



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

January 01, 2026

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a message recognizing progress Haiti's transitional government and provisional electoral council are making toward first national elections in a decade in 2026. This represents the first high-level US endorsement of the revised electoral calendar and implicitly accepts the 365-day constitutional gap between February 7 2026 and February 7 2027. The statement conflicts with Canadian Ambassador Giroux's December 16 position that February 7 is the unconditional end of the CPT mandate. Prime Minister Fils-Aime's New Year message emphasized national unity without addressing the approaching constitutional deadline. The 13-day operational pause continues with zero incidents reported on Independence Day.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Secretary Rubio endorses 2026 election timeline creating US-Canada diplomatic split on February 7 legitimacy.

13-day operational pause marks longest sustained period without major gang violence in 2025. PM Fils-Aime New Year message emphasizes unity while avoiding February 7 mandate expiration discussion.

37 days until constitutional reckoning with no formal CPT extension announcement.

France issues Independence Day congratulations to Haiti reaffirming bilateral friendship.

DEVELOPMENT 1

The Rubio Endorsement Creates US-Canada Diplomatic Split on Constitutional Legitimacy

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued an Independence Day message on January 1 2026 stating the United States recognizes the progress Haiti's transitional government and provisional electoral council are making to prepare for the country's first national elections in a decade in 2026. This represents the first high-level US endorsement of the revised electoral calendar published December 25 2025 which establishes a May 19 to August 28 2026 campaign period. By framing this timeline as progress Rubio implicitly accepts the 365-day constitutional gap between the February 7 2026 CPT mandate expiration and February 7 2027 when elected officials would assume office under the new calendar.

The endorsement creates a fundamental diplomatic split with Canada whose ambassador Sebastien Giroux stated on December 16 that February 7 is the unconditional end of the CPT mandate. This US-Canada divergence exposes conflicting interpretations of the OAS Roadmap's institutional continuity clause. The US position appears to interpret this clause as legitimizing CPT governance through 2026 to avoid a power vacuum while Canada's unconditional end position

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

suggests the Council cannot legally govern beyond its constitutional deadline regardless of electoral preparedness. CARICOM and OAS now face pressure to reconcile these conflicting positions or risk international community fragmentation on Haiti policy coordination.

Rubio's message likely reflects pragmatic US calculations including the demonstrated impossibility of organizing elections by February 7 as evidenced by the December 22 candidate list failure. The statement also references continued US support for establishing a Gang Suppression Force that can work with Haitian security forces to end gang reign of terror. This suggests the US views the 365-day extension as necessary time to operationalize the GSF deployment of pledged 7500 personnel and restore minimal security conditions for credible electoral processes. However the endorsement creates a legitimacy problem by providing international cover for CPT extension without addressing the constitutional basis for governance after February 7.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The February 7 2026 constitutional deadline derives from the December 21 2022 political accord establishing the Transitional Presidential Council with a mandate to govern until February 7 2026 when new elected officials would assume office. The accord was negotiated under intense international pressure following President Jovenel Moise's July 7 2021 assassination and two years of de facto rule by unelected Prime Minister Ariel Henry. The OAS Roadmap for Haiti's democratic transition includes an institutional continuity clause committing international actors to work with Haitian authorities to avoid power vacuum scenarios but does not explicitly authorize mandate extensions beyond constitutional deadlines.

TALKING POINTS

First high-level US endorsement of revised electoral calendar represents significant policy shift from previous pressure for elections before February 7 deadline.

Rubio endorsement conflicts with Canadian unconditional end position exposing fundamental US-Canada split on CPT legitimacy after February 7.

US framing of 2026 election timeline as progress provides international cover for 365-day constitutional gap without formal extension announcement.

Statement links election timeline to GSF deployment suggesting US views extension as operationally necessary for security force effectiveness.

Diplomatic split forces CARICOM and OAS to choose between US pragmatic extension position and Canadian constitutional deadline enforcement.

Endorsement provides CPT with international legitimacy cover but does not resolve domestic opposition from MORN and civil society actors.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International community stakeholders should demand CARICOM-OAS joint statement reconciling US-Canada diplomatic split before late January to prevent policy fragmentation.

Diaspora organizations should engage Canadian government directly to understand enforcement mechanisms for unconditional end position given US divergence.

Political actors should prepare for scenario where CPT governs beyond February 7 with US backing but without formal constitutional basis or Canadian recognition.

