



United Nations Peacekeeping in Haiti

Fact Sheet

22 January 2010

Background

Currently, peacekeepers of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) are aiding the Haitian authorities in providing security for the country and in delivering humanitarian assistance following the massive earthquake of 12 January 2010.

MINUSTAH peacekeepers have been deployed since 2004. In extending the mission's mandate on 13 October 2009, the United Nations Security Council tasked MINUSTAH with supporting the Haitian political process, promoting an all-inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation, and providing logistical and security assistance for elections anticipated for 2010.

UN Security Council resolution 1908 adopted on 19 January 2010 authorizes MINUSTAH to increase its troop strength by 2,000 to 8,940 troops of all ranks and its police officers by 1,500 to 3,711. This increase in force was recommended by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon following his visit to Haiti on 17 January.

The Government of Haiti announced on 21 January that the initial phase of recovery of victims has ended and the priority now is to begin to clear the rubble, repair the roads and get businesses to open as soon as possible. Approximately 150-170 flights are landing at the Port-au-Prince airport each day. The main port in Port-au-Prince, non-operational since the earthquake, is now partially functioning and accepting ships carrying humanitarian items that are equipped with their own cranes. The ports in Gonaives and Saint Marc (Artibonite Department) and in Cap-Haïtien (North Department) are being considered as alternatives.

Total Number of MINUSTAH staff in Haiti (as of 31 December 2009):

6,900 military personnel
2,034 police (625 in Port-au-Prince)
490 international civilian personnel
1,248 national staff
206 United Nations Volunteers

Casualty figures for MINUSTAH as of 22 January 2010

Fatalities: 70 total (68 confirmed MINUSTAH fatalities, 1 World Food Programme, 1 UNV)
22 international civilian staff
10 national staff
24 military personnel
12 police officers
1 UNV
1 World Food Programme

Unaccounted for: 146

Injured: 28 total

3 international civilian staff
4 United Nations Volunteers (UNVs)
1 national staff
4 military personnel
16 police officers

MINUSTAH operations as of 22 January 2010

In consultation with the Haitian Government, the UN is coordinating the international response to the Haitian earthquake.

MINUSTAH is also assisting the Haitian National Police in ensuring the stability and security of the country.

MINUSTAH military is patrolling 24 hours a day and providing escorts for the humanitarian community in order to ensure security.

MINUSTAH has opened a humanitarian corridor with the help of 150 troops provided by the Dominican Republic.

The Government of Haiti and MINUSTAH have put in place necessary security arrangements for the reopening of banks in Port-au-Prince, which is scheduled to take place on 23 January.

Security Situation

MINUSTAH instituted a curfew for staff in Port-au-Prince from 21h00 to 06h00. The security situation remains calm but volatile. MINUSTAH has received reports of gang violence in the Belair, Martissant and Cité Soleil communes of Port-au-Prince. Although the security situation in Miragoane (Nippes Department) is calm, crowds were becoming hostile to business owners due to rising costs of staple goods. In the northern departments, the situation remains calm but fragile.

Rule of Law

There are approximately 8,000 Haitian National Police (HNP) officers in Haiti, as of yesterday, the UN Police Division reported that some 63 % (2,218 out of 3,000) of HNP officers based in Port-au-Prince had resumed duty, as have 70% of the HNP outside of Port-au-Prince. The US Government has offered to ensure payment of the HNP salaries for this month, and Japan has also expressed a willingness to assist with HNP salaries. MINUSTAH and the HNP are working on a security plan to ensure the payment of these salaries.

Twelve specialized UN Police officers, including a corrections officer, arrived in Port-au-Prince and began working with the HNP today.

DPKO has asked UN police-contributing countries to assist the HNP with material needed urgently, including uniforms, so that this service can be fully operational as soon as possible.

Following the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1908 (2010) which authorized the mission to seek up to 1,500 more police officers, one-third (500) of the additional personnel have been confirmed. Bangladesh will send two formed police units (FPUs) to help maintain public order, to arrive in Haiti by the end of this month. France has confirmed that it will send 100 gendarmes, which will work as an FPU, and Italy will send one FPU within two weeks. MINUSTAH is seeking up to 100 corrections officers to support

Haitian prison officials and planning to support the construction of 50-100 supplementary housing areas for prison inmates in the Port-au-Prince area. Mobile units have already been dispatched from the US.

The MINUSTAH corrections and justice team have met with Haitian Ministry Justice officials to finalize a draft plan-of-action for the rebuilding of the justice and corrections sectors.

MINUSTAH Military

MINUSTAH troops are conducting more than 300 mobile patrols (200 each day and 100 each night), 150 foot patrols (120 each day and 30 at night) throughout Haiti. Since the earthquake, the MINUSTAH military has undertaken scores of security escorts for humanitarian assistance convoys, and yesterday 30 escorts were undertaken inside and outside of Port-au-Prince. The UN military has escorted World Food Programme convoys, NGO convoys, and medical and rescue teams from many countries. In Port-au-Prince the Brazilian Battalion assisted the Government of Haiti on 20 January to move money from Capital Bank branches and from the Banque Nationale de Credit branches to other locations.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has received three confirmed offers for military assistance following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1908 (2010), which authorized MINUSTAH to increase its military force by 3,000. The Republic of Korea has offered one engineer company (217 soldiers); the Dominican Republic will provide 150 infantry to help guard the humanitarian corridor between Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince, and Brazil has offered a battalion of 900 infantry. The date of arrival of these additional forces has not yet been confirmed.

In Jacmel (Sud-Est Department), MINUSTAH is providing security at the port, airport, local penitentiary and the largest camp of displaced persons.

Radio MINUSTAH FM

The UN radio station in Port-au-Prince, MINUSTAH FM, went back on air on Tuesday 19 January with material and technical assistance from Radio France and Télédiffusion de France. The President of Haiti has used this radio to address the population in Port-au-Prince. A six-person emergency team from France arrived in Haiti shortly after the earthquake. They brought with them 1,400 pounds of technical equipment comprising a transmitter, a radio relay system, an antenna, computers for sound editing and a satellite station. MINUSTAH Public Information staff were forced to leave temporary offices yesterday due to an aftershock that rendered their building unsafe. The MINUSTAH radio transmitter was transferred to a safe location and remains on the air.

MINUSTAH Troop Contributing Countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Guinea, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Madagascar, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, the United States, Uruguay and Yemen.

MINUSTAH Police Contributing Countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Jordan, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, the United States and Uruguay.