and other necessities, or to sell crops at local markets;
- L. Whereas the political crisis in Haiti has been worsening, leading to a weaker government which has become more dependent on gangs to keep peace, showing that many of the gangs are collaborating with the government.
- M. Whereas as the human rights and humanitarian situation continue to deteriorate rapidly, Haitian asylum seekers have been left with limited access to international protection and face a range of human rights violations in host countries, including detention and unlawful pushbacks, extortion
- N. Whereas, the country's most vulnerable communities face dramatic floods and soil erosion caused by a severe deforestation, leading to reduced agricultural productivity; and whereas over a third of the population lacks access to clean water and two-thirds have limited or no sanitation service; whereas more than half of the population lives under the poverty line and many rely on subsistence farming; whereas the country is strongly dependent on external revenue;
- O. whereas the Restavek system, a modern form of slavery, is still a practice in Haiti; whereas under this practice children, from impoverished homes and which are mostly girls, are sent by their parents to live and work for urban or semi-urban families; whereas these children might later be subjected victims of street crime or sex trafficking by criminal gangs;
- P. Whereas Haiti is a signatory to the Cotonou Agreement, Article 96 of which stipulates that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential element of ACP-EU cooperation;
1. Strongly condemns acts of violence, and destruction carried out by gangs in Haiti, and deplores the looting of food and aid supplies and attacks against humanitarian workers. Denounces in particular the acts of violence carried out in Cité Soleil, Port au Prince in July 2022 and the continuing violence which deprives citizens of their basic rightsFirmly condemns sexual assault by gangs against women and girls and the use of minors in gang activities. Similarly

2. Demands an immediate cessation of gang violence and criminal activities. Calls on the EU and its Member States to take appropriate measures including assets freeze and travel bans, through the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, against those engaged in or supporting gang violence, criminal activities, or human rights abuses including corruption.
3. Calls for a law-enforcement approach to gangs issues that incorporates greater control of illegal weapons and is complemented by socio-economic projects and reintegration activities aimed at generating employment and revenue in the neighbourhoods most affected by gang violence; highlights the necessity to step up financial and technical support aimed at bolstering the Haitian security forces, including by training activities and police cooperation; underlines that need for the Haitian government to address gang violence by all possible dimensions, including through social, health and education programmes, as well as water and sanitation, disaster relief and recovery;
4. Calls on the EU and its Member States to actively engage on international efforts, including at the UN, to sanction gangs impose travel restrictions on their leaders and seize any assets pertaining to them - including through strengthened efforts to halt the illicit trafficking of weapons which are used by gangs and criminal groups to terrorize civilians.
5. Calls on all stakeholders in Haiti to establish a durable, time-bound and commonly accepted solution to the current political impasse to allow for inclusive, peaceful, free, fair, and transparent legislative and presidential elections as soon as security conditions and logistical preparations allow. Underlines that this must be Haitian led with the full and equal participation of women youth, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders to return power freely chosen by the Haitian people and restore democratic institutions and putting measures in place to respond to economic and social challenges. Reiterates that legitimate protest should respect the rule of law and not prevent access to food, water, and basic services to a population in need.
6. Underlines the need for Haitian authorities to ensure better governance at all levels of the state and society, including the fight against corruption; Recalls that Haitian authorities must address the root causes of gang violence including through reform of the justice system and to bring those responsible to justice in fair trials.
7. Requests the European Commission to systematically ensure that all aid, including humanitarian aid, is effectively monitored in order to ensure that it is used for the specific projects for which it is intended;
8. Expresses grave concern about the situation of Haitian asylum seekers in host countries to which they have fled. Calls on the authorities from host countries to stop all expulsions and deportations to Haiti, as the human rights and humanitarian crisis continues and urgently provide Haitians with access to protection, without discrimination and provide fair evaluations for refugee status in line with both the UN Refugee Convention and the Cartagena Declaration.
9. Encourages the Commission and EU Member States to continue close collaboration with BINUH, the United Nations Country Team in Haiti, regional organizations and

international financial institutions with a view to helping the government of Haiti to take responsibility to achieve long-term stability, sustainable development, and economic self-sufficiency.

10. Encourages Member States, international financial institutions, and other entities to increase contributions to the Basket Fund for security assistance to Haiti in order to support coordinated international assistance. Additionally, calls on the EU and its Member States to provide continued capacity building, technical support, and the training of national customs, border control, and other relevant authorities.
11. Welcomes the allocation of EUR 17 million by the EU in order to support the most vulnerable in Haiti and other countries in the Caribbean; calls on the Commission to continue prioritising humanitarian aid to Haiti; calls on the Commission to ensure that the provision of humanitarian aid to Haiti is efficiently linked to its development strategy and that directly benefits the population in need;
12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission/ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States-EU Council of Ministers and Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the institutions of the Cariforum, and the Haitian authorities