# Kenyan Police Officers to Lead Multinational Force in Haiti to Combat Violent Gangs



Kenyan police officers are set to lead a multinational force in Haiti to combat powerful gangs causing significant violence. This deployment, which sees the first 400 officers of a planned 1,000, follows President William Ruto’s controversial decision to proceed despite a court ruling deeming it unconstitutional. The mission, known as the Multinational Security Support Mission, is part of a United Nations-authorized effort to stabilize Haiti, where gang violence has escalated sharply.

Violence has surged since late February, resulting in over 2,500 deaths or injuries in early 2024 and displacing more than half a million people. Gangs now control at least 80% of Port-au-Prince. Prime Minister Ariel Henry was forced to resign in April, leading to the establishment of a transitional presidential council.

The U.S. supports the mission with a $300 million contribution but refrains from deploying American troops. Despite concerns over Kenyan police abuses and previous problematic interventions in Haiti, Ruto insists Kenyan officers are experienced in peacekeeping missions. The deployment aims to bolster Haiti’s struggling national police force of around 9,000 officers in handling approximately 200 gangs.