



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

13 June 2011

HTI103752.FE

Haiti: Results of the presidential and legislative elections of March 2011; whether violent incidents took place during and after the elections
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

According to the final results of the second round of the 20 March 2011 presidential election, published on 20 April 2011 by Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (Conseil électoral provisoire, CEP), Michel Joseph Martelly, the candidate for the Repons Peyizan party, was elected president with 67.57 percent of the votes cast (Haiti 20 Apr. 2011). Michel Martelly ran against Mirlande Manigat (*Le Monde* 5 Apr. 2011; RFI 21 Apr. 2011; UN 5 Apr. 2011), a candidate for the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats of Haiti (Rassemblement des démocrates nationaux progressistes d'Haïti, RDNP) (RDNP 2011).

According to two sources, Michel Martelly's party won three seats in the Haitian Parliament (Haïti-Référence 27 Apr. 2011; *Le Monde* 21 Apr. 2011). Inité, the party of outgoing president René Préval, won 46 of the 99 seats in the country's Parliament (*Le Monde* 21 Apr. 2011; AFP 26 Apr. 2011; see also HPN 22 Apr. 2011). Although considered the [translation] "big winner" in the legislative elections, Inité did not win an absolute majority (*Le Monde* 21 Apr. 2011). Nonetheless, it won 17 of the 30 seats in the Senate (AFP 26 Apr. 2011).

According to an article published on 21 April 2011 by Paris daily *Le Monde*, irregularities in the 20 March 2011 elections led to the cancellation of hundreds of results sheets and to violent demonstrations in the country. In an article published on 28 April 2011, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported that, according to an unnamed diplomatic source, the authors of the report of the observation mission conducted by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) recommended that the CEP cancel the victory of 19 candidates close to Inité, the party in power, who had apparently been elected as a result of election fraud. In their electoral districts, modifications of results that were apparently made during the period between the publication of the preliminary results and the proclamation of the final results seemed to favour the Inité candidates (AFP 28 Apr. 2011). Similarly, an undated report of the Joint Electoral Observation Mission on the Second Round of the Presidential and Legislative Elections of 20 March 2011 in Haiti, conducted by the OAS and CARICOM, indicates that the National Bureau for Electoral Complaints and Challenges (Bureau du contentieux électoral national, BCEN) reportedly reversed the positions of 19 candidates, 17 from the Lower House (chambre des députés) and 2 from the Senate, [English version by the OAS and CARICOM] "the

majority" of which benefitted Inite (OAS and CARICOM n.d., 6). According to the report,

[English version by the OAS and CARICOM]

[i]n general, the BCEN merely proclaimed the winner without setting out the arguments or the reasoning that led to the decision and without assessing the evidence. This rendered its decisions opaque. Ignoring the criteria established by the CEP itself, the judges of the BCEN decided improperly to either annul or validate PVs as requested by the plaintiffs and the defendants without prior verification as the Electoral Law requires. (ibid., 7)

In order to re-judge 18 of the controversial cases, the CEP established [English version by the OAS and CARICOM] "a Special BCEN" (ibid.). According to the various observers, three of those controversial cases were then considered not [English version by the OAS and CARICOM] "properly treated" by the Special BCEN, which resulted in "criticism of the arbitrary nature of the CEP's approach" (ibid. 7). The results had not yet been published at the time the report was written (ibid., 8).

According to AFP, one election adviser quit in order to protest the changes to the preliminary results (28 Apr. 2011). For his part, Michel Martelly reportedly suggested calling for an international evaluation mission and asking the Haitian justice department to investigate [translation] "allegations of bribes apparently paid to some members of the CEP to support the victory of the candidates in power" (28 Apr. 2011). Similarly, according to an article published on 22 April 2011 by the Haiti Press Network (HPN), Michel Martelly demanded an independent audit of the results and asked President Préval not to publish them, because, in his opinion, they [translation] "do not reflect the will of the voters." In a letter made public on 22 April 2011 and printed in a 23 April 2011 article published on InfoHaïti.net, an online news agency (InfoHaïti.net 19 Sept. 2010), 12 Haitian senators condemned the 20 April publication of the results of the second round of legislative elections held on 20 March 2011, called for an investigation into what they consider a [translation] "'systematic [violation] of the elections act'" and a "'gross manipulation'" on the part of the CEP and President Préval. According to those Senators,

[translation]

President Préval uses every means possible to keep control of government affairs by reintroducing in Parliament all of the members who opposed the law on increasing the minimum wage, who voted for the emergency law and for the extension of his mandate. (InfoHaïti.net 23 Apr. 2011)

Similarly, in an article posted on 23 April 2011, Euronews reported that President René Préval and his party had been accused of falsifying the results of the legislative elections (23 Apr. 2011). According to that same report, there were also suspicions that President Préval wanted to [translation] "control president-elect Michel Martelly" (Euronews 23 Apr. 2011).

