

SECURITY REPORT

DECEMBER 1ST TO DECEMBER 09, 2024

REPORT NO. 10

12/09/2024



Cap-Haïtien Maintains Stability Amid Rumors of Gang Infiltration

Cap-Haïtien residents remain calm despite the arrest of four individuals in Saint-Raphaël suspected of connections to a Port-au-Prince gang and circulating rumors of gang violence spreading north. Both police and locals dismiss the likelihood of gang infiltration, crediting the city's small size, strong community vigilance, and an effective police presence. Following the closure of Port-au-Prince's airport, many international organizations, NGOs, and implementing partners have temporarily relocated to Cap-Haïtien, boosting economic activity. However, concerns persist about the sustainability of this growth. Residents continue to view their city as a secure and stable alternative to the gang-afflicted capital.

PNH Unveils Locally Made Armored Vehicle: A Step Forward in the Fight Against Insecurity

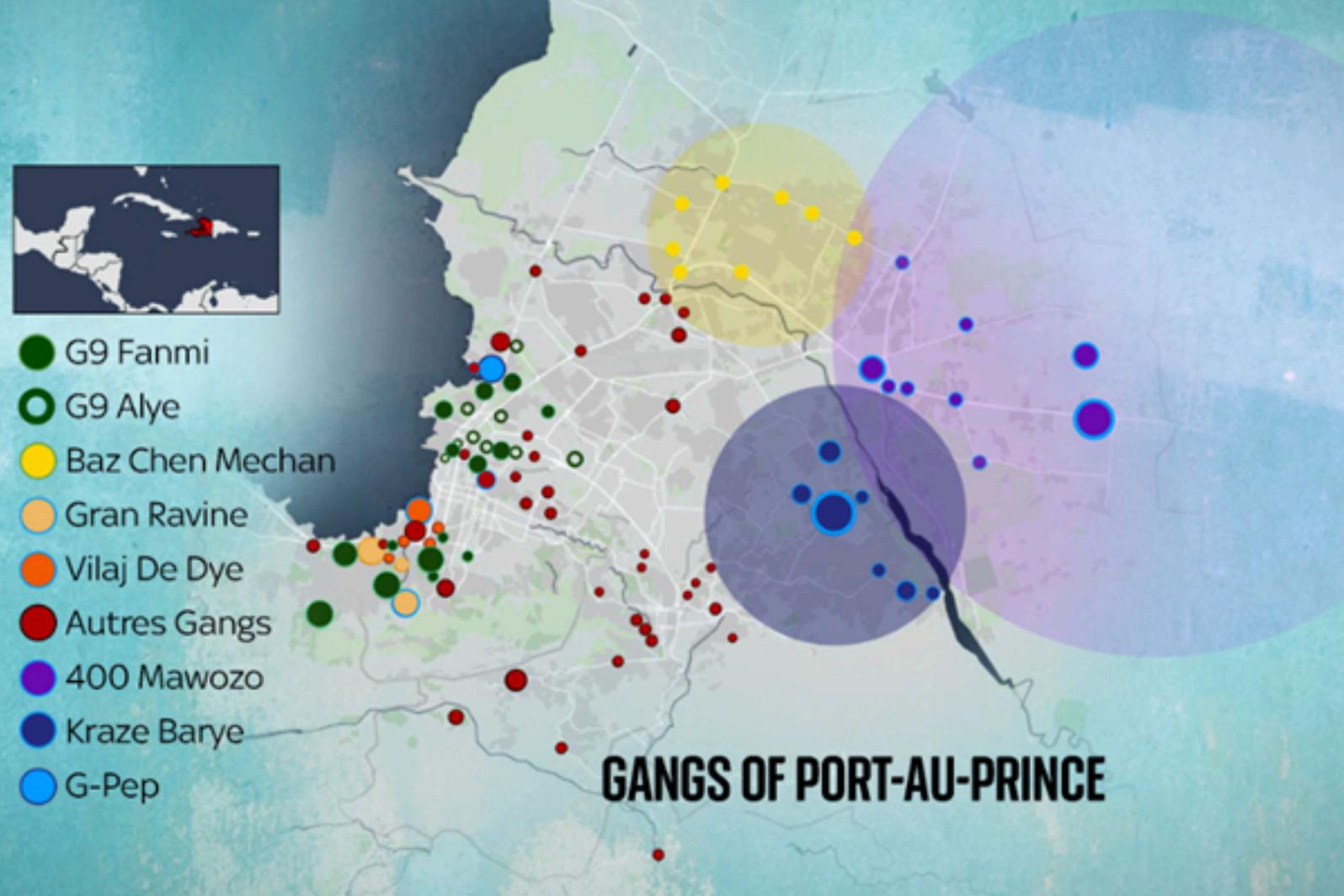
The Haitian National Police (PNH) recently unveiled a new armored vehicle designed and manufactured locally, marking a significant step forward in the fight against armed gangs in the country. This initiative, achieved despite limited resources, highlights the determination of the police force to strengthen its operational capabilities amidst widespread insecurity.

