



news release

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CANADA TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWS RCMP PERSONNEL FROM HAITI

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty, Defence Minister Tom Siddon and Public Security Minister Douglas Lewis today announced that Canada is temporarily withdrawing Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) personnel serving in the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH).

The ministers expressed regret that by obstructing the UN Mission, the Haitian military was not fulfilling its obligations under the Governors Island Agreement. The Canadian police contingent went into Haiti at the request of the UN on October 7 to assist the UNMIH in its mandate to train and monitor Haitian police and to rebuild and upgrade Haitian infrastructure. It was anticipated that the Haitian military would meet its commitments and that the Canadian police would begin operations.

The RCMP could not effectively proceed with its mandate without the co-operation of Haitian authorities and is, therefore, being withdrawn.

The ministers said that Canada is prepared to resume its participation in the policing operation once co-operation in the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement is achieved and it is clear that Canadian personnel are able to perform the job they are sent to do.

Yesterday, the UN Security Council voted for the reimposition of sanctions against Haiti. Canada fully supports this decision.

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