

Call Issued by the Haitian Coordinating Committee For the Withdrawal of UN-MINUSTAH Troops from Haiti

June 1, 2004 - June 1, 2015: 11 Years of Occupation, MINUSTAH Must Go!

The coup-kidnapping of February 29, 2004 against constitutionally and democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide paved the way for the occupation of the first Black Republic in the world. On June 1, 2004 — that is, three months after the coup — thousands of UN troops landed in Haiti under the banner of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Since then, the occupation has been installed in flagrant violation of the UN Charter, the 1987 Haitian Constitution, and the Vienna Convention on diplomatic and consular relations.

The occupation troops arrived, it was stated, to stabilize the country and solve some problems. But 11 years later, the “stabilization” forces have resolved nothing; quite the contrary, they have violated the right to self-determination and human rights of the Haitian people and introduced the deadly cholera epidemic. That is why we say: 11 years of occupation, and five years of cholera is enough, MINUSTAH must go! The United Nations must recognize that they have committed a serious mistake, in fact, an irreparable mistake, in Haiti. The very morality of the UN has been put into question.

Resolution 1542 adopted by the UN Security Council, referring to Chapter VII of its Charter to justify its intervention force in Haiti — when there was no threat to peace and international and regional security — is unacceptable.

After 35 years of dictatorship, Haiti was rising up and moving forward on the road to democracy. Factors that could genuinely represent a threat to international peace and security are of an economic and social character: poverty, unemployment, misery, environmental degradation, and illiteracy. The United Nations intervened not to help solve these problems but to strengthen the domination of the imperialist powers, the exploitation of the labor force, and the looting of Haiti's mineral resources. In other words, the United Nations has served the cause of the great imperialist powers such as the United States, France, and Canada — to the detriment of Haiti, deemed the most impoverished country in the world.

To carry this out, the United Nations — the most powerful global organization — not only violated its own charter, but the Constitution of Haiti along with its Conventions and Laws. The legal basis of MINUSTAH's presence in Haiti is none other than the Agreement of July 9, 2004. This agreement, which has an international character, was not signed by the president of Haiti, as required by the Constitution, but by the de-facto prime minister at the time, Gerard Latortue, who stated later that he did not even know what he had signed.

So Latortue signed this Agreement under pressure from his bosses in the International Community, in clear violation of the Constitution. Article 139 of the Constitution is clear on this. “He [the President of the Republic of Haiti] negotiates and signs all international treaties, conventions and agreements and submits them for ratification by the National Assembly.” This Agreement, dated July 9, 2004, was never ratified by the Haitian National Assembly. Eleven years later, the MINUSTAH occupation troops continue to trample upon national sovereignty and kill Haitians with cholera.

The Constitution does not recognize the existence of any foreign force in Haitian territory, as stipulated in Article 263-1: “No other armed corps may exist on Haitian soil.” And Article 276 continues: “The National Assembly may not ratify any treaty, convention or international agreement containing clauses contrary to this Constitution.”

At the level of international law, referring to the Vienna Conventions of 1969 and 1986, in the event that a Treaty is signed by a party having no *jus tractum* — that is, no power to conclude Treaties, Agreements or Conventions — as was the case with Gerard Latortue on July 9, 2004, said Treaty is null and absolutely void and must be considered invalid.

Both in its form and its content, the MINUSTAH presence in Haiti is illegal; it has been imposed by force on the land of Dessalines:

* The Haitian people, in their great majority, have called for the immediate and unconditional departure of MINUSTAH;

* The Haitian Senate voted on May 28, 2013, a resolution demanding the departure of the MINUSTAH troops.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the U.S. occupation of Haiti (1915-2015), the Haitian Coordinating

Committee for the Withdrawal of UN-MINUSTAH Troops from Haiti intends to organize a series of events to say NO to the occupation.

1) Sit-ins in front of the U.S. Embassy, each 28th day of the month up till July 28, 2015.

2) Conferences, forums, and photo exhibits on the effects of the MINUSTAH occupation, to be held on June 1, 2015 — the 11th anniversary of the landing of the MINUSTAH force in Haiti.

3) Demonstrations in the streets.

The campaign waged by the Haitian Coordinating Committee for the Withdrawal of UN-MINUSTAH Troops from Haiti needs the active solidarity of all organizations involved in the fight for the liberation of all the oppressed peoples of the world. The struggle to end the occupation of Haiti is everyone's struggle.

So, dear friends, dear comrades, we ask for your militant support militant, under whatever form you deem best to provide it.

MINUSTAH Out Now! Down with the Occupation! Long Live FREE HAITI!

First signatories:

• **Mouvement de liberté, d'Egalité des Haïtiens pour la Fraternité (MOLE-GHAF):** OXYGENE David

• **Mouvman etidyan pou chanjman(MECHAN):** ALOUIDOR Wilberde

• **Journal Haïti liberté:** YVES Pierre Louis

• **Mouvman Etidyan pou libere Ayiti(MELA):** SAMEDY Simeon

• **Grenadye 07:** LUCIEN Gymps

• **Kolektif Kont Okipasyon:** Pascal Dieujuste

• **Gouvernail de LIAISON DES Organisations de Base et des**

• **Syndicats (GLOBS)** RAYMOND Davius

• **Mouvman pou Devlopman Nasyonal (MODENA)**

• **Parti révolutionnaire pour l'organisation et le progrès (PROP):** SIMEON WISLY

• **Central des Travailleurs des Syndicats du prive et des entreprises publiques (CTSP):** JEAN Bonald G. Fatal

• **Kodinasyon Desalin (KOD):** JOSEPH Claudy

• **Groupe D'initiative des enseignants en Lutte (GIEL)**