



# AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

January 31, 2026

*Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Viv Ansanm gang coalition executed coordinated attack on Tet Kajak village in Marigot commune January 30 killing seven residents and forcing displacement to Jacmel, marking first gang territorial expansion from Kenscoff stronghold into Sud-Est Department. US Embassy issued security alert January 31 halting all personnel movements due to heavy gunfire near embassy perimeter and Croix-de-Bouquets. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled January 28 that DHS Secretary Noem exceeded statutory authority by terminating TPS for 340,000 Haitians ahead of February 3 deadline. CARICOM virtual mediation January 30 produced no consensus among political stakeholders seven days before CPT mandate expires February 7, 2026.



## QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Viv Ansanm massacred seven in Tet Kajak expanding gang control from West Department into Sud-Est Department threatening Jacmel corridor.

US Embassy halted all government personnel movements January 31 due to heavy gunfire in Tabarre diplomatic zone and Croix-de-Bouquets.

Ninth Circuit blocked deportation of 340,000 Haitians but February 3 TPS expiration deadline implementation remains uncertain.

CARICOM mediation collapsed with seven days until CPT mandate expires and no agreed succession framework.

PNH Director General Rameau Normil summoned to Criminal Court February 2 for investigation into 317 missing police rifles.

### DEVELOPMENT 1: Viv Ansanm Gang Coalition Massacres Seven in Tet Kajak Village Marking Territorial Expansion into Sud-Est Department

Heavily armed Viv Ansanm coalition members attacked Tet Kajak village in Marigot commune early morning January 30 killing at least seven people including three vigilante brigade members and wounding four others according to Le Nouvelliste and Vant Bef Info reporting. The assault originated from gang-controlled Kenscoff territory in Nouvelle Touraine area and resulted in burning of multiple houses, motorcycle theft and destruction, widespread pillaging, and resident displacement toward Jacmel. Tet Kajak sits at the West Department and Sud-Est Department junction and the attack represents strategic escalation beyond Viv Ansanm's Kenscoff stronghold seized January 27, 2025.

Vant Bef Info reported that local residents expressed shock at the incursion noting that while rumors of Kenscoff-based gang expansion existed the actual attack provoked profound shock among residents previously spared direct gang violence. Kenscoff Mayor Massillon Jean confirmed multiple residents fled toward Jacmel but could not provide exact displacement figures and stated that resistance would continue while requesting reinforced security support. Vant Bef Info analysis

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warned that absent lasting government response the violence extension toward Marigot exposes the entire Sud-Est Department to increased insecurity risks.

The strategic significance is that Marigot's fall to gang control would sever the road corridor connecting Port-au-Prince to Jacmel and the southern coast isolating the capital further and providing Viv Ansanm access to maritime smuggling routes. The attack coincided with the first anniversary of Kenscoff commune gang takeover demonstrating one year of territorial control enabled Viv Ansanm to consolidate positions and project force into adjacent departments. More than 10,000 people have been killed during 22 months of CPT governance as gang territorial expansion continues unabated.

For humanitarian organizations the Tet Kajak corridor connecting Kenscoff to Marigot and onward to Jacmel is now a high-risk zone requiring armed escort or alternative routing protocols. PNH numbers approximately 12,000 officers against an estimated 12,000 armed gang members with the Gang Suppression Force fielding only 1,000 personnel versus the authorized 5,550 creating severe force ratio disadvantages that limit counter-gang operational capacity in newly threatened Sud-Est territories.



### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Viv Ansanm seized Kenscoff commune on January 27, 2025 establishing territorial control in mountainous West Department regions. The coalition has held Kenscoff for one year using the area as a staging base for expansion operations. Sud-Est Department including Jacmel has until now remained relatively secure compared to Port-au-Prince and Artibonite gang-controlled zones.

### TALKING POINTS

Viv Ansanm executed coordinated multi-hour attack killing seven and displacing residents demonstrating operational capacity beyond defensive positions.

Tet Kajak junction controls access between West and Sud-Est departments making it strategic chokepoint for Port-au-Prince to Jacmel corridor.

One year of Kenscoff territorial control enabled gang consolidation and force projection into previously secure Sud-Est territories.

Security forces outnumbered with 12,000 PNH against 12,000 gang members and GSF at 1,000 versus 5,550 authorized strength.

Humanitarian corridor from Port-au-Prince through Kenscoff to Jacmel now requires armed escort or alternative routing.

Mayor Massillon Jean requested reinforced security support indicating local authorities cannot contain gang expansion without external assistance.

## RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

WFP and UNICEF should revise Sud-Est access protocols to account for Tet Kajak corridor insecurity and establish alternative supply routes to Jacmel.

IOM and OCHA should deploy displacement monitoring teams to Jacmel to assess Tet Kajak refugee flows and establish emergency shelter capacity.

Security sector donors should accelerate GSF deployment timelines and equipment transfers to address force ratio disadvantage against gang expansion.

BINUH should activate inter-Haitian dialogue facilitation mandate under Resolution 2814 to address security governance gaps before February 7 CPT expiration.

Private sector clients should suspend overland movements through Kenscoff-Marigot corridor and utilize Cap-Haitien or maritime access for southern coast operations.

International organizations should coordinate with PNH to establish armed convoy protocols for essential humanitarian movements through newly threatened territories.



## CONFIDENCE



**High confidence based on official institutional reporting.**

### DEVELOPMENT 2: US Embassy Issues Security Alert Halting All Government Personnel Movements Due to Heavy Gunfire in Tabarre and Croix-de-Bouquets

The US Embassy in Port-au-Prince issued security alert at 7:49 PM EST January 31 warning of ongoing security operations north and south of the embassy and in Croix-de-Bouquets with heavy gunfire reported in the area. The alert stated that US government personnel have halted all movements indicating threat conditions severe enough to restrict even armored embassy convoys. The timing one day after the Tet Kajak massacre and seven days before the CPT mandate expires suggests either PNH and GSF counter-gang operations near embassy perimeter or gang attacks testing security force defenses during political transition period.

Previous embassy alerts cited similar patterns with heavy gunfire in Pernier, Torcel, and Croix-de-Bouquets zones south of the embassy compound and gang presence near the OAVCT checkpoint on Boulevard 15 October recurring as security concern. The January 31 alert was issued during daylight operational hours when embassy activities would normally continue reflecting assessment that immediate threat exceeds routine gang activity levels. Embassy security alerts typically precede extended movement restrictions or evacuation advisories for American citizens if

conditions deteriorate further.

The operational implications are that even the Tabarre diplomatic zone previously considered relatively secure now faces gang proximity attacks or major security operations requiring total personnel movement suspension. For businesses maintaining expatriate staff in Port-au-Prince the embassy alert signals deterioration in security conditions across multiple zones simultaneously rather than isolated incidents. Executive evacuation protocols and secure shelter-in-place procedures should be reviewed and updated based on embassy assessment that movement risks exceed acceptable thresholds.

The convergence of Tet Kajak gang expansion, embassy perimeter insecurity, and approaching February 7 political deadline creates cascading institutional risk where security forces must defend against territorial expansion while maintaining control of critical infrastructure and diplomatic zones. The alert demonstrates that gang operational tempo is increasing rather than decreasing as political transition approaches potentially testing whether government maintains effective sovereignty in Port-au-Prince center during CPT mandate expiration period.



## **HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

US Embassy security alerts have been issued periodically throughout 2025 and early 2026 as gang violence intensified in Port-au-Prince. The embassy maintains Level 4 Do Not Travel advisory for Haiti warning that gang violence controls 90 percent of Port-au-Prince and creates life-threatening risks. Previous alerts in 2025 cited heavy gunfire in zones surrounding the Tabarre embassy compound requiring movement restrictions.

## **TALKING POINTS**

Embassy halted all US government personnel movements indicating threat assessment exceeds routine gang activity and armored convoy protection capacity.

Alert covers multiple zones simultaneously including north and south of embassy perimeter and Croix-de-Bouquets suggesting coordinated gang operations.