Situation on election day

According to a number of sources consulted by the Research Directorate, the 20 March 2011 elections were peaceful (AFP 21 Mar. 2011; AlterPresse 20

Mar. 2011; BBC 5 Apr. 2011; RFI 21 Mar. 2011; UN 20 Mar. 2011). According to an article published on 20 March 2011 by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), throughout Haiti, the election process was carried out under the supervision of [translation] "soldiers and police officers from MINUSTAH and from the Haitian National Police [Police nationale d'Haiti, PNH], as well as electoral security officers and in the presence of national and international observers." Similarly, in an article published on 20 March 2011, AlterPresse indicated that, in general, security was provided by the police and by MINUSTAH.

However, an article published on 21 March 2011 by AFP reported that, according to the CEP and the PNH, two people died on voting day during election-related incidents—one in the Nord-Ouest department, the other in the Artibonite. According to AlterPresse, in addition to those two deaths, three people were shot on the same day in those same departments (AlterPresse 20 Mar. 2011). Neither source, however, provided any details about the circumstances surrounding the incidents. According to an observer quoted by AlterPresse, in the city of Coteaux, the representatives of certain political parties threw rocks, among other things, at a building where a polling station was located (20 Mar. 2011). A few unspecified [translation] "minor" incidents were reported in Grand Anse (ibid.).

Situation after the elections

According to Euronews, the accusations of fraud against Préval's camp triggered the post-election violence, during which one person died on 21 April 2011, and four others were injured the following day by a protestor who was angered by his candidate's loss (23 Apr. 2011). Details on these violent incidents could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. According to an article published by AFP, the 20 April 2011 release of the legislative elections results sparked violent protests in several parts of the country, during which three people were killed, houses were burned down and roads were closed (26 Apr. 2011). In a 21 April 2011 article, *Le Monde* reported that, according to a representative of the PNH, one person was killed, while local radio stations reported that two people were killed and several were injured. According to *Le Monde*, protestors were demonstrating against the results of the legislative elections in their electoral districts (21 Apr. 2011).

According to a 21 April 2011 article published by Radio Métropole, a radio station that broadcasts from Port-au-Prince (Radio Métropole n.d.), alleged supporters of the Alternative party reportedly burned down an administrative complex in Belladère; a doctor working for the non-governmental organization (NGO) Zanmi Lasanté was killed in the fire. In Léogâne, protestors blocked a road to contest the Inité candidate's win (Radio Métropole 21 Apr. 2011). Police intervention made it possible to get traffic moving again and to arrest a number of protestors (ibid.). Information as to whether the people who were arrested were released could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

In a 14 April 2011 investigative report on the post-electoral violence in the electoral district of Grand-Goâve, the NGO National Human Rights Defense Network (Réseau national de défense des droits humains, RNDDH) explained that, shortly after the release of the partial results of the presidential and legislative by-elections on 4 April 2011, armed supporters of the Inité candidate attacked the winning candidate from the Ansanm Nou Fo party, firing shots and injuring one person (RNDDH 14 Apr. 2011, 1, 2, 3). The report also indicates

that, because of the attacks against them, nearly 143 members and supporters of the Ansanm Nou Fo candidate, including members of his family, fled their homes (ibid., 6). The violence also disrupted socioeconomic activities in the district (ibid., 4). Attempts made by members of the PNH and of MINUSTAH to ensure security and to restore calm in Grand-Goâve have been unsuccessful (ibid., 4).

In a 27 April 2011 press release published by AlterPresse, the Groupe Médialternatif (GM), which is made up of mass communication professionals (GM n.d.), condemned the 21 April 2011 fire that destroyed the premises of Tèt Ansanm Karis community radio, the centre for culture and development of Carice (Centre pour la culture et le développement de Carice, SKDK) and the Jacques Roumain community library in the Carice district. The press release indicates that the individuals in charge of Radio Tèt Ansanm stated that [translation] "these criminal acts, perpetrated in the wake of the final results of the last general election, were more than likely committed by supporters of the governing party, I [nité], who are unhappy with their parliamentary candidate's defeat " (GM 27 Apr. 2011). Information regarding subsequent events in Grand-Goâve and in Carice could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. According to *Le Monde*, a United Nations (UN) representative in Haiti stated [translation] "that there are many unrest movements in certain communities where people have erected barricades, but we have not seen the bodies of any victims" (21 Apr. 2011).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Agence France-Presse (AFP). 28 April 2011. "Haïti : 19 élus soupçonnés de fraude électorale." (Cyberpresse) <<http://www.cyberpresse.ca/international/dossiers/elections-en-haiti/201104/28/01-4394361-haiti-19-elus-soupconnes-de-fraude-electorale.php>> [Accessed 16 May 2011]

