



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

February 13, 2026

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Judge Ana Reyes refused to stay her TPS ruling on February 12, preserving protections for over 350,000 Haitians while reading death threats against her in open court. The ULCC announced it will expand investigations beyond the 30-day asset declaration requirement for former CPT members, directly targeting the three officials implicated in the BNC corruption scandal. The Superior Council of the Judiciary barred all judges from political activity, foreclosing proposals to install a Court of Cassation judge as provisional president. These developments signal institutional assertions of independence in the post-CPT transition framework. Stakeholders should monitor the March 9 asset declaration deadline as the first test of whether ULCC investigations advance to judicial referrals.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Judge Reyes maintains TPS protections for 350,000 plus Haitians despite death threats
ULCC will probe former CPT members beyond asset declarations
CSPJ resolution blocks judges from political roles including provisional presidency
Canada-funded Morne-Casse training center nears completion with 200-officer capacity
Kesner Pharel reports 15 years of inflation and 7 consecutive years of GDP contraction

DEVELOPMENT 1

On February 12, US District Judge Ana Reyes denied the Department of Homeland Security's request to stay her February 2 ruling that blocked the termination of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians. The decision preserves work permits and deportation protection for more than 350,000 Haitian nationals currently in the United States. During the hearing, Judge Reyes read aloud email and social media death threats she had received following her initial ruling, underscoring the politically charged nature of the case.

The stay denial means TPS protections remain in effect while the Trump administration's appeal proceeds through federal courts. DHS had argued that the preliminary injunction should be paused pending appeal, but Judge Reyes rejected this request. The ruling acknowledged that DHS possesses addresses of TPS holders in

Springfield, Ohio, where Haitian migrants became a focal point during the 2024 presidential campaign. This detail raised stakeholder concerns about potential targeted enforcement actions should the administration ultimately prevail on appeal.

The February 2 preliminary injunction was issued on procedural grounds, finding that the administration's termination notice violated Administrative Procedure Act requirements for public comment and reasoned decision-making. The substantive legal challenge continues, but the stay denial provides operational certainty for Haitian TPS holders through at least the next several months of appellate proceedings. For diaspora communities, employers relying on Haitian workers, and remittance-dependent households in Haiti, this ruling preserves critical income streams and legal status protections.

The death threats against Judge Reyes signal the extreme polarization surrounding immigration enforcement under the current administration. Her decision to read these threats in open court appears calculated to create a public record of the pressures federal judges face when issuing rulings that contradict executive branch immigration priorities. This context is relevant for understanding the durability of the TPS protections as the case advances through appeals.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti's TPS designation was first granted in 2010 following the earthquake and has been continuously renewed through multiple administrations until the Trump administration's termination notice in January 2026. The program currently covers approximately 350,000 Haitians who remitted an estimated 1.4 billion dollars to Haiti in 2024 according to World Bank data.

TALKING POINTS

TPS protections remain in effect for 350,000 plus Haitian nationals pending appeal
Judge Reyes denied stay request and read death threats in open court on February 12
DHS confirmed it has addresses of TPS holders including Springfield Ohio population
Ruling preserves work permits and remittance flows critical to Haiti household income
Legal challenge continues on procedural grounds under Administrative Procedure Act

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Diaspora organizations should advise TPS holders to maintain valid work permits and documentation

Employers relying on Haitian TPS workers can continue operations with current staffing

Remittance service providers should communicate continuity of legal status to customers

Haitian government should prepare contingency plans for potential future TPS termination

International stakeholders should monitor appellate timeline for policy planning purposes



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High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2

The Anti-Corruption Unit announced on February 12 that it will not limit itself to the legally mandated 30-day asset declaration requirement for former CPT members. ULCC Director Hans Joseph signaled that deeper investigative probes into the activities of ex-CPT advisors are planned, extending beyond the February 12, 2008 law's exit declaration requirements. This statement was published in Le Nouvelliste's English edition and represents a significant escalation in post-transition accountability measures.

On February 9, the ULCC publicly reminded all former high officials of their legal obligation to file asset declarations within 30 days of leaving office, establishing a March 9 deadline. The legal framework requires declarations to be filed at the civil court of the individual's domicile, with non-compliance exposing officials to judicial prosecution under Articles 2, 6, 7, and 14 of the 2008 law. However, Joseph's February 12 statement makes clear that filing the declaration will not end ULCC scrutiny of former CPT members.

