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## FEATURED Q&A

# Will a New U.N. Mission Achieve its Goals in Haiti?



The previous United Nations mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH, was beset by several controversies. Brazilian peacekeepers are pictured patrolling Port-au-Prince in 2014. // File Photo: United Nations.

**Q The United Nations mission for Justice Support in Haiti, or MINUJUSTH, was launched in mid-October with a six-month renewable term. The new mission will include 1,275 U.N. police officers and will provide training to Haiti's national police. The previous U.N. mission in Haiti, MINUSTAH, was beset by controversies that included its role in a 2010 cholera outbreak that killed thousands of people. Will the new U.N. mission achieve its goals of strengthening Haiti's security, democracy and institutions? How should the mission go about its work in order to improve its chances for success? What lessons should be learned from the previous U.N. mission in order to replicate its successes and avoid its controversies and pitfalls?**

**A Raymond A. Joseph, former ambassador of Haiti to the United States:** "MINUJUSTH is just a mini version of several other missions that have been in Haiti since 1990. The first peacekeeping mission with a police unit, MIPONUH, was established in 1993. It remained in Haiti for three years, helped disband the coup-prone Haitian army and created the Haitian National Police (HNP) in January 1995. Leaving in 2000, the United Nations was back four years later with MINUSTAH, sparing Haiti a civil war after President Aristide was forced out a second time. Essentially a military mission, MINUSTAH also had a police unit. Three relatively peaceful but fraud-marred presidential elections were held under its watch. But Haiti has suffered from the long U.N. presence. Besides the deadly cholera introduced by the United Nations' Nepalese contingent, many children born of rape by U.N. personnel

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As Venezuela edges closer to a formal default on its debts and bondholders reporting no sign of full payment on notes due last Friday, countries such as Russia and India have offered support and flexibility.

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Physical store purchases this year will comprise just 37 of total holiday sales, according to a new survey.

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## U.S. Rolls Out Tougher Rules on Cuba Travel

The administration of Donald Trump has announced new restrictions on travel and trade with Cuba. Some hardliners on Cuba policy in the U.S. Congress, such as Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.), said the measures could have been even stronger.

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Cook // File Photo: U.S. Government.

## ECONOMIC NEWS

## United States Rolls Out Tougher Rules on Cuba Trade, Travel

The U.S. government on Wednesday announced new rules that make it harder for its businesses to work in Cuba and its citizens to travel to the country, the Los Angeles Times reported. As of today, businesses will be required to obey a new set of regulations that are “intended to steer economic activity away from the Cuban military, intelligence and security services,” a senior White House official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity. Individuals will be prohibited from traveling to Cuba under the new rules but can visit as part of groups registered with the U.S. government. Moreover, when U.S. citizens land on the island, they will not be able to patronize more than 80 hotels and dozens of other businesses that the United States has identified as being tied to Cuba’s military, intelligence or security services.

The new rules will likely further frustrate the U.S. airline industry. Sun Country Airlines on Wednesday announced it is relinquishing permission to fly to the island due to “regulatory uncertainties,” CNBC reported. Other large U.S. carriers were trimming flights to the island due to weaker-than-expected demand even before Wednesday’s announcement. American Airlines recently announced it will drop a flight from Miami to Cienfuegos in January. Advocates for ending Cuba-U.S. trade barriers blasted the Trump administration’s announcement. “These new regulations create a more convoluted, confusing and counterproductive approach to Cuba policy,” James Williams, the president of Washington-based lobby group Engage Cuba said in a statement. “This ‘Keystone Cops’ Cuba policy hurts those it claims to help and helps those it claims to hurt,” he added. However, some hardliners on Cuba in the U.S. Congress said the administration’s decree could have been stronger. “I’m concerned that the new regulations and the State Department’s initial list of restricted Cuban entities may not be strong enough to meet the President’s goal of protecting U.S. security interests and

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Online Sales in Brazil Will Exceed Traditional Store Purchases This Holiday

Online shopping for gifts in Brazil is likely to exceed traditional brick-and-mortar store sales this holiday season for the first time, Agência Brasil reported Wednesday. According to a survey of 27 state capitals released by Brazilian credit reporting agency SPC, 40 percent of shoppers plan to buy presents online, with 54 percent of those saying they intend to buy more than half of their gifts on the Internet. Physical store purchases this year will comprise just 37 of total holiday sales, according to the survey.

## Colombians Seize Cocaine Worth \$360 Million

Police in Colombia said Wednesday they had seized more than 12 tons of cocaine with a market value in the United States of more than \$360 million, Reuters reported. President Juan Manuel Santos described the stash, found stored underground on four farms in northwest Antioquia province near Colombia’s border with Panama, as “the largest seizure in history.” Authorities linked the cocaine the Gulf Clan, an organized crime cartel that has become more powerful since a peace deal was signed last year with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas.

## Mexico Condemns Texas Death Row Execution

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto on said he “firmly condemned” the execution Wednesday night in Texas of Rubén Cárdenas Ramírez, 41, a citizen of Mexico on death row for a murder he was convicted of committing in 1997, Excélsior reported. Texas was violating international law by killing a man who was not told of his right to assistance from his home country, Mexico’s foreign ministry has asserted. Cárdenas Ramírez is the fifth Mexican to be executed in the United States since 2004.

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are left fatherless. How will MINUJUSTH accomplish in six months what several others failed to do, even in the case of MINUSTAH in 13 years? Can the latest mission help beef up the HPN from its current 15,000 members for a population of 12 million? Can it effect reform in the corruption-plagued judicial system, which was recently denounced by the president of the capital’s bar association? Initially, it could demonstrate its usefulness by helping the HPN and Justice solve the early-morning attack Oct. 29 on the house of Norbert Stimphil in the Canapé Vert neighborhood of Port-au-Prince. He and his family escaped the 500 gunshots that hit their house, a quarter mile from a police station. Reputedly an honest civil servant, Mr. Stimphil, coordinator of the multimillion-dollar internationally funded national school food program, was under pressure to vacate his post for a more pliable government appointee.”

**A Georges Fauriol, senior associate in the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies:** “The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) was launched Oct. 15 under less than auspicious circumstances—notably, considerable skepticism among the Haitian public regarding measurable achievements of the precursor U.N. mission (MINUSTAH) during an 18-year mandate, as well as a general perception that the international community’s long presence in Haiti may be overextending its welcome. These factors will need to be calibrated carefully, and in this regard, the introduction of two new experienced hands is helpful—a new U.N. special envoy for Haiti, Josette Sheeran of the United States, as well as Michele Sison, nominated to be U.S. ambassador to Haiti and with previous Haiti experience. For starters, Haiti’s economic and governance

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supporting the Cuban people in their fight for freedom," said Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

## Russia, India Offer Venezuela a Lifeline

As Venezuela edges closer to a formal default on its debts and with bondholders reporting no sign of full payment on notes due last Friday, Russia threw the economically crippled country a lifeline Wednesday, *The New York Times* reported. The Russian finance minister, Anton Siluanov, announced that the two countries had agreed to the restructuring of roughly \$3 billion in Kremlin loans, a relatively small amount compared to Venezuela's \$120 billion debt load, but perhaps enough to help President Nicolás Maduro's government make hundreds of millions of dollars in payments now due. Traders have been looking for Venezuela to miss a \$1.2 billion payment on a national oil company bond due last Friday. "Clearly the Venezuelans have been looking for relief anywhere they can get it, and at this point Russia is their most viable source of financing," said Risa Grais-Targow, director for Latin America at Eurasia Group. India has also quietly stepped forward to give Venezuela more time to pay back debt, Reuters reported Wednesday. State oil company PDVSA has not made debt payments to India's top oil producer, ONGC, for six months on a \$540 million backlog of dividends owed to ONGC, according to the report. "They have got certain challenges at this stage," ONGC said in an emailed response to Reuters' questions. "They have assured that they are working on it...We have a good working relationship with PDVSA," ONGC said. PDVSA declined to comment. The U.S. Treasury Department has barred trading of new debt by the government and PDVSA. In related news, the European Union on Wednesday announced plans to ban the sale of arms and surveillance technologies to Venezuela. The measure, endorsed by the bloc's 28 ambassadors meeting in Brussels, will be presented to foreign ministers for approval when they meet next Monday, Bloomberg News reported.

