



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

January 03, 2026

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sixteen-day operational pause continues with zero gang incidents as of January 3, marking the longest sustained period without major violence in 2025. However, the Haitian National Police on January 2 identified Officer Nelson Prud'homme as the suspect in a double murder committed on Independence Day in Delmas 40A, exposing internal discipline failures within security forces. Rezo Nodwes revealed that Port-de-Paix Chief Prosecutor Me Jeir Pierre is leading an illegal armed civilian militia that has already killed one person, confirming the breakdown of legal frameworks. CPT President Laurent Saint-Cyr delivered an Independence Day address acknowledging the February 7 deadline but provided zero specifics on post-deadline governance. Thirty-five days remain until constitutional reckoning.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

PNH identifies officer Nelson Prud'homme as suspect in January 1 double murder in Delmas 40A committed on Independence Day.

Port-de-Paix Chief Prosecutor confirmed leading illegal armed civilian brigade with one death already attributed to the militia.

CPT President Saint-Cyr called to avoid drift as February 7 approaches but offered no specifics on post-deadline governance framework.

Sixteen-day operational pause from December 21 to January 3 represents longest sustained period without gang violence in 2025.

UN Security Council expected to vote in January on BINUH mandate renewal before January 31 expiration.

DEVELOPMENT 1

PNH IDENTIFIES OFFICER IN INDEPENDENCE DAY DOUBLE MURDER

On January 2, 2026, the Haitian National Police formally identified Officer Nelson Prud'homme of the 25th graduating class as the suspected perpetrator of a double murder that occurred in Delmas 40A on the afternoon of January 1, 2026. The incident took place on Independence Day, the same day Prime Minister Fils-Aime emphasized national unity and CPT President Saint-Cyr called for a sense of responsibility ahead of the February 7 deadline. The PNH issued a statement declaring it reaffirms its commitment to fighting impunity within the institution and will spare no effort to find the officer and bring him to justice.

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The case has been transferred to the Direction centrale de la Police judiciaire and the Direction des Renseignements généraux for joint investigative action. A warrant has been issued for Prud'homme who remains a fugitive. The fact that a police officer committed a double homicide on the nation's most important holiday underscores the internal discipline crisis within Haiti's security forces even as the government declares general mobilization against gangs.

This incident follows documented patterns of police misconduct including Human Rights Watch findings that twenty-two percent of casualties during anti-gang operations are residents struck by stray bullets or victims of extrajudicial executions. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights found that most drone strikes conducted by Haitian security forces are likely unlawful under international human rights law with twenty civilian deaths including eleven children between March and September 2025. The PNH's operational capacity to maintain internal discipline remains fundamentally compromised despite receiving twenty-five US armored vehicles on December 27.

With thirty-five days until the February 7 CPT mandate expiration and gangs controlling eighty to ninety percent of Port-au-Prince, the legitimacy crisis extends beyond the CPT's political mandate to the operational capacity of Haiti's security forces. The disconnect between government rhetoric about national unity and ground reality is stark when a police officer commits double murder on Independence Day.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Haitian National Police has approximately nine thousand officers responsible for eleven million people creating severe capacity constraints. Police misconduct and extrajudicial killings have been documented consistently by international human rights organizations including the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch.

TALKING POINTS

PNH officer committed double murder on Independence Day in Delmas 40A exposing internal discipline failures.

Officer Nelson Prud'homme of the 25th graduating class identified as suspect and remains fugitive.

Case transferred to judicial police and intelligence directorates for joint investigation.

Incident occurred same day government officials emphasized national unity and responsibility.

Pattern of police misconduct includes documented extrajudicial killings and unlawful drone

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strikes.

PNH operational capacity fundamentally compromised despite US armored vehicle deliveries.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International security assistance providers should implement mandatory human rights vetting for PNH units receiving equipment or training.

BINUH and diplomatic missions should demand transparent reporting on internal investigations of police misconduct before February 7.

CPT and government should establish independent oversight mechanism for extrajudicial killings and police violence.

Regional organizations should condition further security support on demonstrable progress in internal discipline reforms.

Civil society organizations should document patterns of police violence for accountability mechanisms.



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High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2

PORT-DE-PAIX CHIEF PROSECUTOR LEADS ILLEGAL ARMED MILITIA

Rezo Nodwes published an investigation on January 1-3 revealing that Me Jeir Pierre, the Port-de-Paix Commissaire du Gouvernement or chief prosecutor, confirmed he is leading an armed civilian brigade in Port-de-Paix. The militia which operates outside any legal framework has already been attributed with one death. Rezo Nodwes legal analysis determined that in Haitian law the Government Commissioner is a magistrate of the prosecutor's office whose role is strictly judicial including prosecuting offenses, requiring application of law, and supervising investigations.