The three primary targets appear to be Louis Gerald Gilles, Smith Augustin, and

Emmanuel Vertilaire, the CPT members implicated in the BNC corruption scandal. These three officials actively campaigned to remove ULCC Director Hans Joseph during their tenure but departed the CPT without succeeding in displacing him. Joseph remains in his position with apparent backing from Prime Minister Fils-Aime, positioning the ULCC as an independent institutional actor in the post-CPT governance structure.

This announcement tests whether the transition framework can deliver meaningful anti-corruption accountability. If ULCC investigations advance to judicial referrals, it would mark the first substantive action against former transition officials for corruption. Success would boost credibility for the Fils-Aime government and demonstrate institutional independence. Failure or political interference would reinforce perceptions that elite impunity remains entrenched regardless of governance changes.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The ULCC was established under the February 12, 2008 law on asset declarations and functions as Haiti's primary anti-corruption investigative body. Director Hans Joseph survived removal attempts by CPT members during the BNC scandal investigation, which alleged misappropriation of public funds by Gilles, Augustin, and Vertilaire.

TALKING POINTS

ULCC will expand investigations beyond the 30-day asset declaration deadline of March 9

Director Hans Joseph survived removal attempts by the three BNC scandal targets
Legal framework allows prosecution for non-compliance with declaration requirements
Prime Minister Fils-Aime appears to be backing ULCC institutional independence
First meaningful anti-corruption test of the post-CPT governance arrangement

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International stakeholders should monitor ULCC investigation progress as governance credibility indicator

Diplomatic missions should assess whether Fils-Aime government supports or obstructs investigations

Business community should track accountability outcomes as proxy for rule of law trajectory

Civil society should document ULCC actions to establish baseline for transition performance

Former CPT members should secure legal representation and prepare for potential judicial proceedings



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High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 3

The Superior Council of the Judiciary adopted Resolution No. CSPJ-SP/02-2026/887 on February 10, formally barring all judges from political participation. The resolution was signed by all eight CSPJ members including President Jean-Joseph Lebrun and Vice-President Barthelemy Altenor. Article 1 prohibits judges at all levels and ranks from any participation in political activities and requires them to remain outside the political arena. Article 2 bars any behavior, statement, or action likely to undermine judicial impartiality or harm the image and dignity of the judicial institution. Article 3 establishes disciplinary sanctions for violations.

The resolution directly forecloses scenarios proposed during post-CPT transition negotiations in which a Court of Cassation judge would be installed as provisional president. Various political actors had advocated for this arrangement, but the CSPJ ruling now makes clear that any judge accepting such a role would face disciplinary sanctions. This represents the judiciary's institutional assertion of independence at a moment when executive power is concentrated in Prime Minister Fils-Aime's hands without a presidential counterweight.

The timing of the resolution is significant. It was adopted on February 10, three days after the CPT mandate expired on February 7, and published on February 12. This suggests the CSPJ anticipated or responded to proposals that emerged during the final days of CPT negotiations about alternative governance structures. By establishing an explicit prohibition, the CSPJ removed one category of potential constitutional workarounds that could have been used to install a provisional president outside the electoral process.

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For international stakeholders, this resolution clarifies the legal parameters within which the transition must operate. The August 30 electoral timeline proceeds with Fils-Aime holding executive power absent any provisional president designation. The judiciary has drawn a clear institutional boundary and signaled it will not provide a legal fig leaf for political arrangements that compromise judicial independence. This reduces scenarios in which competing political factions could claim legitimacy based on judicial participation.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The 2004 transition following President Aristide's departure saw Court of Cassation President Boniface Alexandre installed as provisional president. That precedent informed proposals during the post-CPT negotiations in early February 2026, but the CSPJ resolution now explicitly prohibits any repetition of that model.

TALKING POINTS

CSPJ Resolution bars all judges from political participation effective February 10
Signed by all eight CSPJ members including President Lebrun and Vice-President Altenor

Directly blocks proposals to install Court of Cassation judge as provisional president
Asserts judicial independence while Fils-Aime holds concentrated executive power
Removes one category of constitutional workarounds for alternative governance structures

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International community should recognize judiciary's institutional boundaries in transition framework

Political actors should abandon proposals requiring judicial participation in executive roles

Election observers should note CSPJ assertion of independence as positive governance signal

Legal analysts should document this resolution as precedent for future transition scenarios

Fils-Aime government should respect CSPJ boundaries and avoid pressure on judicial

independence



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DEVELOPMENT 4

A major anti-gang police training center in Morne-Casse, Nord-Est department, is nearing completion with capacity for 200 officers simultaneously. The facility is funded by the Government of Canada and spans more than six hectares with classrooms, dormitories, cafeteria, sports rooms, and recreation facilities. The first instructor training session is scheduled for the end of February 2026 with a three-week duration. These instructors will then train specialized anti-gang units in the coming months.

