

HAITI-POLITICS-UN Secretary General reiterates call to help Haiti

CANA News

July 6, 2023 Thursday

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Length: 812 words

Body

United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, Thursday reiterated a call for the international community to come to the assistance of Haiti warning against 'what remains largely a forgotten crisis despite its severity'.

Guterres, who has just returned from a visit to Port au Prince and Trinidad and Tobago, told reporters that while in Port of Spain, he attended a summit of the leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as well as taking part in a special session on Haiti. 'Later today, the Security Council will take up my report on the situation in the country. Let me be very clear. The Haitian people are trapped in a living nightmare. Humanitarian conditions are beyond appalling. Brutal gangs have a stranglehold on the people of Haiti,' Guterres said.

'Port-au-Prince is encircled by armed groups that are blocking roads, controlling access to food and health care, and undermining humanitarian support. Predatory gangs are using kidnappings and sexual violence as weapons to terrorize entire communities. '

Guterres said that he has heard 'appalling accounts of women and girls being gang-raped, and of people being burned alive, saying 'the world must act now to stem the violence and instability.

'During my visit, I had the chance to meet the Prime Minister (Dr. Ariel Henry) and many sectors of Haitian society. Those meetings showed that there are signs of hope and possibility. But it requires action on several fronts - and a recognition of a core truth:'

During his address to the CARICOM leaders at their summit which ended here on Wednesday night, Guterres had described as a 'tragedy within a tragedy' the fact that the humanitarian appeal for Haiti is only 23 per cent funded as he urged the international community to 'help ease the suffering of the Haitian people'.

I will continue to push for a robust international security force, authorized by the Security Council, to be able to help to help the Haitian National Police to defeat and dismantle the gangs, and I reiterate my call to all partners to increase support for the national police in the form of financing, training, and equipment.

'Let's be clear: There can be no lasting security without strengthened democratic institutions, and there can be no strong democratic institutions without a drastic improvement in the security situation,' he added.

Guterres told reporters Thursday that there can be no sustainable security without a political solution that allows for the restoration of democratic institutions.

HAITI-POLITICS-UN Secretary General reiterates call to help Haiti

'And there can be no lasting and inclusive political solutions without a drastic improvement of the security situation. Today, I want to make an appeal for concurrent action in three essential areas.

'First, the people of Haiti need action to address urgent humanitarian needs. The international community must now act to ease the suffering of the Haitian people. The United Nations humanitarian response plan requires US\$720 million to help more than three million people.

'Yet that plan is only 23 per cent funded. I appeal to the world to extend a lifeline of support and fill that financial gap without delay.

'Second, the people of Haiti need action to tackle urgent security needs. I appeal to members of the Security Council and to all relevant potential contributing countries to act now to create the conditions for the deployment of a multinational force to assist the Haitian National Police.'

Guterres said that the Haitian government requested this all the way back in October and that those appeals were echoed by many Haitians he met during his visit.

'I repeat: We are not calling for a military or political mission of the United Nations. We are calling for a robust security force deployed by Member States to work hand-in-hand with the Haitian National Police to defeat and dismantle the gangs and restore security across the country.

'The police also need financing, training and equipment. All of this is critical to restoring the authority of the State and the delivery of vital services. '

Guterres said that his third appeal is for all social and political actors to accelerate their efforts toward a desperately needed political solution.

'I also fully support CARICOM's mediation efforts in this regard. In Haiti, I welcomed steps to find Haitian solutions to restore the constitutional order and urged the Prime Minister, the High Transitional Council, members of civil society and political parties to forge a political entente to end the crisis.'

Guterres said taken together, 'these three vital and simultaneous steps are fundamental to breaking Haiti's cycle of suffering, by addressing dramatic humanitarian and security challenges, and forging a political pathway out of the crisis.

'I have seen the situation for myself. Conditions are desperate, but solutions are possible. If we act now. We cannot forget the Haitian people. The world must step up.

Load-Date: July 7, 2023

CARICOM Urges Multinational Security Support for Haiti

Baltic Legal Updates

July 8, 2023 Saturday

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Length: 626 words

Body

Kingston, Jamaica: Consumer Affairs Commission has issued the following news release:

CARICOM Member States are calling for global multinational security support with the appropriate jurisdictional mandate, aimed at restoring peace and stability in Haiti.

Speaking on behalf of CARICOM during the United Nations Security Council meeting on Haiti on Thursday (July 6), Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, said the regional integration movement is also urging a UN Security Council resolution to this effect as soon as possible.

“It is our duty to give hope to those suffering in Haiti. While we all express solidarity, it is meaningless without urgent action. Let us help our brothers and sisters in Haiti to finally achieve the peace, stability and prosperity that they deserve,” he said.

“Peace, stability and prosperity are not mere aspirations of the Haitian people, but are their inherent rights. The international community must continue to do its part to assist the people of Haiti as they endeavour to find a lasting solution,” the Prime Minister stated.

