

Declaration of La Via Campesina Against Neocolonial Offensive in Haiti

We, La Via Campesina, the global peasant movement for food sovereignty, vehemently protest the ongoing assaults suffered by the Haitian people and their sovereignty. In recent months, this sovereignty faces renewed threats from the impending invasion by Kenyan police forces, orchestrated under the auspices of the U.S. government and its imperialist tool, the Core Group. This coalition also comprises the embassies of governments including Brazil, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, and Spain, alongside the special representative of the Organization of American States and the special representative of the UN Secretary-General (BINUH).

The purported aim of this new neocolonial offensive is to address induced insecurity in the capital and specific northern regions, such as the Artibonite department. There, the indiscriminate import of weapons from the United States, facilitated through the Dominican Republic, has empowered criminal gangs, instilling terror and insecurity in Haitian society. It is crucial to emphasize that Haiti is not in a state of war; rather, this is a politically manufactured situation to justify military intervention.

Up until October 2023, the Core Group and its satellite governments – Kenya and the Dominican Republic – were gearing up for a new incursion into Haitian territory. The Kenyan president offered his police forces as mere pawns in this new interference in Haiti, attempting to appease the global capitalist elite. Simultaneously, the Dominican government supported these plans, exploiting the construction of an irrigation canal on borderlands by Haitian peasants as a pretext. This resulted in the closure of borders to contain the forced migration of Haitians, an outcome of the invasion it was actively promoting, particularly in New York. Furthermore, under the banner of the Haitian people, Dominican President Luis Abinader negotiated mining concessions with Canadian multinationals for mineral extraction on the border, all without the consent of the Haitian people.

Consequently, the natural resources of Haiti, abundant in gold and other minerals, serve as the driving force behind this conspiracy against the Haitian people. This includes geopolitical control over the Caribbean region from the island of Dessalines, with the objective of appropriating these resources and advancing the project that views Latin America as a resource reserve or the backyard of the United States and its allies. These entities are prepared to invest over \$100 million in this colonialist venture.

La Via Campesina stands in solidarity with our member organizations in Haiti – Tet Kole Ti Peyizan Ayisyen, the Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP) and the Mouvman Peyizan Nasyonal Kongre Papay (MPNKP) – in their steadfast struggle for dignity and against foreign interference in their territories. These interferences have left an indelible mark on the 20th century and persist today, hindering Haiti's political, economic, and social progress towards becoming the prosperous nation it should be, owing to the strength and resilience of its people.

Peasants from Haiti, Kenya, the Dominican Republic, and from all countries where La Via Campesina is present unite their voices to condemn anti-peasant and pro-neoliberal measures against the Haitian people. They unequivocally denounce the absurdity of the Kenyan police force intervention scheduled for the first quarter of 2024. Renowned for its brutality and violence against its own citizens and civilians in Africa, such as the police violence endured by Kenyans during the lockdown and the human losses resulting from

the repression of protests during the 2017 elections, the Kenyan police force is unwelcome in this so-called "solidarity mission" in Haiti.

The Haitian people have endured enough of so-called humanitarian interventions under the auspices of the UN, which, over the past 30 years, have failed to fulfill their promises and have exacerbated human rights violations in Haiti. These missions have kept the country ensnared in poverty, operating in tandem with impunity, eliminating the peasant class and local agriculture, all while fortifying the grip of the "Core Group" on Haiti.

Peasant communities bear the brunt of the neglect from the illegitimate government, experiencing food insecurity, land grabbing, and violence. Free zones displace peasants throughout the Northeast department, with the corrupt judicial system exacerbating these injustices. Peasant communities also grapple with inflation, posing a threat to the food sovereignty of the population.

Economic interests must not supersede the human rights of Haitians. Peasant and social organizations have already presented solutions focused on popular autonomy and food sovereignty through the August 30 Agreement, also known as the Montana Agreement. This agreement underscores citizen and peasant participation in building institutions and transparency in democratic governance. It upholds the right to self-determination of the Haitian people and strives to restore the functioning of the state, strengthen public administration, guarantee judicial institutions, and establish social peace. The agreement has empowered local organizations to formulate a proposal for a democratic, participatory, and active transition, by and for the Haitian people. It encompasses roadmaps to address urgent issues such as insecurity, injustice, corruption, health, and education, outlining a concrete plan to resolve the current crisis while avoiding interference from corrupt and imperialist powers responsible for social, political, and economic turmoil.

Haitian Solution for Haiti!

No more foreign interventions in Haiti, imposed against the will of the Haitian people!

International solidarity with the legitimate struggle of the Haitian people!