



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

January 30, 2026

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UN Security Council unanimously extended BINUH's mandate to January 31 2027 while criticizing Haiti for lack of political consensus eight days before the CPT's February 7 2026 mandate expires. Smith Augustin formally withdrew from the effort to remove coordinator Laurent Saint-Cyr in a January 29 letter, definitively collapsing the five-member dismissal coalition and cementing executive consolidation under Saint-Cyr and PM Fils-Aime. Opposition plurielle and MORN announced demonstrations through February 7 demanding CPT departure and alternative governance frameworks. US Ambassador Locetta declared PM Fils-Aime essential for gang suppression while Secretary Rubio demanded CPT dissolution by February 7 without corrupt interference, creating diplomatic backing for the Saint-Cyr-Fils-Aime axis but triggering sovereignty concerns among civil society actors who denounce external pressure as blackmail.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

UNSC Resolution 2814 extends BINUH mandate one year but Council criticizes Haiti's political stalemate with eight days until CPT mandate expiration.

Smith Augustin's January 29 withdrawal letter definitively collapses five-member dismissal coalition leaving Saint-Cyr and Fils-Aime in executive control through February 7 and likely beyond.

Opposition plurielle and MORN mobilize demonstrations January 29 through February 7 demanding CPT departure and Supreme Court judge installation or bicephalous transition.

US position hardens with Fils-Aime declared essential and CPT dissolution deadline set for February 7 creating diplomatic backing but civil society backlash over foreign interference.

TPS work authorization expires February 3 affecting 350000 Haitians including critical healthcare workers with 18-month departure window beginning.

DEVELOPMENT 1: UNSC Resolution 2814 Extends BINUH Mandate Through January 2027 But Criticizes Political Stalemate Eight Days Before CPT Expiration

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2814 on January 29 extending BINUH's mandate for one year until January 31 2027 and revising its core functions to prioritize inter-Haitian dialogue facilitation, electoral assistance, community violence reduction, disarmament and reintegration program design, and gang violence and human rights monitoring. The 15-0 vote reflected Council consensus that sustained international political engagement remains essential despite deepening frustration with Haiti's fractured leadership. The resolution co-sponsored by the United States and Panama provides institutional continuity as Haiti faces its most acute governance crisis since the CPT's April 2024 formation with eight days remaining until the transitional body's constitutional mandate expires February 7 2026.

The Associated Press reported that the Security Council criticized Haitian authorities for lack of progress in achieving political consensus ahead of the February 7 deadline. The UN press release stated that today's adoption comes as some CPT members moved to dismiss PM Fils-Aime on January 21 with the Council's mandate to end February 7 underscoring timeline pressure facing Haiti's political class. The AP noted the CPT is supposed to dissolve by February 7 but it's unclear if that will happen capturing the uncertainty surrounding the transition. US Ambassador Locetta used the session to reaffirm unwavering support for Haiti and declare that maintaining PM Fils-Aime is essential in the fight against armed gangs and restoring public order while reiterating

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Secretary Rubio's position that the CPT must be dissolved by February 7 without corrupt actors seeking to interfere in Haiti's electoral process for personal purposes.

The Democratic Republic of Congo speaking on behalf of Liberia and Somalia underscored the need to ensure BINUH has necessary means and resources to help Haitians restore security, stability and rule of law. However the UN trust fund for the Gang Suppression Force has received no new donations since August 2025 and holds only 113 million dollars of the 800 million needed annually. The 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan seeks 880 million for 4.2 million people but 2025 saw Haiti as one of the least funded humanitarian appeals in the world. The operational reality is that BINUH's renewed political mandate confronts resource constraints that may limit capacity to deliver on Security Council expectations.

The resolution vote occurred as gangs now control 90 percent of Port-au-Prince and have expanded into Artibonite countryside employing murder, kidnapping and sexual violence with widespread impunity. Medecins Sans Frontieres reported January 28 that sexual assault cases at its Port-au-Prince clinic have tripled in four years with more than 100 victims attacked by ten or more perpetrators at once. More than 8100 people were killed in Haiti between January and November 2025 representing a 20 percent increase over 2024's 5600 deaths. The Security Council's mandate renewal preserves BINUH's good offices and electoral support functions but the mission operates in an environment where the Haitian state controls less than 10-20 percent of the capital's territory and faces a February 7 governance vacuum.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

BINUH was established in October 2019 as a special political mission replacing the UN peacekeeping operation that had been in Haiti since 2004. The mission's mandate has been renewed annually with progressive reductions in scope reflecting international donor fatigue and Haiti's inability to achieve sustainable political consensus. Resolution 2814 represents the seventh mandate renewal since BINUH's creation.