Traditionally, most armored vehicles used in Haiti are imported at exorbitant costs. The local production of this vehicle represents a significant achievement in reducing costs and dependence on foreign suppliers. However, the initiative raises important questions about the PNH's technical expertise and resources for designing an armored vehicle capable of meeting the country's current challenges.

While local manufacturing offers undeniable advantages, building a vehicle resistant to armed attacks requires specialized knowledge in mechanical engineering and ballistics. Additionally, it demands high-quality materials capable of withstanding heavy weaponry, such as assault rifles and machine guns, frequently used by armed gangs. Without top-grade materials, the vehicle risks being ineffective against these threats. Ballistic resistance relies on precise engineering—a highly specialized field—where design flaws could endanger the police officers inside the vehicle.

The vehicle's effectiveness in real-world operations remains to be assessed. Nonetheless, the PNH has demonstrated its commitment to equipping itself with tools adapted to the nation's security challenges and its resilience in the face of ongoing instability.





UNITED STATES DELIVERS ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

The Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) delivered vital equipment October 28 - November 3 to support the Haitian National Police (HNP) and Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission in Haiti. Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) arrived in Haiti to double the MSS fleet and enhance mobility, along with other assistance. INL has also contributed other law enforcement tools to aid the MSS forces working in coordination with the HNP to combat deadly Haitian gangs. This assistance underscores our ongoing commitment to addressing the urgent security and humanitarian needs in Haiti. A well-equipped MSS is critical for bolstering the anti-gang efforts of the HNP. The United States remains committed to supporting the Haitian people in achieving stability that can bring about a Haitian-led political solution through free and fair elections.

ATMOSPHERICS

Haiti's capital remains cut off from the outside world due to the closure of Toussaint Louverture International Airport following gang attacks on commercial flights. Flights to and from Port-au-Prince have been suspended indefinitely, and armed gangs control key national roads and coastal routes, severely limiting travel options. This transportation paralysis has stranded thousands of people and exposed deeper governance and security challenges. The lack of clear solutions or timelines from authorities has left residents and travelers without viable alternatives, intensifying frustration and highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive measures to address the country's infrastructure and safety crises.

The Haitian National Police (PNH) conducted intensified operations across Pétion-Ville and Port-au-Prince in November, neutralizing more than 40 suspected gang members and seizing weapons, ammunition, and vehicles used in criminal activities. Key clashes occurred in areas such as Canapé-Vert, Delmas, and Vallée de Bourdon, where armed suspects were intercepted in a truck and a minibus. The violence caused significant disruptions, halting traffic and inciting panic, while residents supported police efforts by confronting fleeing suspects. Despite progress, the situation remained volatile as authorities carried out targeted interventions to dismantle criminal networks and restore security.

Heavy gunfire and gang activity were reported across several Port-au-Prince neighborhoods, including Carrefour Aeroport, Route des Frères, and Gérard Bataille. Armed groups reportedly overtook key locations, such as the Sogebank branch at Carrefour Aeroport, and shootings were documented near Bellevue and Pernier. The PNH actively worked to secure these areas, with patrols and operations aimed at countering the escalating violence and stabilizing the capital.

TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE AIRPORT

Date: 12/03/2024 18:27

From: HT-NOF

Subject: ALL CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT ACTIVITIES ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AT TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE INTL AIRPORT. MEDEVAC AND HUMANITARIAN FLT ARE ACCEPTED UPON APPROVED WAIVER FROM CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY.

Location: TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE INTL AIRPORT

A0051/24 NOTAM replacing A0050/24 Successfully Sent



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Q) MTEG/QFAXX/IV/NBO/AE/000/999/1834N07217W999

A) MTPP

B) 2412031830 C) 2412312359EST

E) ALL CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT ACTIVITIES ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED AT TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE INTL AIRPORT.

