

PLSO WEEKLY SECURITY REPORT

March 30-April 5, 2024

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PLSO MISSION

Partner Liaison Security Office for Haiti was established to enhance communication between USAID and its IPs regarding security information to help IPs better manage and mitigate their respective security concerns.

The PLSO effort will assist in more effective delivery of U.S. Government funded assistance, as it will enhance the IP's ability to stay abreast of security concerns and better secure their operations, allowing IPs to more aptly perform and advance development objectives under their respective agreements. This mechanism is intended to provide current information, guidance and updates on safety and security-related factors throughout Haiti to non-COM implementing partners of USAID to help safeguard their staff and operations.

PLSO requests feedback from Implementing Partners to tell us what information you want us to provide to better assist you with raising your security awareness and planning. We are here to assist you!

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SECURITY UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Heavily armed gangs will continue affecting businesses in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and the regions, generating significant operational challenges for Implementing Partners and the population. The Bwa-Kalé vigilante movement remains unpredictable and very dangerous around the country with summary executions, roadblocks, confrontation with HNP, and gangs.

The situation remains unpredictable in Haiti and insecurity is likely to persist across much of Haiti through May 2024. As for the risks, there is a:

- High probability of violent and political protests
- High probability of hijacking (vehicle, trucks, bus, and containers)
- High probability of gang attacks against government and private institutions
- High probability of shortage in food products, medical supplies, and water
- High probability of kidnapping
- Medium to High probability of shortage in fuel and electricity

April 12 Deadline for U.S. Citizens to Evacuate

For all contractors remaining in Haiti, it is up to each organization to determine, on a daily basis, its ability to continue your USAID/Haiti related operations based on security, safety and logistical considerations.

The following link from the U.S. Department of States provides updated evacuation information for Haiti and it should also be noted that the U.S. State Department indicated to U.S. citizens who wish to leave Haiti, that that April 12, 2024 is the deadline.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/u-s-citizens-in-Haiti.html>

Government State of Emergency and Curfew

The Haitian government state of emergency and curfew are still in effect in Haiti until May 3, 2024.



SECURITY UPDATE

Updates by Department

Violence resumed in the metropolitan area of Port-Au-Prince after a relative lull over Easter. Gangs have extended their territories over the last few months using a more strategic approach and coordination between them, creating operational challenges for Haitian National Police (HNP). While carrying out interventions in several neighborhoods in Port-Au-Prince and around the country, HNP hasn't improved its posture nor the safety and security of the population. 90% of PAP is now controlled by gangs. Access to healthcare, which was already severely restricted, has become even more difficult. Armed men have looted hospitals and gangs control large areas of the port and many cities' access roads, creating limiting access to medical supplies. Below is a synopsis of the situation across the departments:

West Department: Armed gangs continue to attack government institutions, paralyzing large portions of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. The communes of Pétion-Ville and Delmas have experienced turbulence due to attacks by armed gangs, notably the Kraze Baryè gang. Several neighborhoods have sustained similar attacks (Vivy Mitchell, Bellevue, Caradeux, Mayotte, Doco, Métivier, Fort Jacques). Furthermore, Croix-des-Bouquets is totally controlled by armed gangs. There is no HNP presence, identical to Bon Repos, Gantherier, Corail Cesselesse, Bas Morne à Cabris, Canaan, Onaville, and Thomazeau. The Tabarre police station and the HNP base (Motorized Intervention Brigade (BIM)) are continuously targeted by the Chien Méchant gang.

Artibonite: The current security situation remains very volatile, unpredictable, and dangerous in almost all areas of the Artibonite. A precarious calm is observed in St-Marc, Montrouis, and Verrettes, while Gros Morne/Bassin Bleu road axis remains very dangerous. Criminal activities are on the rise in the localities of St-Michel de l'Attalaye, while the situation remains unpredictable in Gonaïves.

North: Criminal activities have increase in the city of Cap-Haitian, while being unpredictable on RN#6 (Limonade, Quartier Morin, Limbé, Milot.)

South: The security situation is relatively calm but does remain unpredictable in Les Cayes. The following communes continue to be monitored by the PLSO: Camp-Perrin, St Louis du Sud, St Jean du Sud.

SECURITY UPDATE

Updates by Department

Grand'Anse: Since the return of Guy Philippe in the area, the town of Jérémie continues to see criminal activities throughout the evening and at night with a blast of automatic weapons. Criminal activities are on the rise in the commune of Chambellan-Moron, where bandits have settled in. Paid checkpoints have been reported on the Marfranc/Dame Marie road axis.