Timing seven days before CPT mandate expiration raises concern gangs may test security force capacity during political transition vulnerability.

Tabarre diplomatic zone previously considered relatively secure now requires total movement suspension demonstrating security deterioration.

Alert issued during daylight operational hours rather than overnight indicating immediate rather than precautionary threat assessment.

No evacuation advisory issued for American citizens yet but movement restrictions typically precede broader security posture changes.

## RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Businesses with expatriate personnel should activate secure shelter-in-place protocols and suspend non-essential movements until embassy lifts movement restrictions.

Security contractors should coordinate with embassy Regional Security Office to obtain real-time threat assessments and cleared movement corridors.

International organizations should defer field visits and program activities requiring movement through affected zones until security conditions stabilize.

Aviation clients should monitor whether embassy issues departure advisory for American citizens which would signal further deterioration.

Diplomatic missions should review mutual assistance agreements and evacuation coordination protocols with US Embassy in case broader security collapse occurs.

Private sector should prepare contingency plans for sustained movement restrictions potentially lasting multiple days if gang operations continue.



## CONFIDENCE



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**DEVELOPMENT 3: Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Blocks TPS Termination for 340,000 Haitians But February 3 Implementation Remains Uncertain**

The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued ruling January 28 affirming district court decision that Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem exceeded statutory authority by attempting to terminate Temporary Protected Status for 340,000 Haitians ahead of scheduled February 3, 2026 expiration. The three-judge panel held that Noem's actions fundamentally contradict Congressional statutory design and her assertion of unchecked power to vacate country TPS designation is irreconcilable with plain statutory language. The court concluded Noem's determination that Haiti no longer meets TPS conditions was not reached in accordance with procedures established by Congress under relevant statute.

The ruling addresses policy contradiction that advocacy groups termed deporting people to war zone where US State Department maintains Level 4 Do Not Travel advisory for Haiti warning gang violence controls 90 percent of Port-au-Prince while simultaneously DHS prepared to deport 340,000 Haitians to identical environment. The Ninth Circuit ruling blocks legal mechanism DHS attempted to use for mass deportations ahead of statutory deadline but uncertainty remains about

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practical implementation with February 3 deadline three days away from January 31.

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti stated that attorneys who defeated Trump administration TPS termination attempts during first term are working to obtain federal court orders blocking DHS from ending Haiti TPS designation on February 3. The case originally challenged Secretary Noem's February 24, 2025 Federal Register Notice shortening Haiti TPS period and was later amended to challenge subsequent termination effective September 2. Legal complexity creates operational uncertainty for 340,000 affected Haitians many of whom work in critical healthcare roles as physicians and nurses.

The TPS legal victory creates protection window but deportation infrastructure remains in place and February 3 deadline approaching requires continued legal intervention to enforce Ninth Circuit ruling. For diaspora communities the ruling provides temporary relief but does not resolve underlying policy contradiction between State Department travel warnings advising immediate departure for Americans and DHS deportation policies requiring Haitian returns to identical threat environment with 10,000 plus deaths in 22 months of CPT governance.



### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Temporary Protected Status for Haiti has been extended multiple times since 2010 earthquake with most recent 18-month extension scheduled to expire February 3, 2026. Trump administration attempted TPS termination during first term but federal courts blocked implementation. Secretary Noem attempted to shorten current designation from 18 months to 12 months moving expiration from February 3, 2026 to August 3, 2025 which courts ruled exceeded statutory authority.

### TALKING POINTS

Ninth Circuit ruled DHS Secretary exceeded statutory authority creating legal basis to block February 3 deportations but implementation uncertain.

340,000 Haitians face deportation to environment where State Department warns Americans to depart immediately due to life-threatening gang violence.

Policy contradiction unresolved with Level 4 Do Not Travel advisory for US citizens while preparing mass deportations of Haitians to identical zones.

Healthcare workforce threatened as many TPS holders work as physicians and nurses in critical roles across United States.

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti pursuing additional court orders to enforce Ninth Circuit ruling before February 3 deadline.