MEDEVAC AND HUMANITARIAN FLT ARE ACCEPTED UPON APPROVED WAIVER FROM CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY)



AMERICAN AIRLINES

American Airlines has announced the suspension of its daily flights between Miami (MIA) and Port-au-Prince (PAP), citing concerns over safety, security, and customer demand. The airline, which has served Haiti for over 50 years, stated it will continue monitoring the situation to evaluate the potential resumption of service and will offer full refunds to affected customers.

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Following incidents on November 11, 2024, where several commercial aircraft were fired upon during operations at PAP, the FAA issued a NOTAM prohibiting U.S. civil flight operations in Haiti's territory and airspace below 10,000 feet. Initially effective for 30 days starting November 12, 2024, this restriction effectively suspended U.S. flights to and from Haiti. However, on November 21, 2024, the FAA amended the NOTAM to allow U.S. flights to six northern airports: Port-de-Paix, Cap-Haïtien, Pignon, Jérémie, Antoine-Simon, and Jacmel. The prohibition for flights to Port-au-Prince remains in place until at least December 12, 2024.

OFNAC DIRECTIVE

OFNAC issued its own NOTAM, A0052/24, suspending all civilian aircraft operations at Toussaint Louverture International Airport starting December 4, 2024. Waivers are available for humanitarian and medical evacuation flights, subject to OFNAC's approval. This NOTAM has been renewed weekly and is expected to extend beyond its initial December 12, 2024 expiration, as no formal reopening plan has been announced. OFNAC now projects the airport could reopen by December 31, 2024, though this date is tentative and may change depending on security developments.

KEY IMPLICATIONS

The overlapping NOTAMs by the FAA and OFNAC illustrate the severity of the security crisis at Port-au-Prince airport, with limited operations permitted even for essential services. The question of which airlines will resume flights to PAP once restrictions are lifted remains critical.

PORT-AU-PRINCE AIRPORT UPDATE

As of December 6, 2024, Toussaint Louverture International Airport (PAP) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, remains under multiple Notices to Air Missions (NOTAMs) issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Haiti's Office National de l'Aviation Civile (OFNAC) due to ongoing security concerns.





HAITI'S CHILDREN TRAPPED IN CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

- Haiti's escalating gang violence has increasingly targeted children, who are coerced into criminal groups as scouts, combatants, or laborers. With schools closed and widespread displacement, gangs exploit vulnerable children, offering meager payments or basic necessities in exchange for dangerous tasks. Many children are recruited to handle weapons, participate in clashes, or serve in logistical roles, perpetuating the cycle of violence. Reports indicate that gangs use starvation and poverty as tools for recruitment, drawing children into roles that expose them to significant risks and trauma. Girls face additional exploitation, often being forced into labor or subjected to abuse by gang members.
- Efforts to address child exploitation remain inadequate due to a lack of resources and personnel. Protocols established by the United Nations and the Haitian government to protect children have seen limited success, as instability hampers their implementation. Meanwhile, thousands of children remain out of school and at risk of recruitment as gangs expand their control over Port-au-Prince and other areas. This widespread exploitation not only violates children's rights but also deepens Haiti's humanitarian and security crisis, leaving many trapped in a life of violence and deprivation.



MULTINATIONAL SECURITY SUPPORT MISSION STRIKES KEY GANG STRONGHOLD IN HAITI

The Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM), in collaboration with the Haitian National Police (HNP), launched a significant operation on Sunday, November 24, 2024, targeting the stronghold of notorious gang leader Jimmy Chérizier, also known as "Barbecue," in Bas-Delmas, Port-au-Prince. The offensive marked a critical step in dismantling Chérizier's criminal coalition, "Viv Ansanm," which has been terrorizing local communities and threatening national stability. Despite the successful raid, officials confirmed that Chérizier escaped before the team's arrival, reportedly retreating to Terre Noire in Sarthe. The operation, however, dealt a severe blow to the gang's logistical and operational structure, destroying Chérizier's headquarters, a luxury vehicle symbolizing his dominance, and several key assets.

The coordinated assault, backed by Kenyan police alongside forces from Jamaica, Belize, and the Bahamas, resulted in the elimination of several armed individuals, the recovery of a stolen excavator, and the destruction of a gang-operated vehicle. Specialized units of the HNP were mobilized to dislodge and neutralize the leadership of "Viv Ansanm," significantly weakening the gang's influence. The operation represents a shift in the balance of power, with the MSSM and HNP successfully penetrating fortified gang territories using enhanced intelligence sharing, logistical support, and specialized units equipped with armored vehicles. The destruction of Chérizier's assets has instilled renewed hope among Haitians seeking peace and stability.