Center: BSAP agents made an unexpected reappearance after a few weeks of absence in Hinche. The situation remains tense, volatile, and unpredictable in Hinche, Mirebalais, Saut d'Eau, Belladère, and Maïssade.

North West: According to civil society organizations, several HNP officers are involved in murders and other reprehensible acts in the Port-de-Paix area. The situation created certain apprehension within the population, who are now threatening to attack the police if nothing is done. The situation remains unpredictable in Saint-Louis du Nord and with the Tibwadòm gang.

North East: The situation in Ouanaminthe remains tense in the evening. The town of Trou-du-Nord is being monitored by the PLSO.



Resumption of Commercial Flights Delayed

On March 30, 2024, the resumption of commercial flights to Port-Au-Prince is likely to take much longer than expected, according to our information. Airline companies have set up a roadmap with the Haitian authorities for their return to Haiti, notably securing the airport perimeter by destroying houses around the airport. As well, airlines received warnings from insurance companies discouraging them from flying to Haiti due to the high risk of incidents. A French Navy helicopter came

SECURITY UPDATE

Resumption of Commercial Flights Delayed (continued)

came under fire last week, complicating the situation, according to an airline official.

American Airlines, Jetblue Airways, and Spirit Airlines have confirmed that they have no immediate plans to resume operations to Port-Au-Prince.

Operation HELIOS

On March 30, 2024, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) had about 70 members deployed in Jamaica as part of Operation HELIOS. Their objective is to train about 330 military personnel from CARICOM in peacekeeping and combat first aid.

Coordinated Attacks in Port-au-Prince

On April 01, 2024, armed groups launched a series of coordinated and simultaneous attacks in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Gunfire was reported in Pernier, Champ de Mars, Capois, Lamarre streets, Carrefour Aeroport, Delmas 19, 24, 30, Clercine Nord, Cazeau, Route des Frères, and Vivy Mitchell.

Attack on the National Palace

During the attack on the National Palace, armed individuals took control of the General Hospital, transforming it into their headquarters in order to get strategic advantage in the area over the HNP. During the fighting, 4 HNP officers were wounded, 5 civilians killed, and the HNP lost another Armored Vehicle (AV).

Guy Philippe Mobilizes on Social Media

On April 01, 2024, Guy Philippe called on the population via social media to mobilize in order to demand that Canada, France, the U.S., and CARICOM respect their civil rights and Constitution.



SECURITY UPDATE

Protest to Make Phillipe President

On April 7, 2024, Guy Philippe's party announced a protest in order to position him as the next President of the Republic.

Unprecedented Shortage of Medical Supplies

On April 02, 2024, Pierre Hugues Saint-Jean, President of the Association des Pharmaciens d'Haïti (APH), said that Haiti is facing an unprecedented shortage of medical supplies. He notes that 70% of the country's pharmaceutical supply is from imports, and that 213 of the 216 laboratories officially supplying pharmacies in Haiti are abroad. Furthermore, only 2 of the 3 local laboratories in the country are active.

UN Human Rights Council Session

On April 02, 2024, during the 55th UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva, Haitian ambassador M. Justin Viard called on the international community to move from words to deeds in regard to Haiti. He added that the longer the delay in finding a solution, the more exposed the Haitian population is to the risk of genocide.



Trinidad and Tobago Will Not Aid MSSM

On April 05, 2024, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago declared that it will not be providing any military aid to the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) to assist the HNP, explaining that the country is not in a position to provide military and law enforcement support to the mission.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

POLITICAL EVENTS / PROTESTS

Henry Receives CPT List

On March 31, 2024, Prime Minister Ariel Henry received from the President of Guyana and current CARICOM President the names of the 9 persons to compose the Presidential Transitional Council (CPT). Multiple questions remain about the creation of the CPT, especially the constitutionality and legality, and if the Haitian Constitution and laws permit such a structure or its creation.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

POLITICAL EVENTS / PROTESTS (continued)

Former Justice Minister Rejects CPT

On April 01, 2024, former Justice Minister, Camille Leblanc, turned to the Court of Cassation and rejected the CPT. His claim is motivated by the inability of Haitian groups to reach an agreement despite the establishment of the CPT and given the urgency of the situation.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the Cour de Cassation has a better and stronger chance of success for a transition. He noted that the appointment of a President without political ties would be more viable than political parties trying to reach an agreement.

U.S. Ambassador Meets with HNP Leadership

On April 02, 2024, the United States Ambassador to Haiti, Dennis Hankins, spoke with the Acting Director General of the HNP. During the meeting, the diplomat listened to HNP concerns and praised the dedication and bravery of the officers who are engaged in the fights against the gangs. He also declared that his country remains committed and determined to strengthen HNP capacities through the support of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL).