TALKING POINTS

One-year mandate extension provides institutional continuity through January 31 2027 but does not resolve February 7 2026 governance vacuum eight days away.

Revised mandate prioritizes inter-Haitian dialogue facilitation and electoral assistance but with no consensus framework emerging dialogue window closing rapidly.

Unanimous 15-0 vote demonstrates international consensus that Haiti requires sustained political engagement despite frustration with leadership failures.

US advocacy for streamlined mandate reflects Trump administration's December 2025 decree on multilateral organization participation emphasizing essential functions only.

Resource gap remains critical with GSF trust fund holding 113 million of 800 million needed annually and no donations since August 2025.

Council criticism of lack of political consensus directly references CPT internal crisis and January 21 attempt to dismiss PM Fils-Aime.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International organizations should coordinate BINUH dialogue facilitation with CARICOM virtual meeting to maximize final eight-day window for consensus framework.

Donors should clarify 2026 funding commitments for GSF and humanitarian response to align resources with renewed BINUH mandate expectations.

BINUH should activate dialogue mandate immediately by convening CPT members, opposition actors and civil society before February 7 deadline.

US and Canada should disclose names of January 25 sanctioned CPT members to reduce political uncertainty and clarify red lines.

Security Council should request emergency briefing February 10 to assess post-CPT transition implementation and identify immediate risks.

Private sector actors should scenario-plan for caretaker government continuity versus contested authority claims post-February 7.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2: Smith Augustin Formal Withdrawal Definitively Collapses Five-Member Dismissal Coalition Cementing Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime Executive Control

CPT member Smith Augustin sent a formal letter to his four colleagues on January 29 unequivocally withdrawing from the effort to remove CPT coordinator Laurent Saint-Cyr and definitively collapsing the five-member coalition that has sought since January 21 to dismiss PM Fils-Aime. The letter obtained and published by HaitiLibre represents a complete reversal from Augustin's January 22 confirmation to Le Nouvelliste that four colleagues and I signed in favor of the Prime Minister's dismissal. The strategic significance is profound as without Augustin's support the remaining four members Fritz Alphonse Jean, Leslie Voltaire, Louis Gerald Gilles and Edgard Leblanc Fils lack votes to remove Saint-Cyr who as CPT president pro tempore controls transmission of resolutions to Le Moniteur the official gazette where government decisions acquire legal force.

Augustin's letter addressed to Dear Presidential Advisors Dear colleagues Fritz Alphonse Jean Leslie Voltaire Edgard Leblanc Fils and Louis Gerald Gilles explained that he initially supported the Prime Minister's dismissal following recommendations from discussions with national stakeholders within the framework of political dialogue initiated January 18 2026 believing the action could facilitate institutional transition starting February 7 2026. However given the evolution of events and following thorough reflection I have decided to withdraw my support for any action aimed at removing coordinator Laurent Saint-Cyr or any other CPT member at this critical stage. The operative paragraph stated therefore I am informing you that from today until February 7 2026 I will refrain from participating in any similar decision-making process in order to preserve stability necessary for peaceful and orderly transition.

Augustin urged colleagues to focus efforts on the essential ensuring continuity of state, supporting electoral preparations and fostering environment conducive to emergence of consensus solution for post-February 7 period. Gazette Haiti characterized the letter as unequivocal and noted Augustin's reversal occurs in context of strong diplomatic pressures notably American. Rezon Odwes emphasized Augustin's legal warning that dismissing coordinator without formal publication of prior resolution would open way to spiral of administrative revocations and uncontrollable institutional instability particularly dangerous just days before February 7 deadline of transition. The Jamaica Observer confirmed that last week a resolution for Fils-Aime's dismissal had support of five CPT members before advisor Smith Augustin finally reversed his decision and refused to sign.

