

THE BLACK ALLIANCE FOR PEACE

A People(s)-Centered Human Rights Project Against War, Repression and Imperialism

Fact Sheet on the Organization of American States (OAS)

Recent protests in Haiti have called for the resignation of the corrupt and anti-democratic figure of sitting president Jovenel Moïse. The protests have also drawn attention to a number of imperialist entities that are playing uncertain but seemingly influential roles in Haiti's current political crisis. One of these institutions is the Organization of American States (OAS).

What is the OAS and what is its purpose?

Chartered in 1948, the OAS is a multilateral association of 34 states representing the American hemisphere. Its ostensible purpose is to promote peaceful settlement of disputes, provide collective security, and encourage economic and social cooperation among member states. However, the United States is the dominant force within the OAS. The U.S. provides 60% of the organization's funding and it has always been under U.S. economic and ideological influence. As such, the OAS has long served as a tool of U.S. imperialism: Via election meddling, diplomatic chicanery, supporting pro-US and right-wing governments, and aggressively assisting the expansion of neoliberalism and the market economy throughout the Americas.

The OAS and Haiti

The OAS has worked as an extension of U.S. power in Haiti. It is part of the Core Group, an unelected group of foreign governments and institutions (the U.S., UN, France, Canada, Brazil, Germany, Spain, the European Union). Members of the Core Group have appointed themselves as the arbiters of Haitian politics and economics—while serving as the overseers of the ongoing de facto military occupation of Haiti by United Nations forces.

While the OAS's charter expressly states that it should not interfere in the “internal jurisdiction of member states,” the organization has directly intervened in Haitian elections in 2010 and 2015/2016. Most recently, the OAS has supported the presidency of Jovenel Moïse. Right-wing OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro issued a statement affirming Moïse's illegal claim that his term ends in February 2022, rather than February 2021 as stipulated by the Haitian constitution and as affirmed by Haitian civil society. OAS interference in Haiti's electoral process on behalf of the U.S. has contributed to the current constitutional and political crisis.

Why are we protesting against the OAS?

The Black Alliance for Peace is protesting against the Organization of American States (OAS) for its imperialist meddling in Haiti's politics and democratic process, for its forceful curtailment of Haitian sovereignty, and for its efforts at undercutting Haitian self-determination as a way of supporting US interests. The OAS gives cover to the ongoing neocolonial indirect rule of Haiti under the guise of “supporting democracy” and it acts in the service of a white supremacist, US-led imperial order. We must hold the OAS accountable for the continuing crisis in Haiti and demand that it stops its choking Haitian sovereignty.

As an anti-imperialist, anti-war and peace organization, the Black Alliance for Peace stands firm in opposing the U.S. imperial agenda in Haiti, including when its proxies carry it out. OAS must end its undemocratic and imperialist actions in Haiti!

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