Despite these tactical achievements, concerns remain over the long-term sustainability of such operations. Without an immediate and sustained presence by the police or military, there is a risk that gangs could reoccupy reclaimed territories. Many Haitians have expressed doubts about the MSSM's ability to address the root causes of gang violence and stabilize the country amid ongoing financial and logistical challenges.

In a statement, the MSSM reaffirmed its determination to support the HNP in combating gang violence, safeguarding critical infrastructure, and preparing for upcoming general elections. "The MSS remains resolute in its mission and will not relent until these perpetrators are apprehended and brought to justice. We call on all Haitians of goodwill, along with national and international partners, to lend their support, cooperation, and collaboration as we enter this critical and decisive phase of operations," the statement emphasized.

HNP, under the leadership of Director General Normil Rameau and with the support of multinational allies, has made significant strides in undermining Chérizier's influence. Despite attempts by Chérizier to downplay the operation in a viral video, his increasingly defensive posture signals a leader under mounting pressure and losing control over his criminal empire.

This operation underscores a tactical evolution in Haiti's approach to combating gang violence, marking a turning point in the fight against organized crime. MSSM's systematic strategy of dismantling gang networks, reclaiming critical areas, and enhancing the capacity of the HNP has brought tangible progress.

While challenges persist, including sustaining momentum and addressing systemic issues fueling gang violence, the tide could be turning.

Escalating Violence in Port-au-Prince: Citizens Erect Barricades Amid Gang Attacks and Vigilante Actions



In Port-au-Prince, citizens have taken matters into their own hands to counter escalating gang violence, constructing barricades and roadblocks in various neighborhoods to protect their communities. Residents in areas such as Pétion-Ville, Delmas, and Tabarre have organized to block key entry points, using vehicles, debris, and makeshift barriers to deter gang members from infiltrating. These community-led efforts highlight the increasing desperation and fear among the population as gangs continue to expand their control over much of the city. The barricades serve both as physical deterrents and as statements of defiance, with citizens determined to maintain some level of safety in their neighborhoods despite the overwhelming security challenges.



The roadblocks underscore the dangers faced by residents in Port-au-Prince, where gang violence has displaced thousands and left entire communities vulnerable. In many cases, local groups work in shifts to guard the barricades, monitoring movements and reporting suspicious activity to the authorities. Halo Security Solutions advises that security teams and protective details need to remain vigilant, implementing intelligence mechanisms and advance protocols to navigate these citizen barricades effectively and ensure the safety of their movements. These proactive measures are essential to mitigating risks and maintaining operational efficiency in an environment where self-imposed isolation has become a necessity for survival.

On Wednesday, December 4, residents of Canapé-Vert gathered to protest the potential appointment of Printemps Bélizaire, a former deputy for Port-au-Prince's 3rd constituency, as head of the West Department Delegation. The protesters emphasized that the community should have a voice in choosing their representative, citing concerns over how the appointment could affect local security. Bélizaire, previously affiliated with Fanmi Lavalas during the 50th legislature, has drawn mixed reactions from residents regarding his suitability for the role. He is widely regarded as one of the "godfathers" of the Grand Ravine Gang and the architect behind Phantom 509.

<p>Current Gang Toll Fees December 5th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cnaan / Morne Cabrit: 10,000 HTG to 50,000 HTG • Santo: 10,000 HTG to 50,000 HTG • Croix-des-Bouquets, Fonds Parisien towards Jimaní: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10,000 HTG for an empty trip ○ 50,000 HTG for a return trip with cargo • CPS Terminal: 35,000 HTG per container for exit • Varreux Terminal: 25,000 HTG per tanker for exit
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<p>Current Gang Toll Fees December 5th:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Freight Boat (Truck Transport) North/South: 50,000 HTG per truck • Marassa/Santo: 25,000 HTG • Empty Truck: 10,000 HTG • Full Truck: 20,000 HTG • Menelas (Route 9): 15,000 HTG
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Kenyan Police Raise Concerns Over Alleged Haitian Police Collusion with Armed Gangs

Kenyan police officers deployed in Haiti have voiced concerns regarding alleged collaboration between some members of the Haitian National Police (HNP) and armed gangs, citing several troubling issues:

- **Information Leaks:** Kenyan officials have reportedly withheld strategic information from the HNP due to fears it could be leaked to armed gangs. This has led to allegations that certain Haitian officers may be aiding criminal groups and undermining joint operations.
- **Lack of Cooperation:** Frustration has grown over a perceived lack of collaboration from Haitian counterparts. Kenyan officers claim that some HNP members are uncooperative, hindering coordinated efforts to combat gang violence and raising suspicions of potential ties to gang networks.
- **Delays in Response:** Kenyan officials have criticized delays in Haitian police operations, with some responses reportedly taking hours to initiate. These delays are viewed as signs of disengagement or deliberate avoidance of confronting gangs, reinforcing concerns about collusion.
- **Reluctance to Enter High-Risk Areas:** Kenyan police have faced backlash for hesitating to operate in high-risk zones, with critics accusing them of not fully addressing the security situation. This hesitation has further strained trust between the two forces.

This climate of suspicion and mutual blame has complicated collaboration between the Kenyan and Haitian police forces, exacerbating challenges in an already fragile security environment.

However, The Police Nationale d'Haïti (PNH) and the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) formally deny rumors circulating on social media suggesting a lack of cooperation between the two forces in their joint operations against armed gangs. The PNH and MSS emphasize that they always plan and conduct operations together, in accordance with the MSS mandate to support the PNH in combating criminal activity in Haiti. Allegations that Kenyan police officers have accused their PNH counterparts of colluding with gangs, undermining operations, are dismissed as baseless manipulations aimed at discrediting the efforts of both forces to the benefit of criminal and terrorist gangs. Both the PNH and MSS assure the national and international community that they work in perfect harmony, coordinating effectively as professional forces to restore peace for the Haitian people. They reiterate that propaganda will not distract them from their mission to eliminate armed gangs and ensure the safety and security of the Haitian population.

THE MICANORD KILLS 100 IN WHARF JÉRÉMIE: OVER

- Over the course of December 6 and 7, 2024, a massacre unfolded in Wharf Jérémie, orchestrated by gang leader Monel Felix, known as Micanord. Reliable sources report that over a hundred civilians, many of them elderly individuals over the age of 60, were murdered in their homes, their bodies mutilated and burned in the streets. The attacks were driven by accusations of witchcraft, following an illness that struck Micanord's son. Blaming the local population for his son's condition, Micanord unleashed violence targeting elderly residents and Vodou practitioners, whom he believed had cast a curse. Community members, including civic leaders and motorcycle taxi drivers who attempted to intervene, were among those killed in this campaign of terror. Gang members imposed a lockdown on the neighborhood to continue identifying and executing their targets, with the area left in a state of fear and despair.
- This atrocity underscores the power of armed gangs and the ineffective response of state authorities in Haiti's vulnerable communities. The Wharf Jérémie massacre is a reminder, especially on the eve of International Human Rights Day, of the need for intervention to protect the lives and rights of Haiti's marginalized populations. Micanord's history of violence against Vodou practitioners, including the execution of 12 women in 2012 under similar accusations, demonstrates a long-standing pattern of brutality. The international community and local leadership must act to provide justice and relief for these communities in crisis.



Kenyan Officers in Haiti Report Pay Delays and Poor Conditions Amid Resignation Attempts

Kenyan media outlets, Citizen TV and Kenya.co.ke, report that Kenyan police officers deployed to Haiti are protesting three months of unpaid wages and have threatened to resign if the issue is not resolved. In response, Inspector General Douglas Kanja and Senior Interior Secretary Raymond Omollo have dismissed these claims, asserting that salaries have been paid and clarifying that the responsibility for payments lies with the United Nations. Nearly 20 Kenyan police officers serving in Haiti on the U.N.-backed Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission have submitted resignation letters over the past two months due to pay delays and poor working conditions, according to anonymous sources. Despite their letters, the officers remain on duty as they have received no response from the authorities. Kenya's national police spokesperson did not comment on the issue, while the national police chief stated that officers were paid through October, a claim disputed by some officers who assert their last payment was in September.

The Multinational Support Mission (MSS) has denied Reuters' December 6 report alleging that Kenyan police officers deployed in Haiti were resigning over delayed payments. Reuters claimed nearly 20 of the 400 officers had submitted resignation letters due to unpaid allowances and difficult working conditions. In a press release, the MSS refuted these claims, stating that all financial obligations have been fulfilled and no resignations have been recorded, confirming the mission remains fully operational.



