

The United Nations Security Council: Topic B Primary Sources

The Situation in Haiti

Here are primary sources that your moderator or legal chair thought would be helpful in gaining an understanding of the topic. These are by no means all of the sources available, just sources we wanted to highlight.

Source #1: Security Council Resolution 2653 (2022)

In this resolution on Haiti passed in October 2022, the Security Council imposed a number of sanctions and restrictions on the country to try and lessen chaos within the country. These include the establishment of travel bans, asset freezes, and a targeted arms embargo. The resolution also sets-up a sanctions committee comprised of Security Council members to help determine which individuals should face sanctions provided that they meet criteria laid out in operative clause 16. For example, individuals “Engaging in, directly or indirectly, or supporting criminal activities and violence involving armed groups and criminal networks that promote violence, including forcible recruitment of children by such groups and networks, kidnappings, trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants, and homicides and sexual and gender-based violence” could face a travel ban, a freeze on their assets, and efforts to prevent them from getting weapons.

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2653.pdf

Sources #2: Security Council Resolution 2476 (2019)

This Security Council resolution was passed in June 2019 and helped formalize the end of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) a UN Peacekeeping Mission established in 2017 that took over from the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) a UN Peacekeeping Mission that had been deployed in Haiti since 2004. In effect, UN Peacekeepers or police had been in Haiti in some capacity from 2004 to 2019. Resolution 2476 established the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) which was to help the country run free and fair elections, reinforce the Haitian police, and push for policies to reduce violence, human rights abuses, and criminality. The resolution was passed with 13 votes in favor and 2 abstentions (China and the Dominican Republic) and some Security Council members criticized the resolution for failing to incorporate Haiti’s vulnerability to climate change.

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_RES_2476\(2019\).pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_RES_2476(2019).pdf)

Source #3: Human Rights Watch Report on Haiti

This report comes from the Human Rights Watch, a Western human rights advocacy organization. The reports outlined the crises that Haiti has faced since 2021, including the assassination of President Moïse, enduring political chaos, internal displacement, and human rights violations. The report highlights that prisons in Haiti are very overcrowding, with 11,000 people in prison as of January 2022 but still awaiting trial. Additionally, abuses by security forces continue, with police continuing to beat journalists and arrest activists. The reports deem that gender-based violence remains common and that the 2021 earthquake made crimes against women and girls even more prevalent.

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti>

Source #4: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk concludes his official visit to Haiti

This is an official statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the conclusion of his visit to Haiti in February 2023. In his remarks, the Commissioner argues that gang violence has been debilitating for the country and that in a single neighborhood in Port-au-Prince 263 people were killed, 285 injured, and 4 disappeared between 8 July and 31 December 2022. The Commissioner believes that 200 gangs operate around Haiti and that more than 500,000 children live in areas controlled by gangs and are not receiving a proper education. Gangs also displace Haitians, having forced out over 155,000 people from their homes in Port-au-Prince alone. Despite these profound struggles, the Commissioner also wants to, “caution against writing off the situation in Haiti as insurmountable and hopeless. Haiti and Haitians must not be defined by the reductionist view of them as victims.”

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/02/un-high-commissioner-human-rights-volker-turk-concludes-his-official-visit-haiti>

Source #5: Report to Congress on the Assassination of Former President of Haiti Jovenel Moïse

This report was prepared by the U.S. Department of State for the U.S. Congress in 2022. The report outlines the assassination of President Moïse and specifically references how the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated and helped the U.S. Department of Justice charge three participants in the assassination, a Colombian citizen, Haitian-Chilean citizen, and Haitian citizen. The report also outlines the United States’ support for Haiti’s investigation into the assassination and it argues that Haiti is equipped to continue its own investigation. The report does outline efforts within Haiti to intimidate Haitians investigating the assassination.

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Report-Haiti-Moi%CC%88se-Assassination-004870.pdf>

Source #6: UN News: Haiti

This is a great source to start your research. Less a primary source and more a repository, this link will take you to the UN News website where you will be able access news articles on the situation in Haiti. Many of these articles specifically reference actions and activities being taken by the United Nations and the international community. This source has articles on Haiti going back to 2001, but pay closest attention to articles published in the aftermath of the earthquake in 2010 as well as since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021 and its descent into political and economic chaos since.

<https://news.un.org/en/tags/haiti>