

Haiti Betrayed

A panel discussion of the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute

By [Michael Welch](#), [Bianca Mugenyi](#), [Brian Concannon Jr.](#),
and [Jean Saint-Vil](#)

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In the latest twist in the troubled turmoil saga swirling around Haiti, the president, Jovenel Moïse was assassinated.

It happened around 1am local time on July 7. According to Haitian police, more than 30 people were involved in the assassination. They stormed the house, tied up guards and housekeeping staff, and shot the president twelve times with high calibre bullets, once directly into the forehead. [1]

Moïse of course was no saint himself. He had ruled by decree since early in 2020. Even though his term was over on February 7 of this year, he stayed in power anyway until February of 2022, much to the chagrin of the people. Now with this assassination, political uncertainty is expected to increase.[2]

But there is another picture of the island country we desperately need to see. The Haitian people are less troubled by their picks as leaders than by the role of the United States ensuring that this country will continue to be occupied and ensure that nothing upsets the lucrative economic relationship that has served them so well.

And the year this occupation was finally achieved was in 2004, when the U.S., Canada, and France orchestrated a coup against the people’s president, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

All “Black Lives Matter” rhetoric to the contrary, these great powers have continued to thrive at the expense of a devastated public that more than 200 years ago overthrew the slave-masters on the island.

This week, on the Global Research News Hour, we invite the listeners to attend a panel

discussion talking about the movie *Haiti Betrayed*. They will discuss the various military, economic and other ways the U.S. and Canada and other major powers are continuing to benefit from the misery of the people. The conversation was held on February 28 (Black History month) and was moderated by Canadian Foreign Policy Institute director Bianca Mugenyi.

Elaine Brière is a Canadian filmmaker and photojournalist. She crafted the film Haiti Betrayed, on the role of Canada in the 2004 coup d'état in Haiti, was released in late 2019. Her first documentary, Bitter Paradise: The Sell-out of East Timor, won Best Political Documentary at the 1997 HOT DOCS! festival and Production Excellence award at Seattle Women in Film in 1998.

[Jean Saint-Vil](#) was born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and is currently based in Ottawa. He has been an activist who helped to found the Canada Haiti Action Network. He has been featured as political analyst by Canadian radio and television as well as by Embassy Magazine, ZNet and Rogers Ottawa Television.

Kira Paulemon graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh where she majored in Political Science and Latin American Studies with a minor in Spanish. She has a strong interest in human rights, racial and social justice, and US foreign policy in Latin America, particularly in Haiti which is where she's from.

Brian Concannon is a human rights lawyer and foreign policy advocate. He is the Executive Director of Project Blueprint, which works for a human rights-based US foreign policy by bringing the perspectives of people abroad impacted by US policies into policy discussions and advocacy.

Bianca Mugenyi is an activist, a journalist, and the director of the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute.

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Notes:

1. Santiago Pérezand and Anthony Harrup (July 23, 2021), 'Haiti President Assassinated: What We Know About Killing of Jovenel Moïse', the Wall Street Journal; <https://www.wsj.com/articles/haiti-president-assassination-11625665343>
2. ibid

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