## COMINGS & GOINGS

### Oris de Roa Named Argentina's Ambassador to the United States

The Argentine government has appointed businessman Fernando Oris de Roa as the ambassador to the United States, filling a job that has been vacant since Martín Lousteau stepped down from his position in April in order to compete in Argentina's midterm elections in October, *Clarín* reported last week. The announcement was made by President Mauricio Macri's chief of staff via a post on Twitter. The appointment must be approved Argentina's Senate and accepted by the United States before Oris de Roa can assume the position. Oris de Roa is known for his work in the agri-business sector, where he headed citrus company San Miguel and founded poultry company Avex. Former ambassador Lousteau finished third last month in the race to be mayor of Buenos Aires.

### Martínez Retiring as Discovery's Latin America Chief

Enrique Martínez, the president of Discovery Latin America, will retire at the end of this year, the mass media company said last month. Martínez had worked at the company for 24 years, 17 of which as president and managing director of Discovery Latin America/U.S. Hispanic. The executive vice president and general manager for the company's Brazil and the Southern Cone operations, Fernando Medin, will become president and managing director for Discovery Latin America starting in January.

### Liberty Global Taps Nair as Head of Latin America, Caribbean Operations

Liberty Global, the world's largest international television and broadband company, has appointed Balan Nair as the head of its Latin America and Caribbean operations, the company said in a statement last month. Nair currently serves as the chief technology and innovation officer for the company. Over the last 10 years, Nair has managed the group's fixed and mobile network operations, broadband and video product development, and strategic planning. He will assume the role of president and CEO for the company's Latin America and Caribbean operations after the company splits from the larger Liberty Global, which is expected to be finalized by the end of this year. He will remain in his current position until the split-off is finalized.

### Tech Data Names De Almeida Carvalho as Managing Director for Brazil Operations

Florida-based IT products and services company Tech Data has named Carla Maria De Almeida Carvalho as managing director for its Brazil operations, the company said Tuesday. De Almeida Carvalho will oversee the company's sales and marketing operations in Brazil, focusing on revenue generation, cultivating "hypergrowth," new business development and strengthened vendor relationships. De Almeida Carvalho has 25 years of experience in technology sales and marketing. Before joining Tech Data, she served as vice president of sales for SAP Brazil.

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deficits remain profound, if not catastrophic, in some areas. MINUJUSTH's ambitious mandate—strengthen the rule of law, monitor human rights standards and continue to professionalize the national policy—is renewable every six months, providing some discipline but also the basis for mischief. It is therefore advisable for the Haitian government and particularly the national parliament to temper attempts to undermine MINUJUSTH. It is better off taking the U.N. and international donors to task in demarcating specific mandates, agreeing on measurable targets, staffing the efforts carefully, providing timely funding streams and ensuring transparent budgetary monitoring. Another probable clash is Haiti's push for

“Another probable clash is Haiti's push for re-establishing the armed forces...”

— Georges Fauriol

re-establishing the armed forces—disbanded in the 1990s, albeit never fully extinguished from Haitian political consciousness. The arguments for its reconstitution—border and maritime security, emergency and disaster response—are not without merit, but they raise budgetary and political governance concerns for a government that can ill afford them. The international community has polit-

ical leverage and can also help choreograph a different vision of Haitian needs more akin to a defense force modeled after the Jamaican and similar regional experiences.”

**A James Morrell, executive director of the Haiti Democracy Project:** “The continued presence on the ground of the U.N. mission, however depleted, is crucial to Haiti's stability and to the slow inculcation of a democratic culture. Its monitoring of the Haitian national police creates checks and balances within the force that keeps it from being used for political ends. The U.N. mission could also profit by adding capacity within the police for disaster relief because of the imminence of this threat to the population. The police could promote and protect water-retention works and reforestation, which would help protect the rural farmers—the neglected 70 percent of the population—from flooding and loss of irrigation works. The police are not present in rural areas, which make up 90 percent of Haitian territory. To fill this gap, the U.N. mission could also launch disaster training of the local government units (CASECs and ASECs) that are present in these areas. Through initiatives such as these, the United Nations could expand from stability at the top, which it has achieved since 2004, to stability at the base.”

*The Advisor welcomes comments on its Q&A section. Readers can write editor Gene Kuleta at [gkuleta@thedialogue.org](mailto:gkuleta@thedialogue.org).*

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