Legal complexity creates operational uncertainty for affected families with three days until scheduled TPS expiration and deportation timeline.

## RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Diaspora organizations should coordinate with legal advocacy groups to monitor enforcement of Ninth Circuit ruling and identify TPS holders requiring legal assistance.

Healthcare facilities employing TPS holders should prepare contingency staffing plans in case February 3 deportations proceed despite court ruling.

Family members in Haiti should establish emergency communication protocols with US-based relatives in case deportation enforcement begins.

Immigration attorneys should prioritize TPS renewal applications and alternative status pathways for clients facing February 3 deadline.

Haitian government officials should coordinate with US State Department to communicate security conditions incompatible with mass deportation arrival capacity.

Congressional offices should be contacted to request legislative intervention extending TPS designation beyond February 3 to resolve legal uncertainty.



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### DEVELOPMENT 4: CARICOM Virtual Mediation Collapses With Seven Days Until CPT Mandate Expires and No Political Consensus Framework

CARICOM convened virtual meeting January 30 bringing together political party representatives and civil society organizations in final mediation effort before CPT February 7 mandate expiration. *Le Nouvelliste* reported that as has been case for past two years during every meeting between Haitian stakeholders and CARICOM Eminent Persons cacophony replaced any potent consensus. The newspaper analysis characterized the session as emblematic of broader dysfunction with eight days ahead of February 7 no solution has emerged within Haiti political class to chart way forward.

CARICOM Eminent Persons Group comprising former prime ministers of St. Lucia, Jamaica, and The Bahamas warned in January that it is vital stakeholders reach consensus before February 7, 2026 cautioning that failure could lead to unwanted repercussions. The Group's January 27 statement expressed great concern that current impasse within CPT following inconclusive efforts to dismiss Prime Minister renders more complex already fraught governance transition process. The January 30 virtual meeting represented CARICOM final structured mediation opportunity and its failure to produce consensus leaves Haiti with seven days until mandate expires and no agreed

alternative governance framework.

The mediation collapse strengthens Laurent Saint-Cyr and Alix Didier Fils-Aime executive continuity scenario as most likely outcome but CARICOM failure demonstrates political parties and civil society actors have not accepted their authority post-February 7. CPT member Leslie Voltaire promised January 17 that formula will be found to replace CPT before February 7 with 60 percent political class acceptance but CARICOM cacophony suggests formula does not exist. Civil society groups including NCANG, Opposition plurielle, and MORN have validated street mobilization strategy after mediation failure with demonstrations likely to escalate in final seven days before deadline.

The convergence of mediation collapse, gang territorial expansion at Tet Kajak, embassy security alert, and PNH Director General Rameau Normil Criminal Court summons February 2 for 317 missing rifles creates institutional fragility at moment when security leadership corruption undermines operational capacity. CARICOM Eminent Persons Group credibility is exhausted after two years of mediation produced no consensus but group remains at disposal for facilitation. The political vacuum materializing February 7 occurs simultaneously with gang expansion demonstrating weakest governance coincides with highest security threat.



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

CARICOM has mediated Haiti political transition since April 2024 when Transitional Presidential Council was established with two-year mandate expiring February 7, 2026. Eminent Persons Group has conducted multiple rounds of shuttle diplomacy and stakeholder consultations but political parties and civil society organizations have failed to reach consensus on post-CPT governance framework. CPT internal dysfunction including failed attempt to dismiss Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime has undermined institutional credibility.

## TALKING POINTS

January 30 virtual meeting produced cacophony rather than consensus with seven days until CPT mandate expires demonstrating mediation failure.

CARICOM two years of facilitation exhausted credibility as political parties refuse compromise despite 10,000 plus deaths during CPT governance.

Laurent Saint-Cyr and Alix Didier Fils-Aime continuity scenario most likely but contested legitimacy creates operational uncertainty for international partners.

Leslie Voltaire January 17 promise of formula with 60 percent acceptance appears unfounded as no consensus emerged from final mediation session.

Civil society groups NCANG, Opposition plurielle, and MORN likely to escalate street demonstrations in final seven days before February 7 deadline.