The investigation concluded that the prosecutor has no operational, police, or military competence and that maintaining order is exclusively the responsibility of the Haitian National Police and exceptionally the armed forces within a clearly defined legal framework. The creation

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or direction of a civilian brigade especially secret and armed rests on no legal basis and represents an illegal paramilitary militia that escapes any recognized chain of command, any institutional control, and any clear responsibility.

This revelation confirms the spread of vigilante groups beyond Port-au-Prince into regional departments. Human Rights Watch documented in its 2025 World Report that self-defense groups have killed over two hundred sixty individuals suspected of gang links often in collusion with the police. The UN Security Council Report warned that self-defense groups accounted for nine percent of casualties between July and September 2025 targeting alleged gang affiliates.

The militia phenomenon is spreading because the PNH lacks operational capacity to protect communities with only approximately nine thousand officers for eleven million people forcing civilians to organize armed groups often with police or judicial officials' leadership. However these militias operate outside any legal framework, employ extrajudicial killings, and risk becoming criminal organizations themselves through extortion and revenge killings. With thirty-five days until February 7 and the government's no negotiations with gangs doctrine, militia proliferation is expected to accelerate as communities lose faith in state protection.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Self-defense groups emerged in Haiti following the collapse of state security capacity in gang-controlled areas. Human Rights Watch documented that these groups have killed over two hundred sixty individuals with operations often conducted in collusion with police. The phenomenon represents a fundamental breakdown of rule of law as judicial and security officials participate in or lead extrajudicial armed groups.

TALKING POINTS

Port-de-Paix Chief Prosecutor Me Jeir Pierre confirmed leading illegal armed civilian brigade. Militia has already been attributed with one death and operates outside legal framework. Prosecutor role is strictly judicial with no operational police or military competence. Illegal paramilitary structure escapes recognized chain of command and institutional control. Phenomenon spreading beyond Port-au-Prince into regional departments as state capacity collapses. Over two hundred sixty individuals killed by self-defense groups often in collusion with police.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International human rights mechanisms should launch immediate investigation into judicial officials leading armed militias.

BINUH should document militia proliferation patterns and casualties for accountability reporting before mandate expiration.

Diplomatic missions should condition security assistance on government commitment to disband illegal armed groups.

CPT should issue executive order explicitly prohibiting judicial and police officials from organizing civilian militias.

Civil society organizations should establish monitoring systems for extrajudicial killings by self-defense groups.



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DEVELOPMENT 3

CPT PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGES FEBRUARY 7 DEADLINE WITHOUT GOVERNANCE PLAN

CPT President Laurent Saint-Cyr delivered an Independence Day address on January 1, 2026 at Villa d'Accueil emphasizing that 2026 will be dedicated to holding elections and calling for sense of responsibility, dialogue, and unity to avoid any drift as February 7 approaches. This represents the first explicit CPT acknowledgment of the February 7 deadline in a public address since the December 25 revised electoral calendar publication. However, Saint-Cyr offered no specifics on how the CPT will govern beyond February 7, whether the Council will request a mandate extension, or how the three hundred sixty-five day constitutional gap from February 7, 2026 to February 7, 2027 will be managed.

Saint-Cyr stated that independence conquered two hundred twenty-two years ago under Jean-Jacques Dessalines was the fruit of a historic choice and a vision turned toward future generations. He emphasized that this independence does not constitute only a heritage but also a collective responsibility that the nation has not always known how to assume. He stated the

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electoral calendar is already published and the process is underway calling on national actors for sense of responsibility, dialogue, and unity in order to avoid any drift as February 7 approaches.

The statement aligns with the government's silent maneuvers strategy as reported by Vant Bef Info on December 31 proceeding operationally as if the CPT will govern through 2026 without formally announcing an extension. Le Nouvelliste published an article on January 1 titled CPT and government tighten ranks around electoral objective suggesting internal coordination. However, the absence of public communication about February 7 governance creates a legitimacy vacuum.

With thirty-five days remaining and the United States under Secretary Rubio endorsing progress toward 2026 elections implicitly accepting CPT extension while Canada declared February 7 the unconditional end, international actors face a compressed timeline. BINUH's mandate expires January 31 seven days before the CPT creating additional coordination challenges. No CARICOM or OAS statements have addressed the US-Canada split on the deadline. The next two to three weeks from January 5 to January 25 are critical for whether international actors negotiate a unified position or allow the CPT to govern in a legitimacy twilight zone.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The CPT was sworn in on April 25, 2024 with a mandate to govern until February 7, 2026 when elected officials would assume power. The Council's mandate was established under the April 3, 2024 political agreement brokered by CARICOM. January 3, 2026 marks nine years since the last presidential election results were proclaimed on January 3, 2017 when Jovenel Moise was announced as winner.

TALKING POINTS

CPT President Saint-Cyr called to avoid drift as February 7 approaches in first explicit public acknowledgment.

No specifics provided on post-February 7 governance or three hundred sixty-five day constitutional gap management.

Statement aligns with silent maneuvers strategy proceeding operationally without formal extension announcement.