The center is designed specifically for the formation of specialized police units, including the Anti-Gang Brigade, BOID (Departmental Intelligence and Investigation Brigade), and the Tactical Intervention Unit. This focus on specialized anti-gang capabilities addresses a critical gap in PNH capacity to conduct operations against organized criminal networks. The facility's location in the Nord-Est, outside the gang-controlled Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, provides a secure environment for training without the operational disruptions and security risks that plague the capital.

Canada's funding of this facility represents one of the most tangible international contributions to Haiti's long-term security infrastructure. Unlike short-term operational support or equipment donations, the Morne-Casse center creates permanent institutional capacity for police training. The timing of its completion coincides with the expected full deployment of the Gang Suppression Force, potentially enabling parallel training tracks for Haitian police alongside international force operations.

The three-week instructor training scheduled for late February is the critical next milestone. Successful completion would enable the center to begin training specialized units by March or April 2026. For stakeholders assessing security sector development, the center's operationalization would mark a shift from crisis response to institutional capacity building. However, the training infrastructure means little without sustained

recruitment, retention, and operational deployment of trained units, which remain significant challenges for the PNH.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Previous police training centers in Haiti have faced challenges with sustainability, equipment maintenance, and instructor retention. The Nord-Est location may mitigate some Port-au-Prince-specific security constraints but will require ongoing Canadian or international support to maintain operational effectiveness.

TALKING POINTS

Morne-Casse center can train 200 police officers simultaneously on six-hectare campus
Canada-funded facility targets specialized anti-gang units including BOID and Tactical Intervention
First instructor training scheduled for end of February 2026 with three-week duration
Secure Nord-Est location avoids Port-au-Prince gang disruption of training operations
Represents shift from crisis response to institutional capacity building for PNH

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Canadian government should commit to multi-year support for operational costs and instructor salaries
PNH leadership should prioritize recruitment and retention to fill training pipeline
International partners should coordinate equipment provision to match training output timeline
GSF should explore coordination with Morne-Casse for joint training opportunities
Stakeholders should monitor instructor training completion as milestone for security sector progress



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WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

DHS files emergency appeal Appellate acceleration TPS protections face expedited legal challenge

Former CPT members miss March 9 deadline ULCC triggers prosecution First anti-corruption referrals advance

Political actors challenge CSPJ authority Judiciary defends resolution Constitutional crisis over judicial independence

THIS WEEK

Instructor training completes at Morne-Casse Facility becomes operational Specialized anti-gang unit training begins March

ULCC issues public statements on investigation scope Target identification becomes explicit Political pressure on Fils-Aime government intensifies

Judicial or political actors contest CSPJ resolution Legal challenge filed Transition governance parameters tested

STRATEGIC HORIZON

ULCC investigations advance to judicial referrals by March 15 Court proceedings begin Fils-Aime credibility faces accountability test

Appellate court expedites TPS case Supreme Court involvement becomes likely Diaspora protection timeline compresses

International community responds to judicial assertions Diplomatic support or pressure emerges Transition legitimacy framework solidifies or fractures

Morne-Casse graduates first specialized units by April Deployment to Port-au-Prince begins PNH anti-gang capacity increases or training retention fails

PRIMARY SOURCES

US News - Judge refuses stay on TPS ruling February 12 2026

Springfield News-Sun - Judge denies stay request DHS has Springfield addresses

Dayton Daily News - Haiti TPS stay request denial coverage

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Le Nouvelliste English - ULCC expands scrutiny beyond wealth declarations February 12

Gazette Haiti - ULCC pressure on former CPT asset declarations February 9

Le Nouvelliste - Morne-Casse 200-capacity training center completion

HaitiLibre - Anti-gang training center dedicated to specialized units

Le Nouvelliste - CSPJ bars magistrates from political participation

HaitiLibre - CSPJ reminds magistrates prohibition on political activities

Le Nouvelliste - Kesner Pharel failed state analysis inflation and GDP contraction

Infos Nation - Kesner Pharel alert on economic collapse

Le Nouvelliste - Michel Brunache legal analysis post-CPT transition