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Political vacuum materializes simultaneously with gang territorial expansion and security leadership corruption investigation creating cascading institutional risk.

### RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International donors should prepare contingency plans for post-February 7 governance scenarios including Saint-Cyr and Fils-Aime continuity or alternative frameworks.

BINUH should activate Resolution 2814 inter-Haitian dialogue facilitation mandate to establish successor consultations if CPT authority expires without replacement.

Business clients should monitor civil society demonstration schedules and suspend operations during street mobilization periods in final seven days.

Political risk analysts should advise clients that governance vacuum increases probability of security force fragmentation or PNH leadership changes.

Diplomatic missions should coordinate position on recognition of post-February 7 authorities and establish unified international community messaging.

Security sector partners should accelerate GSF deployment timelines to compensate for governance transition vulnerability and potential PNH leadership instability.



### CONFIDENCE



**High confidence based on official institutional reporting.**

### WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

#### NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

Rameau Normil Criminal Court appearance February 2 for 317 missing rifles investigation will determine whether PNH Director General faces resignation or dismissal during political transition. US Embassy security alert duration and whether personnel movement restrictions extend beyond January 31 will signal gang operational tempo and PNH counter-operation success. Sud-Est Department gang activity following Tet Kajak massacre will indicate whether Viv Ansanm consolidates Marigot territorial control or PNH mounts counter-offensive. TPS implementation as February 3 deadline arrives will determine whether DHS enforces expiration despite Ninth Circuit ruling or advocacy groups obtain enforcement orders.

### THIS WEEK

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February 7 CPT mandate expiration will trigger either Saint-Cyr and Fils-Aime continuity announcement or governance vacuum with no agreed successor framework. Civil society street demonstrations are expected to escalate in final days before deadline testing whether political actors accept executive continuity or demand alternative transition process. CARICOM Eminent Persons Group may attempt final shuttle diplomacy after January 30 virtual meeting failure but credibility exhausted. Viv Ansanm territorial consolidation in Sud-Est Department will determine humanitarian corridor viability and displacement flows to Jacmel requiring IOM and OCHA emergency response.

### STRATEGIC HORIZON

Gang territorial expansion beyond established strongholds threatens security force defensive perimeter with PNH numbering 12,000 against 12,000 armed gang members and GSF at 1,000 versus 5,550 authorized. GSF deployment acceleration to reach 5,550 authorized strength by April timeline is critical to address force ratio disadvantage. Political legitimacy crisis post-February 7 may trigger international donor coordination failures if Saint-Cyr and Fils-Aime continuity is contested by political parties and civil society. Gourde stability at 131.06 HTG per USD provides macroeconomic anchor but sustained political vacuum could trigger capital flight and exchange rate deterioration. Humanitarian crisis deepens with 5.7 million acute food insecure and 1.4 million displaced as gang control expands into previously secure Sud-Est territories.

### PRIMARY SOURCES

Le Nouvelliste - Tet Kajak attack reporting with casualty figures and mayor statement January 30, 2026

Vant Bef Info - Sud-Est Department gang expansion analysis and resident displacement documentation January 30, 2026

US Embassy Port-au-Prince - Security alert for heavy gunfire and personnel movement suspension January 31, 2026

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals - National TPS Alliance v. Noem ruling on DHS statutory authority January 28, 2026

Little Law Firm - Legal analysis of Ninth Circuit TPS termination decision January 28, 2026

Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti - TPS advocacy and court enforcement strategy statement January 2026

National TPS Alliance - Federal court ruling victory announcement and ongoing litigation status January 2026

Le Nouvelliste - CARICOM virtual meeting failure and political cacophony reporting January 30, 2026

Travel Tourister - TPS deadline and State Department travel advisory policy contradiction January 31, 2026

Jamaica Observer - CARICOM Eminent Persons Group statement on Haiti governance impasse January 27, 2026

Haiti Libre - PNH Director General Rameau Normil Criminal Court summons for missing rifles January 31, 2026

Reuters - Gang Suppression Force deployment status and authorized strength targets January 22, 2026