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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0451/2022**

4.10.2022

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

with request for inclusion in the agenda for a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure

on the situation of human rights in Haiti in particular related to gang violence (2022/2856(RSP))

**#Petras Auštrevičius, Malik Azmani, Nicola Beer, Stéphane Bijoux, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Olivier Chastel, Klemen Grošelj, Bernard Guetta, Svenja Hahn, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Nathalie Loiseau, Karen Melchior, Max Orville, Dragoș Pîslaru, Soraya Rodríguez, Frédérique Ries, Michal Šimečka, Ramona Strugariu, Dragos Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans,#**

on behalf of the Renew Group

**B9-0451/2022**

**European Parliament resolution on the situation of human rights in Haiti in particular related to gang violence (2022/2856(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Haiti, notably that of 20 May 2021,
  - having regard to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) Statement during the UN Security Council, 9136th meeting of 26 September 2022 on The Question Concerning Haiti,
  - having regard to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Haïti address to the 77th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 24 September 2022,
  - having regard to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Report on Haiti of 22 September 2022,
  - having regard to the American Convention on Human Rights,
  - having regard to the Cotonou Agreement,
  - having regard to the Constitution of the Republic of Haiti from 1987,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
  - having regard to Rule 144 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the humanitarian situation in Haiti has constantly deteriorated in the last years due an outstanding insecurity; whereas since 2021 gang related violent actions have expanded dramatically in the region of Port-au-Prince prompting a widespread insecurity, constraining freedoms among the local population and deepened a state of terror in the country;
- B. whereas accordingly to the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, 540 people were kidnapped and more than 780 were killed between January and May 2022, and in the last five months of 2021 396 people were kidnapped and 668 killed by local gangs in Port-au-Prince; whereas violence has further escalated in Haiti's Capital since gangs have taken control of the Palace of Justice on 10 June 2022; whereas the Palace of Justice had been largely inoperative since 2018 due to security risks thus hindering access to justice in the country; whereas case files containing critical evidence on multiple massacres committed since 2018 by gangs were stolen or destroyed without possibilities of recovery;

- C. Whereas the access to the few health centres and hospitals that are still functioning has become perilous if not impossible; whereas women and girls particularly suffer from this lack of health care in a country which has the highest level of maternal mortality in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- D. whereas the uprising of sexual violence by the gangs has been reported by the UN agencies since the beginning of this year; whereas according to a new report from August 2022 by Haiti's National Human Rights Defense Network, dozens of women and girls have been victims of campaigns of mass rape carried out by gangs in Port-au-Prince;
- E. whereas the Haitian authorities have announced on 14 September 2022 that gas prices would double and diesel and kerosene would also suffer considerable increases; whereas the announcement prompted extreme violent protests across Haiti where the population have been facing overwhelmingly growing costs of living and non-stop gang violence; whereas gangs blocked the Varreux fuel terminal after the authorities announcement with trenches and empty containers blocking the access of distribution trucks from the facility;
- F. whereas all humanitarian organizations activities in Haiti have come to a halt due to the ongoing widespread protests promoting a critical deterioration among the most vulnerable; whereas the World Food Programme estimates that a sum of \$6 million of relief assistance was lost during September 2022 due to the sacking of its warehouses which corresponded to one third of its food stocks; whereas several humanitarian non-profit organizations have reported similar looting of their warehouses; whereas the Haitian population face severe food insecurity and malnutrition levels;
- G. whereas the ongoing violence and deteriorating security in the country is leading to a sharp increase in asylum seekers from Haiti; whereas accordingly to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) from 1 January until 26 February 2022, 25,765 people were expelled or deported back to Haiti from countries as United States, The Bahamas, Cuba, Turks and Caicos Islands, Mexico, and other countries;
1. Urges the Haitian authorities to restore security and public order immediately;
  2. Calls on the Haitian authorities to set in motion a decisive action plan to end the standing overwhelming criminal activity perpetrated by gangs that continues to dangerously deteriorate the country's security, political and humanitarian situation; firmly insists that the Haitian authorities must bring those responsible to justice in fair trials;
  3. Strongly condemns all human rights violations and acts of violence, especially the increases in kidnappings, homicides and rapes since 2021; recalls that the violence in Haiti is strongly linked to armed gangs, some of which are supported and funded by the local oligarchy;
  4. Stresses the critical importance of a working and credible judiciary; urges the authorities to restore and protect the normal function of the country's judiciary; condemns the authorities for not taking timely action and relocating the Palace of Justice for security

reasons; deeply regrets that judicial files concerning multiple massacres committed since 2018 by gangs were stolen or destroyed;

5. Reiterates the call for organizing free, fair, transparent and credible legislative, local and presidential elections and guaranteeing sustainable security during these electoral processes; stresses the importance of a constitutional order in Haiti;
6. Expresses its concerns with the extreme degradation of the humanitarian conditions in Haiti that are affecting the population as a whole in terms of accessing all basic services and turning previously self-sufficient people into those extremely vulnerable whose lives and survival depend on the humanitarian assistance; recalls that near half of Haiti's population faces acute food insecurity; urges the international community to increase their financial commitment with the Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti that provides assistance to 2.5 million people as the latter is presently less than a third funded;
7. Reminds that women and girls require particular attention and help when it comes to access to health care and protection against sexual violence;
8. Deplores the attacks perpetrated by gangs against humanitarian organizations and their infrastructures in September 2022 that suppressed over \$6 million in humanitarian relief assistance; recalls that the World Food Programme has lost one third of their food stocks for humanitarian purposes; urges the Haitian authorities to guarantee the safety of the staff of all humanitarian organizations working in the country as all their facilities;
9. Urges the Haitian authorities to clarify the suspicions of fraud and mismanagement of the international funds received following the earthquake of 2010 and to condemn the perpetrators;
10. Reiterates the importance of harmonized, coordinated and strengthened international efforts to support the people of Haiti; highlights the importance of continued EU and international support to Haiti to help create the conditions for peaceful and democratic elections as well as to realize the long-term stability, development and economic self-sufficiency of the country;
11. Calls on the countries receiving Haitian asylum seekers to respect the criteria of international conventions regarding asylum and returns; recalls that returns to Haiti are extremely unsafe and life risk until security conditions in Haiti improve;
12. Calls on the European Union to continue providing funding to Haiti in order to address the severe food insecurity and malnutrition due to the standing economic crisis that has led to soaring food prices; reiterates the importance to ensure the monitoring and the appropriate management of the European development aid so that it directly benefits the population in need;
13. Calls on the Commission to continue providing humanitarian aid to Haiti; calls on the Commission to ensure that the provision of humanitarian aid to Haiti is coherent with its development strategy;

14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the ACP-EU Council of Ministers and Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the institutions of the Cariforum, and the authorities of the Republic of Haiti.