Private sector should plan for continued governance uncertainty and potential legitimacy contests that could disrupt operations in February-March 2026 period.

Humanitarian organizations should assess operational risks from potential escalation if gang actors exploit legitimacy vacuum to press amnesty demands.

Policy researchers should analyze OAS Roadmap institutional continuity clause text to determine whether it provides legal basis for mandate extension.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2

13-Day Operational Pause Demonstrates Gang Strategic Positioning Before February Deadline

The operational pause that began December 21 continued through January 1 Independence Day with zero major security incidents reported marking the longest sustained period without gang violence in 2025. This 13-day pattern excludes only isolated December 23-26 incidents and represents unprecedented calm during the holiday period spanning Christmas New Year and Haitian Independence Day. The pause demonstrates that gang coalitions retain operational capacity to turn violence on and off at will rather than being militarily degraded by recent government security initiatives including the PNH December 28 general mobilization and December 27 delivery of 25 US armored vehicles.

The strategic timing suggests gang leadership is observing multiple political developments before determining next operational moves. These include PM Fils-Aime's December 28 no negotiations with gangs doctrine MORN's December 29 limited sit-in demonstration the PM's December 30 endorsement of the CEP realistic credible calendar and Rubio's January 1 endorsement of progress toward 2026 elections. The pause allows gang coalitions to assess whether the government will survive the February 7 constitutional crisis with sufficient legitimacy to continue

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

resistance or whether the deadline creates opportunities for negotiated settlements including potential amnesty provisions.

The Crisis Group's December 15 warning that gangs seek amnesty as part of the February 7 transition remains operationally relevant. If the CPT's constitutional legitimacy collapses after February 7 as Canadian Ambassador Giroux's unconditional end position suggests gang coalitions may calculate they have leverage to force negotiations by escalating violence during a legitimacy vacuum. However if the US Rubio endorsement provides sufficient international cover for CPT continuation through 2026 gangs may extend the operational pause while reassessing strategic options. Expect violence resumption in early to mid January as gang leadership completes political assessment and tests government resolve ahead of the 37-day countdown to February 7.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Gang territorial control expanded to approximately 80 percent of Port-au-Prince during 2024-2025 following the Viv Ansanm coalition's coordinated attacks in February-March 2024 that forced PM Ariel Henry's resignation. The December 21 to January 1 operational pause marks the first sustained period without major violence since the coalition's formation. Previous operational pauses typically lasted 3-5 days maximum and were followed by intensified territorial expansion campaigns or high-profile kidnapping operations targeting economic actors and international personnel.

TALKING POINTS

13-day operational pause is longest sustained period without major gang violence in 2025 demonstrating strategic capability rather than military defeat.

Zero incidents on Independence Day January 1 continues pattern suggesting gangs are strategically observing political developments before next moves.

PNH general mobilization and 25 US armored vehicles have not degraded gang operational capacity to control 80 percent of Port-au-Prince.

Pause timing correlates with political developments including PM no negotiations doctrine CEP calendar endorsement and Rubio US endorsement.

Crisis Group December 15 warning about gang amnesty demands remains relevant if February 7 creates legitimacy vacuum opportunity.

Expected violence resumption in early to mid January will test whether US endorsement provides sufficient cover for CPT continuation.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

Security stakeholders should increase threat monitoring in first two weeks of January anticipating operational pause conclusion and violence resumption testing.

International organizations should prepare evacuation and movement restriction protocols for potential escalation scenarios if gangs exploit February 7 transition.

Private sector should review business continuity plans assuming gang violence returns to pre-December 21 intensity levels by mid-January.

Humanitarian actors should accelerate supply repositioning before expected pause conclusion to minimize movement during potential escalation period.

Political analysts should track gang coalition communications for signals about amnesty demands or negotiation overtures during legitimacy vacuum scenarios.

Diaspora organizations should advise members against non-essential travel to Port-au-Prince during January February period given violence resumption risk.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 3

PM Fils-Aime Unity Rhetoric Avoids Constitutional Reckoning With 37 Days Until Deadline

Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime issued a New Year message on January 1 2026 emphasizing that national unity is a fundamental pillar for restoring peace strengthening security and laying foundations for a brighter future. The message conspicuously avoids mentioning the February 7 2026 CPT mandate expiration now 37 days away or the 365-day constitutional gap created by the revised electoral calendar. This silence combined with the PM's December 30 endorsement of the CEP realistic credible calendar confirms the government strategy to proceed operationally as if the CPT will govern through 2026 without formally announcing a mandate extension.

