



AYITI INTEL | ONE-STOP INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

December 25, 2025

Intelligence for Haiti's Democratic Transition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Provisional Electoral Council entered its fourth consecutive day of silence on the candidate list publication originally scheduled for December 22 making the December 26 campaign period start formally impossible and collapsing the entire August 30 2026 electoral timeline. The National Police announced enhanced security measures on December 23 contributing to a Christmas Day operational pause with zero reported incidents as of late afternoon though this follows the December 24 General Hospital attack that killed multiple journalists and one officer. The police honored children of fallen officers on Christmas Eve while Haitian bishops issued calls for hope amid crisis and US travel restrictions forced NGO event cancellations reducing international humanitarian presence.



QUICK SUMMARY FOR STAKEHOLDERS

CEP candidate list now 96 plus hours overdue with zero official explanation through Christmas Day making December 26 campaign start impossible tomorrow.

National Police Christmas Day operational pause represents temporary relief not strategic success following December 24 hospital attack.

44 days remain until February 7 2027 CPT mandate expiration with no constitutional extension mechanism.

US travel restrictions effective January 1 2026 forcing NGO withdrawals and humanitarian event cancellations.

August 30 2026 electoral timeline officially dead requiring immediate announcement of revised calendar or admission of process failure.

DEVELOPMENT 1

The 96 Hour Electoral Silence and Constitutional Countdown

The Provisional Electoral Council has now maintained complete silence for 96 consecutive hours from December 22 through Christmas Day December 25 without publishing the final candidate list or issuing any explanatory statement. This delay makes the December 26 campaign period start scheduled for tomorrow formally

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impossible even if the list were published immediately because candidates require weeks of preparation including rally organization logistics coordination security arrangements and media purchasing. The entire August 30 2026 electoral timeline has now collapsed beyond salvage even with emergency intervention.

The US Charge d'Affaires statement on December 23 urging the government to make 2026 an electoral year rather than specifically referencing the August 30 date confirms that international actors have accepted the timeline must be revised. However no mechanism exists to revise the electoral calendar without addressing the constitutional crisis created by the February 7 2027 Transitional Presidential Council mandate expiration now just 44 days away. The CPT possesses no legal authority to extend its own mandate yet without a published candidate list and viable electoral process no legitimate successor can take office on the constitutional deadline.

The government silence extends beyond the CEP with no statements from the CPT or Prime Minister Filis Aime and no intervention from the Organization of American States United Nations or CARICOM. The Christmas holiday likely delays any official response until December 26 or 27 but the fundamental constitutional paradox remains unresolved. Haiti faces a scenario where the transitional government expires without elections having occurred and without any legal framework for what follows.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti has experienced repeated electoral delays throughout its transitional periods but the current 96 hour silence with a constitutional deadline just 44 days away represents an unprecedented convergence of electoral collapse and governance crisis without any established legal mechanism for resolution.

TALKING POINTS

The December 26 campaign period start is now formally impossible making the August 30 2026 electoral timeline officially dead. No legal mechanism exists to extend the CPT mandate beyond February 7 2027 creating constitutional vacuum risk.

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96 consecutive hours of CEP silence without explanation represents complete institutional breakdown on electoral administration.

International community acceptance of timeline revision confirmed by US diplomatic language shift from specific date to general year.

Government must announce revised electoral calendar immediately or publicly acknowledge process failure.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

CARICOM and OAS must convene emergency sessions during the week of December 30 to January 3 to negotiate extra constitutional transitional framework.

CPT should issue public statement by December 27 acknowledging electoral timeline collapse and outlining revised calendar parameters.

International community should establish electoral technical assistance mission to support CEP capacity and credibility restoration.

Civil society organizations should demand transparency on electoral delay causes and timeline revision rationale.

Diaspora stakeholders should pressure international partners for concrete accountability mechanisms on electoral commitments.



CONFIDENCE



Moderate confidence based on partial institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 2

Christmas Operational Pause and Security Theater

The National Police announced reinforced security measures on December 23 for end of year festivities deploying full personnel mobilization across the national territory with enhanced presence in sensitive areas and prevention focused operations spanning December 24 through January 1. Christmas Day December 25 saw zero

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new security incidents reported as of late afternoon suggesting partial effectiveness of the enhanced deployment. However this operational pause must be understood against the December 24 General Hospital attack that killed multiple journalists and one police officer demonstrating that full mobilization does not prevent high casualty incidents in gang controlled territory.

The Christmas Day pause likely reflects multiple factors including the holiday effect reducing gang operations on a religious observance the deterrent impact of visible police deployment and potential gang operational pause following the high profile hospital attack. The pattern shows zero incidents on December 21 and 22 followed by a Coast Guard maritime attack on December 23 the devastating hospital assault on December 24 and then the Christmas pause. This suggests gangs maintain operational initiative choosing when to strike rather than being strategically constrained by police presence.

The National Police retains tactical capability to secure specific areas during focused operations but lacks the force strength and territorial control necessary to sustain security gains. With gangs controlling an estimated 80 percent of Port au Prince metropolitan area and the police having lost more than 30 officers in 2025 alone the security situation remains fundamentally unchanged despite periodic operational pauses. The Christmas measures represent crisis management not strategic success.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Haiti has experienced brief security pauses during major holidays and religious observances throughout the current gang crisis but these pauses have consistently proven temporary with violence resuming within 24 to 48 hours as operational dynamics return to baseline patterns.

