

# Message at the U.N.: Kenya-led security mission to Haiti needs greater foreign financial support

BY JACQUELINE CHARLES  
AND MICHAEL WILNER  
jcharles@miamiherald.com  
mwilner@mcclatchydc.com

Foreign governments are being urged to make good on pledges to fund the armed Kenya-led security force in Haiti, where criminal armed groups continue spread misery and despair while controlling more than 80% of the capital.

"We call on all international partners to do more and give more," said Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the United States' ambassador to the United Nations during a Security Council meeting Wednesday. "The Haitian people deserve, at long last, to live in peace — to go to work, school, or a house of worship without the threat of violence."

In all, Kenya has volunteered to deploy 1,000 of its specialized police officers to lead what is known as the Multinational Security Support mission. Six other mostly Caribbean and African nations are also supposed to send personnel. But the mission's success and the size of its force very much depend on the contributions of the international community, which pledged \$118 million in support but has so far deposited only \$21 million in a United Nations trust fund.

The United States is by far the largest contributor, providing more than \$309 million in the form of equipment, training and the construction of a mission base in Port-au-Prince.

While addressing the U.N. Security Council on the ongoing crisis, Thomas-Greenfield and others called for the international community to accelerate efforts to provide the country with the support it needs to build democratic institutions and to restore peace and stability amid alarming violence.

"Member states have to walk the talk when it comes to supporting the mission," said Bob Rae, Canada's ambassador to the U.N. "Let us all come to terms with one thing: Haitians, like all of us, every single one of us, require security to be able to safely leave

our homes without fear of being killed, kidnapped or raped."

## SECURITY FORCE'S FIRST STEPS

The first contingent of 200 Kenyan police officers arrived in Haiti last week and has been gradually taking to the streets on patrols. Although armed gangs did not make good on a threat to try to stop the deployment, they have tried to test the forces, temporarily taking over one police station before police regained control and then setting fire to another. Both are south of the capital, which has become off-limits to most Haitians.

María Isabel Salvador, the head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Port-au-Prince, known by its French acronym, BINUH, told the council that the arrival of the specialized officers after months of delays is an important step and renews hope for the Haitian people. But, with 3,252 homicides recorded since January, including 20 police officers killed by armed gangs, Haiti remains in a cycle of killings by armed gangs and vigilante self-defense groups.

"I remain deeply disturbed by indiscriminate violence and grave abuses perpetrated by armed gangs against children. Equally worrisome is the prevalence of threats and attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and members of the judiciary, many of whom have been forced to limit or stop their work, or even to flee the country," Salvador said.

She said the gangs' recurrent attacks since Feb. 29 also "have severely hampered national and international efforts to fast-track the recruitment process of new police officers, and attrition rates in the national police continue to be high."

Salvador commented as the Security Council weighs the fate of her Haiti political office, whose mission some members stressed is even more important now and necessary for the success of the mission amid criticism that previous



About 200 Kenyan police officers and support staffers arrive in Haiti on June 25 as part of the first contingent of a United Nations-backed Multinational Security Support mission.

foreign interventions have failed to break Haiti's cycle of instability.

## SOME OPTIMISM AT U.N.

During the meeting, council members expressed cautious optimism over what they described as a new momentum in Haiti after months of gang attacks, the shuttering of the airport and seaport and the paralyzing of the capital by the violence.

In a separate media call, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Brian A. Nichols and Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Todd D. Robinson both touted the

missions arrival and the changes taking place.

Neither Nichols nor Robinson would say when the next contingent of Kenyan officers would arrive.

Robinson also declined to go into details on whether, for example, the Kenyan force would go into areas controlled by gangs, a question that many Haitians have been asking. The mission's mandate, he said, is to work with the Haitian police, but the "Haitian forces are going to be in the lead on all of these operations."

For now, the U.S. is looking at a maximum of around 1,000 personnel for the mission but will assess

its needs once the number has been reached, the officials said.

Nichols said the U.S.'s support for Haiti remains unwavering and touted the international experience and technical skills of Prime Minister Garry Conille, who welcomed the international community's support but also criticized its approach.

"The difficulties facing Haiti are enormous, with an inflation rate in excess of 27%, almost 50% of jobs lost in the textile sector alone and food insecurity affecting 4.5 million people, not to mention 600,000 [internally displaced persons] and 500,000 children out of school," he

said. "There's also violence paralyzing hospitals and health care centers. Dozens of police stations and prisons have been damaged or destroyed, and thousands of prisoners are on the loose."