United States endorses progress toward 2026 elections implicitly accepting extension while Canada declares unconditional end.

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BINUH mandate expires January 31 seven days before CPT creating compressed coordination timeline.

Absence of CARICOM or OAS statements on US-Canada split creates international legitimacy vacuum.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International actors should convene emergency coordination session between January 5 and January 15 to reconcile US-Canada positions.

BINUH mandate renewal resolution should explicitly address post-February 7 CPT transition framework.

Diplomatic missions should demand CPT formal announcement of governance plan no later than January 20.

Regional organizations should establish contingency frameworks for governance beyond February 7 deadline.

Civil society organizations should mobilize public pressure for transparent communication on constitutional transition.



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DEVELOPMENT 4

SIXTEEN-DAY OPERATIONAL PAUSE CONTINUES AS LONGEST IN 2025

January 3, 2026 marks sixteen consecutive days from December 21 to January 3 without major gang violence excluding isolated incidents on December 23-26. This represents the longest sustained period without major security incidents in 2025. No new incidents were reported by Haiti Libre, Haiti24, Le Nouvelliste, Vant Bef Info, or other monitored sources as of 4:51 PM EST on January 3. The pattern suggests gangs remain in a strategic operational pause potentially related to the holiday period or tactical regrouping.

The pause follows the pattern established on December 21 when major gang violence ceased across Port-au-Prince despite gangs controlling eighty to ninety percent of the capital. Previous

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operational pauses in 2025 rarely exceeded seven to ten days before violence resumed. The current sixteen-day period is exceptional and raises questions about gang strategic calculations as the February 7 constitutional deadline approaches with thirty-five days remaining.

Government operations were reduced during the December 21 to January 3 period due to holidays including Christmas, New Year's Day, and Ancestors' Day. Full government operations are expected to resume on January 6. The critical test will be whether gangs resume violence within twenty-four to forty-eight hours of government restart or whether the operational pause extends into the second week of January.

The pause does not indicate improved security capacity as demonstrated by the PNH officer committing double murder on January 1 and the Port-de-Paix prosecutor leading an illegal militia. Rather it suggests gang leadership may be conducting strategic assessment of the political landscape as the CPT mandate expiration approaches without clear post-February 7 governance framework. Historical patterns indicate gangs exploit periods of political uncertainty to expand territorial control or negotiate concessions.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Gang violence in Haiti typically operates in cycles with periods of intense attacks followed by operational pauses for regrouping, resupply, or strategic assessment. The longest previous pause in 2025 was approximately seven to ten days. Gangs controlling eighty to ninety percent of Port-au-Prince have demonstrated capacity for coordinated operations and strategic timing of violence to maximize political impact.

TALKING POINTS

Sixteen consecutive days from December 21 to January 3 without major gang violence represents longest pause in 2025.

Zero incidents reported on January 3 as of 4:51 PM EST by monitored sources.

Pattern exceptional compared to typical seven to ten day maximum pauses in 2025.

Government operations resume January 6 creating critical test for violence resumption.

Pause does not indicate improved security capacity given police misconduct and militia proliferation.

Gang strategic assessment likely as February 7 deadline approaches with no clear post-deadline governance.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Security forces should maintain heightened alert posture for potential violence resumption between January 5 and January 7.

Intelligence agencies should intensify monitoring of gang communications and territorial movements during pause.

Humanitarian organizations should use operational pause to pre-position supplies and reinforce community protection systems.

Diplomatic missions should assess whether pause indicates gang leadership strategic positioning for post-February 7 period.

CPT should avoid interpreting pause as security improvement and maintain operational readiness for violence resumption.



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WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

Government operations fully resume January 6 creating critical test for whether gangs resume violence within twenty-four to forty-eight hours ending the sixteen-day operational pause. PNH manhunt for Officer Nelson Prud'homme continues with focus on whether arrest occurs before media attention diminishes. International diplomatic missions may issue statements on January 3-5 regarding Independence Day celebrations and February 7 timeline.

THIS WEEK

UN Security Council expected to vote between January 5 and January 15 on BINUH mandate renewal before January 31 expiration with critical question whether resolution addresses post-February 7 CPT transition framework. CARICOM or OAS may convene emergency sessions between January 10 and January 20 to reconcile US-Canada split on February 7 deadline or silence may continue through late January. Gang violence resumption likely between January 5 and January 10 as government operations restart.

STRATEGIC HORIZON

February 7 CPT mandate expiration in thirty-five days creates constitutional reckoning with no public governance plan announced. Three hundred sixty-five day gap from February 7, 2026 to February 7, 2027 requires framework for elections, constitutional legitimacy, and international support. Militia proliferation accelerating as communities lose faith in state protection with risk of vigilante groups becoming permanent criminal organizations. US-Canada diplomatic split on deadline could fracture international coordination on Haiti policy through first quarter 2026.

PRIMARY SOURCES

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