Mr. Holness said it is imperative to move beyond the rhetoric of solidarity with Haiti to implementing strategic and targeted action that will allow the nation to make tangible progress.

“We acknowledge the imposition of sanctions on gang members as a good and important step. However, sanctions are insufficient to adequately address the local insecurity and transnational impact of the gangs. We have noted the Haitian Government’s request for security support to address the urgent and deteriorating security situation,” he indicated.

The Prime Minister said it is critical that the international community remains steadfast in its support to the people of Haiti and cautioned against the notion of ‘Haiti fatigue’.

CARICOM Urges Multinational Security Support for Haiti

To this end, Mr. Holness said it is important to ensure that the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) is not just extended for 12 months but also that the Office is sufficiently equipped to provide robust support to the Haitian National Police, so that it can combat the rising violence and restore order.

“In this context, we underscore that BINUH must work closely with Haiti to ensure that its mandate is responsive to the needs and priorities of the people of Haiti.

Mr. Holness informed that CARICOM will offer support to Haiti in key priority areas. These include humanitarian support, security and election organisation.

Additionally, he said the regional body will provide personnel, training and capacity building to the Haitian National Police Force.

The Prime Minister indicated that through the established three-member Eminent Persons Group, CARICOM will continue to use its good office to work with Haitian national stakeholders, civil society and all partners to contribute to the achievement of an inclusive, intra-Haitian dialogue.

“Our efforts are intended to form part of a larger framework and, therefore, be complementary to the ongoing processes taking place at various levels. Our aim has been to widen consensus around a Haitian-determined path to peace, stability and democracy,” he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Holness urged humanitarian partners to scale up financial assistance, including investing in Haiti’s agricultural capabilities for food security and resilience strengthening.

He said the humanitarian situation is being further compounded by the security scenario, including the illicit flow of arms and ammunition and gang-related violence.

“This perpetual state of insecurity has not just impeded access to healthcare, education and other basic goods and services, but has also resulted in a rise of vigilante justice, which threatens to worsen the already alarming surge in violence,” the Prime Minister pointed out.

Load-Date: July 8, 2023

Blinken takes up Haiti crisis at Caribbean summit

Agence France Presse -- English

July 5, 2023 Wednesday 7:50 PM GMT

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Length: 311 words

Dateline: Port of Spain, July 5 2023

Body

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived Wednesday at a Caribbean summit where he will meet Haiti's prime minister to discuss ways forward in the violence-ravaged country.

The top US diplomat joined heads of government at the meeting of the Caribbean Community, or Caricom, in Trinidad and Tobago, where he will also meet separately with Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently visited Haiti and warned that the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation was facing "unprecedented violence" at the hands of gangs.

"The security situation is rapidly deteriorating, and humanitarian needs are soaring," Guterres said Monday in Trinidad and Tobago, where he attended the Caricom summit following his stop in Haiti.

Guterres has led calls for a robust international force to stabilize Haiti, where the government has effectively lost control of broad stretches of territory.

But no country has stepped forward, and US President Joe Biden's administration has made clear that it will not risk Americans' lives, instead prioritizing bolstering Haiti's fledgling national police force.

Last week, UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell said after a trip to Port-au-Prince that the world was "failing the Haitian people."

Aides said Blinken will discuss prospects for an international force and also seek a political solution in Haiti, which has not held elections since 2016.

Blinken will "urge Prime Minister Henry to work urgently with Haitian stakeholders to enlarge the political consensus and fashion a political path forward that returns Haiti to democratic order," said Barbara Feinstein, the deputy assistant secretary of state for Caribbean affairs and Haiti.

Haiti's last elected president, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated in July 2021.

Blinken will also visit the South American nation of Guyana on his two-day trip.

Blinken takes up Haiti crisis at Caribbean summit

Load-Date: July 5, 2023

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Blinken promises Haiti security help at Caribbean summit

Agence France Presse -- English

July 5, 2023 Wednesday 9:05 PM GMT

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Length: 464 words

Dateline: Port of Spain, July 5 2023

Body

Secretary of State Antony Blinken promised Wednesday at a Caribbean summit that the United States was committed to restoring security in Haiti, which has been wracked in overlapping crises of violence and poverty.

"The United States shares the commitment felt throughout the region to help the Haitian people shape their future to restore the country's democratic order through free and fair elections," Blinken told leaders of the Caribbean Community, or Caricom, gathered in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Haitians cannot achieve these critical goals without security," he said.

"That's why we've been and remain the largest international donor to the Haitian National Police, why we support the nation's government's call for a multinational force to help us restore security," he said.

Blinken stopped short of saying who could lead the multinational force, a goal promoted since last year by Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, whom Blinken will meet at the summit.

