

Canada Backs Repression, Killing of Protestors in Haiti

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The Ugly Canadian has shown his elite-supporting, poor-bashing repressive face in Haiti.

Ottawa is backing the repression of anti-corruption protests and Justin Trudeau is continuing Canada's staunch support for that country's reactionary elite.

Over the past three months there have been numerous protests demanding accountability for public funds. [Billions of dollars](#) from Petrocaribe, a discounted oil program set up by Venezuela in 2006, was pilfered under former President Michel Martelly, an ally of current leader Jovenel Moïse. After having [forced out](#) the prime minister in the summer over an effort to eliminate fuel subsidies, protesters are calling for the removal of Moïse, who assumed the presidency through voter [suppression and electoral](#) fraud.

According to the Western media, a dozen protesters have been killed since a [huge demonstration](#) on October 17. But, at least [seven](#) were killed that day, [two more](#) at a funeral for those seven and pictures on social media suggest the police have [killed many more](#).

Ottawa is supporting the unpopular government and repressive police. While a general strike [paralyzed the capital](#) on Friday, Canadian Ambassador André Frenette met Prime Minister Jean Henry Céant with other diplomats to "[express their support](#) to the government." Through the "Core Group" Ottawa has blamed the protesters for Canadian trained and financed police firing on them. The Canada, US, France, Spain, EU, UN and OAS "Group of Friends of Haiti" published a statement on Thursday criticizing the protesters and backing the government. It read,

"[the group](#) recalls that acts of violence seeking to provoke the resignation of legitimate authorities have no place in the democratic process. The Core Group welcomes the Executive's commitment to continue the dialogue and calls for an inclusive dialogue between all the actors of the national life to get out of the crisis that the country is going through." (translation)

In a similar release at the start of the month these "Friends of Haiti" noted:

"[The group](#) praises the professionalism demonstrated by the National Police of Haiti as a whole on this occasion to guarantee freedom of expression while preserving public order. While new demonstrations are announced, the Core Group also expresses its firm rejection of any violence perpetrated on the

sidelines of demonstrations. The members of the group recall the democratic legitimacy of the government of Haiti and elected institutions and that in a democracy, change must be through the ballot box and not by violence.”

But, in late 2010/early-2011 the Stephen Harper Conservatives [intervened aggressively](#) to help extreme right-wing candidate Michel Martelly become president. Six years earlier Trudeau’s Liberal predecessor, Paul Martin, played an [important role](#) in violently ousting Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s government. For two years after the February 29, 2004, overthrow of Haitian democracy, a Canada-financed, trained and overseen police force terrorized Port-au-Prince’s slums with Canadian diplomatic and (for half a year) military backing.

Since that time Ottawa has taken the lead in strengthening the repressive arm of the Haitian state (in 1995 Aristide [disbanded](#) the army created during the 1915-34 US occupation). Much to the delight of the country’s über class-conscious elite, over the past decade and a half Canada has ploughed over \$100 million into the Haitian police and prison system.

Since his appointment as ambassador last fall Frenette has attended a half dozen Haitian police events. In April Frenette tweeted,

“[it is an honour](#) to represent Canada at the Commissaires Graduation Ceremony of the National Police Academy. Canada has long stood with the HNP to ensure the safety of Haitians and we are very proud of it.”

The previous October Frenette noted,

“very proud to participate today in the Canadian Armed Forces Ballistic Platelet Donation to the Haitian National Police.”

Canada also supports the Haitian police through the UN mission. RCMP officer Serge Therriault currently [leads](#) the 1,200-person police component of the Mission des Nations unies pour l’appui à la Justice en Haïti. For most of the past 14 years a Canadian has been in charge of the UN police contingent in Haiti and officers from this country have staffed its upper echelons.

Canada is once again supporting the violent suppression of the popular will in Haiti. Justin Trudeau has taken off his progressive mask to reveal what is inside: The Ugly Canadian.

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