

Ottawa Actively Participated in Haiti Coup d'Etat: Canadians Apologize to Haiti, Ten Years after the Coup

By [Global Research News](#)

Global Research, February 21, 2014
apologytohaiti.ca/

Region: [Canada](#), [Latin America & Caribbean](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#)

by Canadians Apologize to Haiti

We sign this statement to tell the world, and especially the Haitian people, that we are ashamed and outraged by the Canadian Government's active participation in the February 29, 2004 Coup d'Etat that toppled the duly-elected Government of Haiti led by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

On behalf of all Canadians, the great majority of whom are kept ignorant of this Coup and its aftermath, we sincerely apologize for the terrible, lasting damage it has caused.



An RCMP officer training Haitian National Police recruits in 2005.

Unelected coup Prime Minister Gerard Latortue speaks to Canadian soldiers.

Ten (10) years after the Coup, we sign this statement because there is disturbing and compelling evidence that:

- 1) Canada was centrally involved in planning the Coup. A year in advance, on January 31 and February 1, 2003, Canada hosted the [Ottawa Initiative on Haiti](#). This controversial meeting was held at the Meech Lake Government Resort, near Gatineau, Québec, to plan and consolidate the Coup.
- 2) [Canada took an active part](#) in the actual forced removal from Haiti and exile to Africa of President Aristide. Canadian soldiers, notably those serving in Joint Task Force 2, were assigned by Canadian government leaders to join local paramilitary mercenaries and U.S. troops illegally deployed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to conduct the Coup d'État.



A Canadian soldier at the Port-au-Prince airport on February 29, 2004.

[Records of the Canadian Parliament](#) show that on March 10, 2004, ten days after the coup, Stockwell Day, then-foreign affairs critic for the Conservative opposition, declared in Parliament: "... we have an elected leader Aristide. We may not have wanted to vote for him... But the (Canadian) government makes a decision that there should be a regime change. It is a serious question that we need to address. That decision was based on what criteria? We must have this discussion... This was clearly a regime change. Whether we like to admit it or not, we took part."

3) The Coup was followed by [several documented massacres and arbitrary arrests](#) of pro-democracy activists. It dismantled Haiti's entire elected government structure, and U.S.-appointed post-coup regimes — backed financially, militarily and diplomatically by Canada — are marred by serious human rights abuses.

4) One of the most disastrous consequences of the Coup and subsequent U.N. tutelage is that Haiti, a country with no known cases of cholera for the past 100 years, now has one of the worst cholera epidemics in the world. The cholera death toll has already reached 8500 and as of January 2014, more than 700,000 have gotten sick from the deadly bacterium.



[Several independent scientific studies](#) unequivocally implicate the UN for introducing cholera to Haiti. According to these studies, UN soldiers stationed near Haiti's La Mielle and Artibonite Rivers contaminated these major water sources in October 2010 with improperly disposed feces.

To date, the UN refuses to assume responsibility for this grave act of criminal negligence.

We support the worthy efforts of human rights groups Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (BAI) and the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH) to seek redress from the UN for the thousands of victims of cholera in Haiti.



A Canadian helicopter flies over the Presidential Palace as the coup unfolds.

5) The grassroots pro-democracy movement in Haiti, which bravely overthrew the brutal dictatorship of Jean Claude Duvalier in 1986, has suffered major setbacks since the Coup took place. The people of Haiti are currently ruled by a [U.S.-imposed](#) neo-Duvalierist regime, under which the former dictator benefits from open support from powerful national and international allies. Duvalier has [brazenly mocked](#) his victims since his January 2011 return to U.N.-occupied Haiti.

Canada's role in planning and carrying out the February 29, 2004 Coup d'État, and in the equally disastrous and illegal U.N. tutelage our government imposed on Haiti to consolidate the coup, is an ongoing source of misery and injustice for the Haitian people. We urge all Canadians, their organizations and representatives to take effective action to compel the foreign occupation forces to acknowledge and to make adequate amends for the harm they have caused the People of Haiti.

sign petition at

<http://www.apologytohaiti.ca/>

The original source of this article is [apologytohaiti.ca/](http://www.apologytohaiti.ca/)
Copyright © [Global Research News](http://www.globalresearchnews.com/), [apologytohaiti.ca/](http://www.apologytohaiti.ca/), 2014

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)
[News](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will

not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca