

UNITED NATIONS
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Stabilization Mission
In Haiti



MINUSTAH

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Mission des Nations
Unies pour la
Stabilisation en Haïti

PIO/PR/69/2004

PRESS RELEASE

MINUSTAH: results from 2004 and priorities for 2005

Port-au-Prince, 29 December 2004 – During a press conference held on 29 December, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) presented a synthesis of the political, humanitarian and development activities as well as security operations concerning the Mission's first seven months in Haiti.

While addressing the press conference, MINUSTAH's spokesperson, Damian Onses-Cardona, recalled the Chief of the Mission, Juan Gabriel Valdes', efforts to support the Transitional Government in restoring an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation and to consolidate institutions. Onses-Cardona referred to the Mission's mandate to emphasize that these objectives can be achieved only through national dialogue and democratic elections. Furthermore, Onses-Cardona underscored the continuous international community's engagement in supporting Haiti.

Although security remains one of the main tasks of the Mission, civil activities, which are at the core of the Mission's mandate, have also been implemented throughout the country. MINUSTAH's units on Electoral Assistance, Civil Affairs, Gender, Child Protection, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights are now fully operational and are working in close collaboration with Haitian organizations.

"The security situation in Haiti is progressing," affirmed Onses-Cardona when referring to the recent large scale operations in the troubled districts of Port-au-Prince, such as Cite Soleil and Bel Air. "The authorized military force is nearly complete: 6,009 out of an expected 6,700 soldiers have already been deployed throughout the regions in Haiti," added Mr. Onses-Cardona.

The Officer in Charge of Information for the CIVPOL of MINUSTAH, Daniel Moskaluk, included that the progressive reinforcement of MINUSTAH's CivPol officers (today at 86% of the total workforce foreseen by the Security Council, which amounts to 1,400 out of 1,622) has permitted the CIVPOL unit to act very efficiently."

For further information, please contact the MINUSTAH Public Information and Communication Office at (509) 510-2563 ext.: 6343 or 510- 3183/84/85 ext.: 6037- 6034-6035 or a missions' Web Site at <http://www.minustah.org>.

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