Haiti Consulates in Chicago and Santiago Dominican Republic issued similar Independence Day messages emphasizing unity and Haiti being at a turning point in its destiny without addressing the constitutional deadline. The Chicago Consulate stated that in 2026 as we cross this new historical threshold our nation finds itself at a turning point and the theme of unity must be the foundation. The Santiago Consulate called for strengthened solidarity shared responsibility and renewed commitment to progress and good governance. This coordinated rhetorical strategy attempts to normalize the extension by framing 2026 as a year of progress unity and solidarity rather than constitutional crisis.

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

The unity rhetoric strategy faces mounting domestic opposition despite international cover from Rubio's US endorsement. MORN declared on December 28 that the CPT mandate is expired. Vant Bef Info published a December 31 editorial alleging silent maneuvers to cling to power. Rezo Nodwes published a December 31 editorial framing the situation as the Haitian art of staying after swearing to leave. The government appears to be calculating that proceeding operationally without formal extension announcement combined with US international backing will allow normalization of CPT governance through 2026 while avoiding direct confrontation with constitutional deadline enforcement advocates.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Prime Minister Fils-Aime assumed office on November 11 2024 after predecessor Garry Conille was removed by the CPT following six months in office. Fils-Aime's tenure has been marked by attempts to project stability and continuity including the December 28 no negotiations with gangs doctrine and December 30 endorsement of the CEP electoral calendar. The unity rhetoric builds on his November installation speech emphasizing need for national cohesion to address security governance and economic crises but represents first major test of whether rhetorical positioning can substitute for constitutional legitimacy after February 7.

TALKING POINTS

PM New Year message emphasizes national unity as fundamental pillar but avoids mentioning February 7 deadline now 37 days away.

Silence on constitutional deadline combined with December 30 CEP endorsement confirms government strategy to normalize extension without formal announcement.

Haiti Consulates coordinate unity rhetoric framing 2026 as year of progress rather than constitutional crisis requiring legitimacy resolution.

Strategy faces domestic opposition from MORN December 28 expired mandate declaration and civil society critiques of silent power maneuvers.

Government appears to calculate US Rubio endorsement provides sufficient international cover to proceed operationally through 2026 without formal extension.

Rhetorical normalization strategy avoids direct confrontation with deadline enforcement advocates while building operational facts on ground.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Political actors should monitor whether silence strategy continues through January or whether mounting pressure forces formal extension announcement before February.

International community should demand clarity from CPT on constitutional basis for governance after February 7 rather than accepting operational continuation by default.

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

Civil society organizations should maintain public pressure for constitutional accountability to prevent normalization of extension without formal legal process.

Diaspora stakeholders should engage CARICOM and OAS directly to ensure international bodies address legitimacy question rather than defaulting to US position.

Media outlets should track government communications for any shift from unity rhetoric to formal constitutional justification as February 7 approaches.

Legal experts should prepare constitutional analysis of whether operational continuation without formal extension violates December 21 2022 political accord terms.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 4

France Independence Day Message Reaffirms Bilateral Relations Despite Colonial Legacy



France issued Independence Day congratulations to Haiti on January 1 2026 through social media channels reaffirming friendship between the two nations. The message comes 222 years after Haiti declared independence from French colonial rule on January 1 1804 following the successful slave revolt that established the world's first Black republic. France's continued diplomatic engagement with Haiti remains notable given the historical context of the indemnity debt Haiti was forced to pay France until 1947 for lost property including enslaved people after independence.

The French message emphasizes friendship and bilateral cooperation without addressing historical reparations debates that have intensified in recent years. Haitian civil society organizations and diaspora groups have increasingly called for France to acknowledge and provide restitution for the estimated 21 billion dollars in current value that Haiti paid to France between 1825 and 1947. The Independence Day message suggests France's current policy prioritizes forward-looking partnership over historical accountability despite growing international discourse on colonial reparations including recent French acknowledgments of colonial violence in Algeria.