The Augustin letter cements Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime executive consolidation with Saint-Cyr controlling Le Moniteur transmission preventing the January 21 dismissal resolution from acquiring legal effect. Emmanuel Vertilaire representing Moise Jean-Charles's Pitit Dessalines party has functionally aligned with the Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime axis by participating in executive coordination meetings despite his party leader's opposition. With Augustin's withdrawal the dismissal coalition is reduced to four members at least two of whom face US visa sanctions imposed January 25. The operational implication is that Saint-Cyr and Fils-Aime will almost certainly remain in their positions through February 7 and likely beyond operating as de facto caretaker government under constitutional provision allowing prime minister to continue if no successor is installed.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The CPT was established April 25 2024 under the April 3 2024 political agreement signed in Jamaica with a mandate to govern Haiti until February 7 2026 when elected authorities would assume office. The nine-member body with seven voting members has been paralyzed by internal divisions since formation with multiple attempts to remove members including successful dismissal of original coordinator Edgard Leblanc Fils in September 2024.

TALKING POINTS

Augustin withdrawal definitively ends five-member coalition's capacity to remove Saint-Cyr or dismiss PM Fils-Aime with eight days until mandate expires.

Formal letter cites preservation of stability necessary for peaceful transition as rationale reflecting legal concerns about institutional instability.

Saint-Cyr controls Le Moniteur transmission mechanism giving him veto power over CPT resolutions acquiring legal force.

US January 25 visa sanctions on two unnamed CPT members likely fractured dismissal coalition by creating credible deterrent.

Constitutional provision allows PM to continue if no successor installed positioning Fils-Aime for post-February 7 caretaker role.

Four-member coalition politically exhausted with no viable path to executive power before February 7 deadline.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Saint-Cyr and Fils-Aime should announce post-February 7 caretaker framework by February 5 to reduce political

uncertainty and clarify governance continuity.

International partners should publicly endorse caretaker government scenario to provide legitimacy and deter competing authority claims.

Four-member coalition should accept political defeat and participate in CARICOM-facilitated dialogue to preserve institutional stability.

Civil society organizations should demand transparent succession plan from Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime axis before February 7 deadline.

Media should verify US sanctioned CPT members' identities to inform public understanding of coalition collapse dynamics.

Political parties should clarify positions on caretaker government acceptance versus opposition to enable stakeholder planning.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 3: Opposition Plurielle and MORN Mobilize Demonstrations Through February 7 Demanding CPT Departure and Alternative Governance Frameworks

Opposition plurielle announced demonstrations January 29 through February 7 demanding CPT departure and installation of Supreme Court judge as head of state while MORN held demonstration January 30 at Parc Midore opposing PM Fils-Aime remaining after February 7 and denouncing US visa sanctions as blackmail. Father Amorce Georges stated Haiti should not submit to external pressures and advocated for political and economic sovereignty. Fiertee Nationale Haitienne president Joseph Junior Michel called for bicephalous two-headed transition of short duration rather than continued CPT-PM governance. CARICOM is organizing virtual meeting with Haitian political actors and civil society to facilitate consensus but MORN emphasized preference for outcome driven primarily by Haitian actors suggesting wariness of international mediation.

The opposition mobilizations represent escalating street pressure against Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime executive consolidation scenarios. Opposition plurielle's demand for Supreme Court judge installation reflects constitutional interpretation that judicial authority should assume interim governance if CPT mandate expires without elected successor. MORN's characterization of US sanctions as blackmail captures civil society concerns that Washington's hardline position favoring Fils-Aime constitutes foreign interference in Haiti's sovereign political processes. The demonstrations through February 7 create volatility window where street mobilizations could escalate into confrontations with security forces or trigger gang exploitation of political instability.

CARICOM's virtual meeting represents final mediation opportunity before February 7 with Eminent Persons Group engaging Haitian political actors and civil society. However MORN's stated preference for Haitian-led outcome indicates skepticism about international facilitation particularly given US-Canada positions favoring Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime continuity. The risk is that CARICOM dialogue produces no consensus framework leaving competing legitimacy claims between Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime caretaker government backed by US-Canada and opposition-civil

society coalition demanding alternative governance. The eight days remaining represent Haiti's final window for negotiated transition but mobilization patterns suggest civil society opposition will contest Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime authority post-February 7.

The demonstrations occur as gang territorial control remains unchanged at 90 percent of Port-au-Prince with sexual violence cases tripling and 8100 deaths recorded January-November 2025. The operational environment limits opposition capacity for sustained mass mobilizations given security constraints but targeted demonstrations at symbolic locations like Parc Midore demonstrate civil society's determination to challenge executive consolidation. Political party positioning remains fluid with UNIR FNC OPL and Pitit Dessalines yet to issue definitive statements accepting or rejecting Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime continuity scenarios.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti's 1987 Constitution provides that if presidential elections cannot be held the National Assembly president assumes interim authority or if Assembly is dissolved the Supreme Court chief justice serves as provisional president. Opposition plurielle's demand for Supreme Court judge installation invokes this constitutional mechanism though the CPT's transitional status creates legal ambiguity about applicability of standard succession provisions.