Before his appearance at the U.N., where he worked as a longtime development expert, Conille visited Washington. While there, he and his delegation met with members of the Biden administration, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken, congressional lawmakers and financial donors, which have curtailed funding to Haiti because of the gang violence and concerns over corruption. After a meeting with representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank, which is assessing the financial impact of the gang attacks on infrastructure, Conille said Haiti would receive \$40 million of aid.

An IDB spokesperson told the Miami Herald that the \$40 million isn't necessarily new money but unallocated funding from the 2023-2024 net income allocation to Haiti for concessional resources.

Addressing the Security Council, Conille said: "Together with our international partners, we need to revisit the support given to Haiti."

Conille has the task of giving Haiti a newly elected president and parliament by February 2026, a huge challenge.

But during his address to the Security Council, he also spoke of reforming the Haitian National Police and establishing adequate infrastructure that complies with modern building standards as well as the reorganization of certain towns, the rehabilitation and re-establishment of basic functional social services and creating employment opportunities for communities.

For Haiti to "escape the spiral of security missions once and for all," Conille said, "we need to redefine our approaches so that by the end of the MSS, the country will have strong and effective institutions and our international partners as well as ourselves will have a sense of accomplishment."

Jacqueline Charles:  
305-376-2616,  
@jacquiecharles

# U.S. monitors China's seizure of Taiwan fishing boat

BY JOHN FENG  
Newsweek World

U.S. officials were closely monitoring a potential flare-up in the Taiwan Strait this week after Chinese law-enforcement officers boarded and seized a Taiwanese trawler in a move regarded as unusually heavy-handed.

The Da Jin Man 88, a squid-fishing boat from Taiwan's Western Penghu or Pescadores Islands, was

inspected by the Chinese Coast Guard late on Tuesday over a suspected fishing violation before being diverted to a harbor in Fujian province in southeastern China.

The boat's location last pinged at the Fujian port of Weitou on July 2, according to the ship-tracking website MarineTraffic, after it was escorted there by Chinese Coast Guard vessels 14521 and 14607.

There has been a year-long low point in cross-

strait relations, with Beijing growing increasingly impatient at Taiwan's outright rejections of Chinese territorial claims to the island, a democratically governed territory of 23 million.

Taiwan's Coast Guard on Wednesday called for the release of the fishing boat and its crew of six, among them Indonesian nationals. It asked Chinese authorities not to involve politics in the case.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson told New-

sweek by email: "We encourage both sides to maintain open lines of communication and resolve the incident in a peaceful manner."

China Coast Guard spokesperson Liu Dejun said the day after the seizure that the Da Jin Man 88 had violated Chinese laws governing a moratorium on fishing activity in its coastal waters. The Taiwanese boat was trawling in a prohibited zone using a nonregulation net that was

too fine, "damaging fishery resources and ecosystems."

Taiwan's Coast Guard said the squid boat was intercepted outside Taipei-controlled maritime zones around the front-line Kinmen Island group, off the Chinese coast, and within China's 12-nautical-mile territorial sea.

Taiwanese patrol boats dispatched to the scene decided not to pursue further into Chinese waters "in order to avoid escalation," the agency said.

The Da Jin Man 88 is the latest of over a dozen Taiwanese fishing vessels to be boarded and seized by China since it began imposing fishing bans nearly three decades ago, according to Taipei's figures.

China's seasonal fishing ban and the boat's location within its territorial waters mean the incident likely "holds more significance for the protection of fishing rights than political implications," said Hung Tzu-chieh, an analyst at the Institute for National Defense and Security Research, a think tank in Taipei.

## BAL HARBOUR

VILLAGE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – SECOND READING ORDINANCE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a Public Hearing will be held by the Bal Harbour Village Council on **TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** or soon thereafter. The in-person meeting will be conducted at the **655 96th Street, Bal Harbour, FL 33154 in Bal Harbour Village Hall Council Chamber**. Public Comments may also be submitted by telephone at 305-865-6449, or emailed to [meetings@balharbourfl.gov](mailto:meetings@balharbourfl.gov) before and during the meeting. The following ordinance will be considered for second and final reading.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF BAL HARBOUR VILLAGE, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 11 "NUISANCES," ARTICLE II "NOISE" OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The proposed ordinance may be inspected by the public at the Village Clerk's Office, 655 - 96th Street, Bal Harbour, Florida 33154, or online at [www.balharbourfl.gov](http://www.balharbourfl.gov) under the heading "Council Meeting Information".

All persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact the Village Clerk's Office (305.866.4633) not later than two business days before such proceeding (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Village Council, to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made; such record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (F.S. 286.0105).



Dwight S. Danie, Village Clerk

### Notice of Public Hearing Relating to Public Improvements and Levy of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments

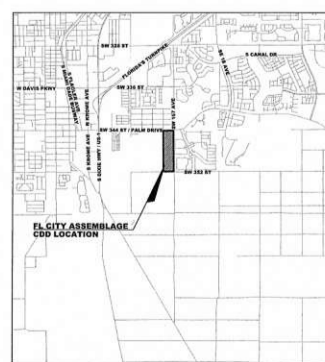
The Board of Supervisors of the Palm Gate Community Development District (the "Board") will hold a public hearing on July 19, 2024, at 12:10 p.m., at Lennar Homes, 5505 Waterford District Drive, Miami, Florida, to consider the adoption of an assessment roll and the imposition of non-ad valorem special assessments to finance, fund, construct, acquire and/or secure certain public improvements of the Palm Gate Community Development District (the "District") as described in the Engineer's Report for Palm Gate Community Development District, prepared by Alvarez Engineers, Inc., dated as of and accepted by the Board on May 17, 2024 ("Engineer's Report"). The Board will consider the levy of special assessments on benefited properties within the District, a depiction of which properties is shown below, and will provide for the levy, collection and enforcement of the special assessments.

The public hearing will be conducted pursuant to Chapters 170, 190 and 197, Florida Statutes. Developable areas within the District (as shown below) will be improved. The District is located within the municipal limits of the City of Florida City, in an area bounded by SW 167 Avenue (Tennessee Road) on the east, SW 352 Street on the south, Theoretical SW 168 Avenue on the west, and SW 344 Street (East Palm Drive) on the north. The District's proposed improvements include stormwater management and control systems; water distribution and sanitary sewer systems, including related connection charges; onsite and offsite roadway improvements, including related impact fees; if determined necessary, the acquisition of interests in land related to the foregoing; and related soft incidental costs. A description of the property to be assessed, the nature of the improvements proposed, as described in the Engineer's Report, and the amount to be assessed to each piece or parcel of property may be reviewed at the District Manager's Office at 5385 N. Nob Hill Rd., Sunrise, FL or at the local District's Records Office at GMS, Miami office, 2804 NE 8th Street, Suite 202, Homestead, Florida (collectively, the "District Offices") or by contacting the District Manager's Office at 954-721-8681.

The District intends to impose special assessments on benefited lands within the District in the manner set forth in the Master Assessment Methodology for Palm Gate Community Development District Special Assessment Bonds, prepared by Governmental Management Services-South Florida, LLC, dated as of and accepted by the Board on May 17, 2024 ("Assessment Methodology"), which is available to the public for inspection or copying at the District Offices. Property will be assessed in the principal not to exceed amount as follows: \$37,370.44 for a villa, in the manner described in the Assessment Methodology. The total amount to be levied against benefited lands within the District is \$19,470,000 exclusive of fees and costs of collection or enforcement, discounts for early payment and the annual interest costs. The special assessments may be installed in whole in some instances or may be paid in not more than thirty (30) annual installments, excluding any capitalized interest period, subsequent to the issuance of debt to finance the improvements. These annual special assessments will be collected on the Miami-Dade County tax roll by the Tax Collector. Alternatively, the District may choose to collect and enforce these special assessments directly or as otherwise permitted by law.

The District also intends to levy and collect special assessments on property within the District to cover the operation and maintenance of the District's improvements. Such annual assessments will also be collected on the Miami-Dade County tax roll by the Tax Collector. Alternatively, the District may choose to collect and enforce these special assessments for operation and maintenance directly or as otherwise permitted by law. All affected property owners have the right to appear at the public hearing and the right to file written objections with the District within twenty (20) days of the publication of this notice. Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this hearing and meeting is asked to contact the District Offices at 954-721-8681 at least five calendar days prior to the hearing and meeting. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770, for aid in contacting the District Offices. If anyone chooses to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter considered at the hearing or at the meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and should accordingly ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based. The public hearing may be continued to a date and time certain that will be announced at the hearing.

Luis Hernandez, Manager



ALVAREZ ENGINEERS, INC.  
FL CITY ASSEMBLY COO  
LOCATION MAP