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SUBJECT: HAITI: UPDATE IN SECURITY COUNCIL ON HAITI
REF: USUN 116166

1. The Department of Peacekeeping Operation's Undersecretary General Jean Marie Guehenno provided a briefing at the request of the Friends of Haiti on the situation in Haiti following his June 23-28 trip to Haiti and the July 6 MINUSTAH operation which killed Dred Wilme and five of his associates. He also updated the Council on the elections, staffing plans, and the UN/IDB development assistance program. Several Council members noted after the briefing the change in Guehenno's tone which was more optimistic that MINUSTAH's role in Haiti is positively impacting the country.

Security Overview

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2. Guehenno's primary concern is the still insufficient security on the ground. He noted that there were 56 kidnappings in June, and that the high-profile and assassination of journalist Jacques Roche was politically motivated. He explained that 440 troops were directly involved in the July 6 raid that killed Dred Wilme, and an additional 1000 secured the perimeter area. In a July 22 raid, MINUSTAH soldiers arrested 14 people. Guehenno noted with optimism that the situation in Bel Aire has significantly improved since his June visit, according to
SRSG Valdes, and that there has been a decrease in attacks on MINUSTAH checkpoints.

3. Guehenno requested additional equipment and intelligence support (ref tel). Jordan will provide the additional 750 personnel for the electoral period, as mandated in Resolution 1608. Nigeria and Senegal will each provide a foreign police unit. DPKO is working to identify additional Francophone police officers. The Haitian National Police and MINUSTAH are finalizing a MOU to require the registration of Haitian Police officers. Guehenno described this as a fundamental test for the GoH. Finally, the Joint Operation Center and Sectoral Headquarters have been established and are operational. Guehenno feels that the mission is on a "solid track" to address the long term security issues, adopting a more "pro-active" approach.

Political Update
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4. As of July 26, 330 registration centers are opened, with 750,000 Haitians registered to vote. Guehenno reported that there is a clear sense in the mission that elections are possible, but for elections to be credible, Fanmi Lavalas must participate. MINUSTAH political officers are working with the OAS and CEP to "clearly create conditions for Fanmi Lavalas participation." Guehenno concluded that all political parties must participate for a truly legitimate election; MINUSTAH officers are working with counterparts to make this happen.

Human Rights and Justice
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5. A team of judges will report in the coming weeks on their conclusions about the short term detention issues, namely how the GoH should best handle high-profile cases such the Neptune case. A second report will be issued next month on the judges' long term recommendations for judicial reform. On the economic and humanitarian side, Guehenno noted that development pledges have not yet resulted in widespread gain. In conjunction with IDB, the UN’s Development Group in Haiti has developed a labor-intensive program to create jobs and generate income.

Council Members Responses
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6. Representatives from Brazil, Argentina, the UK, Philippines, France, and Japan all noted that Guehenno’s
report was more positive than previous briefings. All expressed concern over MINUSTAH ensuring a secure environment for the upcoming elections, and the need for economic development, but there was acknowledgment that the situation has slightly improved, as described by Guehenno.

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