TALKING POINTS

Opposition plurielle and MORN demonstrations through February 7 create eight-day volatility window where street mobilizations could escalate.

Supreme Court judge installation demand reflects constitutional interpretation that judicial authority assumes interim governance if CPT expires without successor.

US sanctions characterized as blackmail by MORN captures civil society sovereignty concerns about foreign interference in political processes.

CARICOM virtual meeting represents final mediation opportunity but Haitian actors express preference for domestically-driven outcome.

Competing legitimacy claims possible post-February 7 between Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime caretaker government and opposition alternative frameworks.

Gang territorial control unchanged limiting opposition capacity for sustained mass mobilizations but targeted demonstrations demonstrate determination.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Security forces should exercise restraint during demonstrations January 29 through February 7 to prevent casualties that could escalate political crisis.

CARICOM should accelerate virtual meeting timeline to maximum four days before February 7 deadline to enable consensus implementation.

Opposition actors should participate in CARICOM dialogue despite sovereignty concerns to preserve institutional

stability options.

International media should cover demonstrations to ensure civil society voices inform global understanding of Haiti's political crisis.

Civil society should coordinate demonstration messaging to articulate specific alternative governance framework beyond CPT departure demand.

Political parties should issue statements by February 5 clarifying positions on caretaker government versus alternative frameworks to enable stakeholder alignment.



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Moderate confidence based on partial institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 4: US Hardline Position and TPS Expiration Create Dual Pressure on Haiti's Political Transition

US Ambassador Locetta declared at UN Security Council that maintaining PM Fils-Aime is essential in fight against armed gangs and restoring public order while Secretary Rubio demanded CPT dissolution by February 7 without corrupt actors interfering in electoral process. The State Department imposed visa sanctions January 25 on two unnamed CPT members for involvement in gang operations creating credible deterrent that fractured five-member dismissal coalition. Washington's position provides diplomatic backing for Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime executive consolidation but triggers civil society backlash with MORN denouncing sanctions as blackmail and Father Georges stating Haiti should not submit to external pressures. Simultaneously TPS work authorization expires February 3 affecting 350000 Haitians including critical healthcare workers with 18-month departure window beginning.

The US hardline position reflects Trump administration's December 2025 decree on multilateral organizations emphasizing streamlined mandates and essential functions. Ambassador Locetta's characterization of Fils-Aime as essential for gang suppression signals Washington's assessment that executive stability takes priority over CPT internal legitimacy disputes. The January 25 visa sanctions on two CPT members represent targeted use of diplomatic tools to shape Haiti's political trajectory with analytical consensus that sanctions fractured dismissal coalition by creating credible deterrent against Saint-Cyr removal attempts. Secretary Rubio's demand that CPT dissolve by February 7 without corrupt interference directly targets the four-member coalition Jean Voltaire Gilles Leblanc creating pressure for acceptance of political defeat.

However the hardline position generates sovereignty concerns among Haitian civil society actors who view US sanctions and public statements as foreign interference in domestic political processes. MORN's characterization of sanctions as blackmail captures this tension between Washington's assessment that targeted pressure prevents gang-linked actors from capturing power and Haitian perception that external actors are imposing preferred outcomes. The risk is that US backing for Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime while effective in consolidating executive control undermines political legitimacy and fuels nationalist backlash that complicates post-February 7 governance.

TPS expiration February 3 represents separate but converging pressure point affecting 350000 Haitians in United States with 18-month departure window beginning. Healthcare workforce including physicians and nurses face

particular impact given Haiti's humanitarian collapse with 1.4 million displaced and 5.7 million acutely food insecure. Port-au-Prince airport remains virtually inaccessible with ZED suspended and FAA ban through March 7 while Cap-Haitien operational but overland route gang-controlled creating return constraints. Family security concerns intensify given MSF sexual violence report showing cases tripled with more than 100 victims attacked by ten or more perpetrators. Remittances totaling 4.9 billion annually representing 21.4 percent GDP depend on diaspora stability with 62.8 percent originating from United States.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti received TPS designation in 2010 following devastating earthquake with periodic extensions through successive administrations. The January 2026 expiration reflects Trump administration immigration policy changes affecting multiple countries. Haiti's 1987 Constitution and subsequent amendments establish prime minister continuity provisions if National Assembly cannot confirm successor allowing caretaker governance during political transitions.