31st Planning Session of Haiti's SNDDR-CVR Task Force (Readout Summary)

The 31st Planning Session of Haiti's Task Force on the National Strategy of Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, and Community Violence Reduction (SNDDR-CVR) convened at Hotel Karibe, bringing together key stakeholders from various sectors. Established on April 6, 2021, and led by Inspector General Ralph Stanley Jean Brice, the nine-member Task Force focuses on reducing armed violence and fostering reintegration and stability.

Research and Insights

The Task Force presented findings from research and consultations across Haiti's ten departments, including lessons from international models like Jamaica and Colombia. Sub-groups, such as UNICEF and VIVARIO, shared updates on community-based violence reduction projects. Inspector General Frantz Thermilus of the Haitian National Police (PNH) emphasized the need to address systemic issues like income inequality and called for collaboration among government, private sector, and NGOs to ensure the long-term success of initiatives.

MSSM Contributions

Godfrey Otunge, Force Commander of the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM), outlined the MSSM's four operational phases:

1. **Deployment Phase (Ongoing):** Began with the first Kenyan contingent on June 25, 2024.
2. **Decisive Operations Phase (Upcoming):** Focused on targeting high-value gang members and dismantling organized crime networks.
3. **Stabilization Phase:** Aims to maintain order following decisive operations.
4. **Transition Phase:** Shifting responsibility to local authorities for sustained security and governance.

Otunge highlighted recent acquisitions of critical equipment and vehicles to support these efforts, emphasizing the importance of international and local partnerships.

Action Points and Conclusion

Key action points were presented by IG Ralph Stanley Jean Brice, Sancho Coutinho (BINUH), Godfrey Otunge, and IG Frantz Thermilus, reinforcing a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach to violence reduction. The session reaffirmed Haiti's commitment to a strategic and collaborative plan to reduce violence and promote sustainable reintegration, with the Decisive Operations Phase marking a critical escalation in efforts against organized gangs.

MISCELLANEOUS SECURITY REPORTING

Sunday, December 1: Gang members near the fuel port set up barricades and seized keys from fuel truck drivers to prevent fuel deliveries. Possible motives: increase extortion payments or create an artificial fuel shortage to pressure the government. Gang activity and shooting reported around Drouillard. Armed gangs entering to attack PNH MRAPs. Heavy shooting reported around Route Piste (west of Airport Road). Gang activity and shooting reported in Christ Roi and Nazon. Heavy shooting reported in the areas of lower Route de Frères and Collette (shortcut between Route de Frères and Pétion-Ville). Gang activity and shooting reported in Clercine (northeast of the airport) and Sarthe (northwest of the airport). Reports suggested Vitellhome's gang is attempting to push into the eastern section of Pétion-Ville.

Monday, December 2: Gang activity and heavy shooting reported in Drouillard, Sarthe, and Cazeau. Heavy shooting reported around Cité Militaire and Route Piste (west of Airport Road). Automatic weapons fire heard from Lalue, Avenue Martin Luther King.

Tuesday December 3: Gang Activity and Misinformation in Canapé-Vert and Surrounding Areas

Heavy shooting was reported in Canapé-Vert and Christ-Roi, with reports indicating that gang activity in Christ-Roi had intensified to the point where residents began fleeing the area. The Haitian National Police (PNH) engaged gangs in heavy fighting in Nazon and parts of Christ-Roi, with the sound of gunfire carrying into Canapé-Vert late into the night.

While there were rumors that gangs, specifically those associated with the Viv Ansanm coalition, had taken control of Canapé-Vert, these reports have been confirmed as false. A voice note circulated on social media, particularly on TikTok, spread fear among residents by claiming imminent gang takeover—a tactic known to be employed by Viv Ansanm to intimidate communities and facilitate their advance. This misinformation mirrored strategies used in previous gang takeovers, such as in Solino. Authorities have emphasized the importance of countering such propaganda to prevent unnecessary panic and displacement

Wednesday, December 4: Heavy shooting reported in the areas of Clercine, lower Delmas, and Route Piste (west of Airport Road). Sustained heavy shooting reported in Sarthe/Cazeau. Heavy shooting reported in Tabarre. In response to concerns about a potential attack by Viv Ansanm, local brigades blocked most access roads to Canapé-Vert as a defensive measure as well as Delmas 32 and Christ Roi.