UN Human Rights Urges Acceptance of CPT

On April 02, 2024, UN Human Rights urged Haitian stakeholders to put the country's interests first and to reach agreement without delay on setting up the CPT. According to Volker Turk, the CPT must lead Haiti to elections, strengthen the police force and restore the rule of law.



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

CUSTOMS / IMMIGRATION

Amnesty International Speaks Out on DR's Policy

On April 02, 2024, in a press release, Amnesty International demanded that the Dominican Republic put an end to its racist migration policies. According to the organization, these collective expulsions constitute a flagrant violation of the DR's international obligations and endanger the lives and rights of the people concerned.

Mayorkas Cautions Haitian Migrants

On April 04, 2024, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas advised Haitians to avoid traveling illegally by sea to the U.S., mentioning that when illegal migrants are intercepted at sea, they are returned as quickly as possible to Haiti.



13,000 Haitians Returned by the DR in March

On April 05, 2024, International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that 13,000 Haitians were forcibly returned home by the DR in March 2024, despite the catastrophic humanitarian and security situation. This is 46% more than the previous month.



Weapons and Ammunition Seized in Cap-Haitian

On April 5, 2024, a Customs Officer made a significant seizure of weapons and ammunition in the port of Cap-Haitian, including:

- 12 assault rifles
- 14 9mm pistols
- 34 chargers
- 999 cartridges (7.62, 5.56, .40mm, .9mm calibers)

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

HEALTH

\$12 Million from OCHA

Emergency Relief Coordinator for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has allocated \$12 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund to help those affected by the ongoing violence that has erupted in the capital Port-au-Prince.

The funds will go towards providing food, water, protection, healthcare, sanitation, and hygiene support to displaced people and host communities in Port-au-Prince and the neighboring department of Artibonite, which has also been affected by the violence.

ECONOMY

Evergreen Suspends Call at Port Terminal

Evergreen Marine Corporation (EMC) announced that given the deterioration of the security situation in Port-au-Prince, it is temporarily suspending its call at the Port Terminal in Haiti. Evergreen is the 2nd shipping company to suspend its service to Port-au-Prince after CMA CGM.

KIDNAPPING

Youtuber Released

On March 30, 2024, the leader of the gang operating in Croix-des-Bouquets announced the release of American Youtuber Addison Pierre Maalouf.

GANGS

Barbecue Wants Gangs at the Negotiating Table

On March 30, 2024, Jimmy Cherizier (alias Barbecue), leader of the "Viv ansann" gang, said that he is ready for dialogue and to look at all solutions, as long as all Haitians have their say. He said, "We're ready to talk to everyone, because we're not proud of what's happening in the country." Barbecue declared that Haiti will not know peace until the gangs have a place at the negotiating table.



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

GANGS (continued)

Barrière Godet in Gressier

On March 30, 2024, gang leader of Barrière Godet in Gressier was killed by HNP.

Belladère Gang Leader

On March 31, 2024, the Belladère gang leader was killed by the local population during the night. He was one of the escapees from the national penitentiary.

Cité Doudoune

On April 02, 2024, the gang leader from Cité Doudoune, known as “Nouyòk”, was shot dead in an exchange of fire with HNP near the Tabarre bridge.

2 Lawyers Kidnapped and Killed

On April 04, 2024, two lawyers were kidnapped on the way to the Saint-Marc courthouse and killed a few hours later by members of the Liancourt gang.

Joseph Gladimyr

On April 04, 2024, Joseph Gladimyr was arrested at Cap-Haïtien airport. Joseph is the 3rd leader of the “Gran Grif” gang operating in Savien, in the commune of Petite Rivière de l’Artibonite. He had taken an active part in the murder of 7 police officers in Liancourt in January 2023. He was arrested for attempting to leave the country on the Humanitarian Parole (Biden) program.



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

GANGS (continued)

Morne Ogé Locality

Jean Pierre Anthony (Alias PALAKI), Gang leader in the Morne Ogé locality in the commune of Jacmel, was arrested during an HNP operation.

Boat Looted by Village de Dieu Gang

On April 04, 2024, a merchant marine boat carrying supplies, including rice, was boarded by members of the Village de Dieu gang and looted.

Weapons and Ammunition in Plaine-de-Cul-de-Sac

On April 05, 2024, despite the arms embargo in Haiti, gang leaders of Plaine-de-Cul-de-Sac released pictures of the arrival of weapons and ammunition.