TALKING POINTS

US declares PM Fils-Aime essential for gang suppression providing diplomatic backing for executive consolidation through February 7 and beyond.

January 25 visa sanctions on two CPT members fractured dismissal coalition creating credible deterrent against Saint-Cyr removal attempts.

Civil society denounces sanctions as blackmail reflecting sovereignty concerns about foreign interference in domestic political processes.

TPS work authorization expires February 3 affecting 350000 Haitians including critical healthcare workers with 18-month departure window.

Return constraints include Port-au-Prince airport inaccessibility and gang-controlled overland routes creating humanitarian complications.

Remittances at 4.9 billion annually representing 21.4 percent GDP depend on diaspora stability with majority from United States.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

State Department should disclose sanctioned CPT members' names by February 5 to reduce political uncertainty and clarify accountability.

US and Canada should coordinate messaging on post-February 7 governance to present unified position supporting caretaker government.

Diaspora organizations should advocate for TPS extension or phased deportation implementation to prevent humanitarian shock.

Healthcare facilities in Haiti should contingency-plan for workforce losses if TPS holders cannot return or choose not to return.

International partners should prepare emergency humanitarian support if mass deportations trigger secondary displacement or family separation crises.

Civil society should channel sovereignty concerns into constructive dialogue participation rather than blanket rejection of international engagement.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

CARICOM announces date and agenda for virtual meeting with Haitian political actors determining whether consensus framework possible in final six days before February 7 mandate expiration.

Opposition plurielle and MORN demonstration attendance and security force response patterns indicating whether mobilizations escalate or remain contained through February 7.

Saint-Cyr or Fils-Aime public statements clarifying post-February 7 caretaker government framework or political party consultation plans.

State Department or Global Affairs Canada disclosure of January 25 sanctioned CPT members' names reducing political uncertainty.

Four-member coalition Jean Voltaire Gilles Leblanc response to Augustin withdrawal indicating acceptance of political defeat or final maneuver attempt.

THIS WEEK

TPS work authorization expiration February 3 implementation with monitoring for mass deportation initiation or phased approach.

PNH and GSF security operations intensity ahead of February 7 transition including territorial gains or losses against gang networks.

Political party positioning statements from UNIR FNC OPL Pitit Dessalines clarifying acceptance or rejection of Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime continuity.

Gang response to political crisis including potential attacks on government targets, critical infrastructure or humanitarian operations.



Gourde exchange rate movement beyond 133-135 HTG/USD indicating capital flight or confidence shock from governance vacuum.

STRATEGIC HORIZON

Post-February 7 governance implementation with Saint-Cyr Fils-Aime caretaker government versus competing authority claims creating contested legitimacy.

BINUH activation of renewed dialogue facilitation mandate with Special Representative initiatives to convene stakeholders.

Electoral timeline clarity including voter registration restart and constitutional referendum preparation requirements.

International funding commitments for GSF trust fund and 2026 humanitarian response aligning resources with BINUH mandate expectations.

Apostolic Nuncio appointment timing and potential Vatican mediation role in post-February 7 political consensus building.

PRIMARY SOURCES

UN Security Council Resolution 2814 January 29 2026 extending BINUH mandate to January 31 2027

HaitiLibre publication of Smith Augustin formal withdrawal letter January 29 2026

Le Nouvelliste reporting on Smith Augustin WhatsApp confirmation January 22 2026

Vant Bef Info opposition plurielle demonstration announcement January 29 2026

Vant Bef Info MORN opposition to PM remaining after February 7 January 30 2026

UN Press Release SC/16285 UN Security Council session January 29 2026

Jamaica Observer CARICOM concern over Haiti internal turmoil January 27 2026

State Department Haiti travel advisory update January 23 2026

Reuters US visa restrictions on two CPT members January 25 2026

Associated Press reporting on UNSC Haiti criticism January 29 2026

Gazette Haiti reporting on Augustin reversal and American sanctions January 29 2026

Rezon Odwes coverage of Augustin legal warning on institutional instability January 29 2026