TALKING POINTS

Christmas Day zero incident count represents temporary pause not strategic security improvement.

December 24 hospital attack killing journalists and police occurred despite full

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mobilization announcement.

Gangs maintain operational initiative choosing timing and targets rather than being strategically constrained.

Police force continues hemorrhaging personnel with 30 plus officers killed in 2025 against backdrop of 80 percent gang territorial control.

Enhanced holiday measures constitute reactive crisis management not proactive territorial recovery strategy.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

Security analysts should monitor December 26 and 27 for violence resumption as operational pause likely ends.

International community should press for concrete Gang Suppression Force deployment timeline rather than continued delay.

Government must publish transparent casualty statistics for both police and civilian populations to enable accurate threat assessment.

Media organizations should implement enhanced security protocols given December 24 journalist killings during hospital attack.

Humanitarian organizations should leverage operational pause to accelerate assistance delivery before expected violence resumption.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

DEVELOPMENT 3

Human Toll and the Institutional Messaging Gap

The National Police organized a special Christmas Eve event on December 24 honoring children of police officers killed in combat with activities including games dances festive meals and gift distribution attended by PNH High Command. Acting

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Commander Vladimir Paraison delivered remarks acknowledging the profound loss these children have experienced stating that the police wanted to share human warmth with those whose fathers will never again cross the threshold on December 25. This event highlights the unsustainable human cost of the current security strategy with more than 30 officers killed in 2025 leaving hundreds of children without fathers amid ongoing gang violence.

The Haitian bishops issued a Christmas message on December 8 stressing that Christ's birth can be a source of hope and calling for peace and change amid unprecedented gang violence humanitarian crisis and political uncertainty. The Church remains one of the few institutional voices consistently calling for peace while possessing the moral authority to convene dialogue across polarized political factions. However the gap between institutional messaging calling for hope and peace and ground reality showing continued violence electoral collapse and governance crisis reveals the disconnect between aspirational statements and operational capacity to deliver change.

This institutional messaging gap extends to international humanitarian engagement with US travel restrictions expanding on January 1 2026 forcing organizations like For Haiti with Love to cancel their annual children's Christmas party due to flight operation uncertainty. The cancellation represents the broader pattern of NGO withdrawals and reduced international presence precisely when Haiti needs maximum humanitarian engagement. Religious groups including Catholic and Protestant missions continue striving to celebrate Christmas and provide services to displaced populations but operate under severe constraints with diminishing resources and escalating insecurity.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Haitian Catholic Church has historically played a mediating role during political crises including the 1986 departure of Jean Claude Duvalier but current gang territorial control and governance collapse limit institutional capacity to convene effective dialogue or deliver concrete security improvements.

TALKING POINTS

More than 30 police officers killed in 2025 leaving hundreds of children without fathers amid unsustainable security strategy.

Bishops Christmas message calling for hope and peace highlights disconnect between aspirational messaging and operational reality.

US travel restrictions effective January 1 2026 forcing NGO event cancellations and reducing humanitarian presence.

Government maintains silence on electoral collapse constitutional crisis and security strategy despite institutional calls for change.

Religious institutions provide moral leadership but lack operational capacity to deliver territorial security or governance stability.

RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

International donors should establish targeted support fund for families of fallen security personnel to address human toll.

Religious institutions should convene inter faith dialogue on humanitarian priorities and community protection strategies.

NGOs should coordinate advocacy campaign against US travel restriction expansion given humanitarian access implications.

Government should issue comprehensive statement addressing institutional concerns raised by bishops and civil society.

Diaspora organizations should increase direct assistance to religious groups maintaining ground presence amid international withdrawal.



CONFIDENCE



High confidence based on official institutional reporting.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

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NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS

Will the CEP issue any statement on December 26 acknowledging the candidate list delay or will institutional silence continue into the weekend. The missed campaign period start becomes formally acknowledged tomorrow creating pressure for government response. Monitor for violence resumption on December 26 and 27 as the Christmas operational pause likely ends and gang operations return to baseline patterns.

THIS WEEK

Will the government announce a revised electoral calendar between December 27 and 31 or will the New Year arrive without clarity on 2026 elections. Watch for any CARICOM or OAS movement toward emergency sessions during the December 30 to January 3 period to address the February 7 constitutional crisis. Monitor NGO and humanitarian organization announcements regarding program adjustments ahead of January 1 US travel restriction implementation.

STRATEGIC HORIZON

The February 7 2027 constitutional deadline approaches with 44 days remaining and no viable succession plan electoral timeline or legal extension mechanism. The convergence of electoral collapse governance crisis and humanitarian isolation creates conditions for potential extra constitutional intervention or prolonged institutional vacuum. International community faces decision point on whether to support revised electoral timeline negotiate transitional framework extension or prepare for governance breakdown scenarios.

PRIMARY SOURCES

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Foreign Policy Association Haiti Christmas Security Analysis December 2025

Haiti 24 CEP Electoral Calendar Announcement November 2025

Haiti Libre CEP Official Calendar Report December 2025

Haiti Libre PNH Children of Fallen Officers Event December 25 2025

Embassy of Haiti Washington Holiday Closure Notice December 2025

US Embassy Port au Prince Security Alerts December 2025

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ACLED Haiti Conflict Data December 2025

United Nations Haiti Situation Reports December 2025

Reuters Haiti Political Coverage December 2025

Le Nouvelliste Haiti Daily Reporting December 2025

Provisional Electoral Council Official Website December 2025