No country has stepped forward, and President Joe Biden's administration has made clear that it will not risk Americans' lives, instead prioritizing bolstering Haiti's fledgling national police force.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently visited Haiti and warned that the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation was facing "unprecedented violence" at the hands of gangs.

"The security situation is rapidly deteriorating, and humanitarian needs are soaring," Guterres said Monday in Trinidad and Tobago, where he attended the Caricom summit following his stop in Haiti.

Guterres has backed calls for a robust international force to stabilize Haiti, where the government has effectively lost control of broad stretches of territory.

Last week, UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell said after a trip to Port-au-Prince that the world was "failing the Haitian people."

The United States has put a high priority on calling for new elections in Haiti, which were last held in 2016.

Blinken promises Haiti security help at Caribbean summit

Blinken will "urge Prime Minister Henry to work urgently with Haitian stakeholders to enlarge the political consensus and fashion a political path forward that returns Haiti to democratic order," said Barbara Feinstein, the deputy assistant secretary of state for Caribbean affairs and Haiti.

Haiti's last elected president, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated in July 2021.

The Caricom summit is celebrating 50 years of the regional bloc.

Blinken promised to help the nations as they combat the scourge of climate change. He also announced the appointment of a new position to help curb crime in Caribbean states.

Michael Ben'Ary will serve as the first US coordinator for Caribbean firearms prosecutions, working closely with the region on weapons investigations.

Blinken will also visit the South American nation of Guyana on his two-day trip.

Load-Date: July 5, 2023

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Haiti marks two year anniversary of Jovenel Moise

Africanews (English)

July 8, 2023 Saturday 9:35 AM EST

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Section: CARIBBEAN NEWS & HAITI NEWS

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Byline: Rédaction Africanews

Body

Haitian officials attended a ceremony at the National Pantheon Museum in Port-Au-Prince on Friday to mark the second anniversary of the assassination of Haitian President, Jovenel Moïse.

On July 7 2021, a squad of gunmen assassinated the president at his home in the capital, Port-au-Prince throwing the country into a deeper crisis amid growing chaos and gang violence.

This week, the Office of Citizen Protection, an independent government agency that investigates complaints against public institutions noted that while the case has barely budged in Haiti, U.S. authorities have arrested 11 suspects and convicted one of them already.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry stressed during a briefing on Thursday that the investigation into the slaying is continuing, but did not provide details.

“For my government, it's important that Jovenel Moïse find justice,” he said. “I am doing everything in my power to help the judicial system move forward.”

On Thursday, María Isabel Salvador, U.N. special envoy to Haiti, said the call continues for those responsible for Moïse's slaying to be brought to justice.

More than 40 other suspects are languishing in one of Haiti's prisons including at least 18 former soldiers from Colombia accused of participating in the slaying of the president.

Load-Date: July 11, 2023

US 'actively' seeking leader for Haiti force, Blinken says

US 'actively' seeking leader for Haiti force, Blinken says

Agence France Presse -- English

July 6, 2023 Thursday 8:15 PM GMT

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Dateline: Georgetown, Guyana, July 6 2023

Body

The United States remains active in its search for a country to head a multinational force in troubled Haiti, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Thursday, without offering Washington's lead.

Blinken met Wednesday at a Caribbean summit with Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry and again spoke of the urgency of an international force in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, where gangs have taken over broad stretches of territory.

But no country has stepped forward despite nearly a year of calls for the force by Henry and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"We're in very active conversations with countries in the region and beyond about such a force and we're in active conversations, of course, at the United Nations about what it might do to give a force the proper imprimatur from the international community," Blinken told reporters in Guyana, his second stop on a regional tour.

"Part of this involves making sure that countries step up to play important roles in such a force, particularly identifying a country that would play a leading-nation role," Blinken said.

But he declined to offer such a role for the United States, which has a long history of intervention in Haiti, and instead reiterated US support for building Haiti's fledgling national police.

US President Joe Biden -- who ended America's longest war in Afghanistan -- has made clear he has no intention of putting US troops at risk in Haiti.

Blinken met Henry at the Caribbean summit in Trinidad and Tobago, where the top US diplomat also called for renewed efforts to hold elections in Haiti.

Haitians have not voted since 2016, with the last elected president, Jovenel Moise, assassinated in July 2021. Henry has promised to step down after a new government is installed in February 2024, although election targets have repeatedly slipped in Haiti.

US 'actively' seeking leader for Haiti force, Blinken says

Speaking next to Blinken, Guyanese President Irfaan Ali said there was progress on Haiti at the Caribbean summit, with Kenya and Rwanda -- whose president, Paul Kagame, was in attendance -- offering support for the police force.

A group of former leaders, including former prime ministers Bruce Golding of Jamaica and Kenny Anthony of Saint Lucia, agreed to work with both Henry and other Haitian stakeholders on a political transition, Ali said.

"Prime Minister Henry is committed to broadening this transitional government," Ali said.

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Load-Date: July 6, 2023

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