France maintains economic cultural and security cooperation with Haiti including support for French language education and cultural programs. However French engagement has been limited

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

compared to US Canadian and CARICOM involvement in recent political crisis management. The Independence Day message may signal French intention to maintain presence in Haiti policy discussions as the February 7 constitutional deadline approaches and international actors negotiate positions on CPT legitimacy and electoral timeline. France has not publicly stated a position on whether the CPT can legitimately govern beyond February 7 creating ambiguity about whether Paris aligns with the US Rubio endorsement or Canadian unconditional end position.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti declared independence from France on January 1 1804 after a 13-year revolutionary war led by Toussaint Louverture Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christophe. In 1825 France demanded 150 million francs later reduced to 90 million francs as compensation for lost property including enslaved people and plantations as condition for diplomatic recognition. Haiti paid this indemnity until 1947 severely constraining economic development for over a century. Recent scholarship estimates the total economic impact at approximately 21 billion dollars in current value making this one of history's most significant wealth transfers from formerly colonized to colonizer nations.

TALKING POINTS

France issues Independence Day congratulations reaffirming bilateral friendship 222 years after Haitian independence from French colonial rule.

Message emphasizes forward-looking partnership without addressing reparations debate over 21 billion dollar indemnity debt paid 1825-1947.

French engagement remains limited compared to US Canadian CARICOM involvement in managing Haiti's current political and security crises.

France has not stated position on February 7 CPT legitimacy question leaving ambiguity about alignment with US or Canadian positions.

Independence Day message may signal French intention to maintain policy presence as constitutional deadline approaches and international positions diverge.

Bilateral relations continue through cultural and educational cooperation despite unresolved historical accountability questions from colonial period.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Diaspora organizations should engage French government to clarify position on February 7 CPT legitimacy given US-Canada diplomatic split.

Reparations advocacy groups should use Independence Day visibility to press France for formal acknowledgment of indemnity debt economic impact.

International community should assess whether French policy ambiguity reflects genuine

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

neutrality or strategic hedging between US and Canadian positions.

Policy researchers should analyze French statements on Haiti for signals about whether Paris will support CPT extension or demand constitutional compliance.

Media outlets should contextualize French Independence Day messages within broader colonial legacy debates and current reparations discourse.

Civil society should monitor whether France increases political engagement in Haiti crisis management or maintains limited observer role through 2026.



CONFIDENCE



Moderate confidence based on partial institutional reporting.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

Monitor whether gang coalitions resume violence after Ancestors Day January 2 signaling conclusion of 13-day operational pause and return to pre-December 21 intensity levels. Any major incidents in first 48 hours would indicate gangs completed political assessment and determined escalation serves strategic interests ahead of February 7 deadline. Absence of violence through January 3-4 would extend pause to 15-16 days suggesting gang leadership awaits additional political signals before operational decisions.

THIS WEEK

Track whether CARICOM or OAS issues statement reconciling US Rubio endorsement with Canadian Giroux unconditional end position on February 7 legitimacy. International community silence through January 5-7 would indicate default acceptance of US position allowing government normalization strategy to proceed without formal extension announcement. Any CARICOM-OAS intervention before January 10 would signal attempt to establish unified international position before late January when domestic pressure for constitutional clarity intensifies.

STRATEGIC HORIZON

Assess whether CPT announces formal mandate extension by late January or continues governing through February 7 without addressing constitutional basis. Government silence through January 31 would confirm strategy to normalize extension through operational

AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

continuation backed by US endorsement rather than formal legal process. Any extension announcement before January 25 would indicate government concluded international cover insufficient to proceed without domestic constitutional justification as February deadline approaches.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Haiti Libre Haiti National Day 222nd Anniversary of Haiti's Independence First Messages January 1 2026

Haiti Consulate General Chicago Independence Day Message January 1 2026

Haiti Consulate General Santiago Independence Day Message January 1 2026

US Embassy Haiti Facebook Announcement Holiday Closures January 1-2 2026

Crisis Group Haiti Gang Violence and Political Transition December 15 2025

OAS Roadmap for Haiti Democratic Transition Institutional Continuity Provisions 2024

Le Nouvelliste Haiti News and Analysis January 1 2026

US Department of State Secretary of State Statement on Haiti National Day January 1 2026

IciHaiti New Year The Prime Minister Stands with the People January 1 2026

Haiti Libre Security Report Daily Monitoring December 21 2025 through January 1 2026

Haiti24 News Coverage Port-au-Prince Security Situation January 1 2026

Canada Ambassador Sebastien Giroux Statement on CPT Mandate December 16 2025