_____. 26 April 2011. "Fraude aux législatives : Haïti suspend la publication de résultats contestés." (Romandie News) <http://www.romandie.com/news/n/_Fraude_aux_leacutegislatives_Haiumlti_suspend_la_publication_de_reacutesultats_contesteacutes260420110004.asp> [Accessed 16 May 2011]

_____. 21 March 2011. "Les Haïtiens ont voté pour élire leur président dans le calme." (France24) <<http://www.france24.com/fr/20110321-haiti-presidentielle-election-scrutin-michel-martelly-mirlande-manigat-rene-preval-second-tour>> [Accessed 9 May 2011]

AlterPresse. 20 March 2011. "Haïti-élections : tout se termine dans le calme malgré quelques débordements." <<http://www.alterpresse.org/spip.php?article10796>> [Accessed 9 May 2011]

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). 5 April 2011. "Haiti: Michel

Martelly 'Defeats' Mirlande Manigat." <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12966875>> [Accessed 28 Apr. 2011]

Euronews. 23 April 2011. "Nouvelles tensions post-électorales en Haiti." <<http://fr.euronews.net/2011/04/23/nouvelles-tensions-post-electorales-en-haiti/>> [Accessed 13 May 2011]

Groupe Médialternatif (GM). 27 April 2011. Gotson Pierre. "Haïti-Élections/Violence : halte à la violation du droit à la communication et la liberté d'expression à Carice." (AlterPresse) <<http://www.alterpresse.org/spip.php?article10958>> [Accessed 13 May 2011]

_____. N.d. "GM : objectifs, orientation et structure." <<http://www.medialternatif.org/gm.html>> [Accessed 13 May 2011]

Haïti. 20 April 2011. Conseil électoral provisoire (CEP). *Élections présidentielles et législatives 2010 : résultats définitifs du 2ème tour.* <http://www.cephaiti2010.org/index.php?option=com_weblinks&view=category&id=65&Itemid=259> [Accessed 10 May 2011]

Haiti Press Network (HPN). 22 April 2011. "Elections : les USA préoccupés par les résultats des législatives." <http://www.hpnhaiti.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2873:elections-les-usa-preoccupes-par-les-resultats-des-legislatives&catid=18:elections-2010&Itemid=28> [Accessed 20 May 2011]

Haïti-Référence. 27 April 2011. "La Chambre des députés : 49ème législature." <<http://www.haiti-reference.com/politique/legislatif/deputes.php>> [Accessed 10 May 2011]

InfoHaïti.net. 23 April 2011. "Haïti/Publication des résultats des législatives du 20 mars : 12 sénateur dénoncent la 'grossière manipulation' du CEP et du président Préval." <<http://www.infohaiti.net/accueil/politique/575-haitipublication-des-resultats-des-legislatives-du-20-mars-12-senateurs-denoncent-la-grossiere-manipulation-du-conseil-electoral-provisoire-et-du-president-preval>> [Accessed 10 May 2011]

_____. 19 September 2010. Yves Cajuste. "À propos de InfoHaïti." <<http://infohaiti.net/qui-sommes-nous>> [Accessed 20 May 2011]

Le Monde [Paris] et AFP. 21 April 2011. "Haïti : des violence éclatent après l'annonce des résultats des élections." <http://www.lemonde.fr/ameriques/article/2011/04/21/haiti-des-violences-eclatent-apres-l-annonce-des-resultats-des-elections_1511134_3222.html> [Accessed 10 May 2011]

Le Monde and Reuters. 5 April 2011. "Michel Martelly vainqueur de la présidentielle haïtienne." <http://www.lemonde.fr/ameriques/article/2011/04/04/des-resultats-preliminaires-donnent-michel-martelly-vainqueur-de-la-presidentielle-haitienne_1503055_3222.html> [Accessed 10 May 2011]

Organization of American States. Rapport de la Mission d'observation électorale conjointe OEA/CARICOM sur le second tour des élections présidentielles et législatives du 20 mars 2011. (United Nations Reliefweb)
<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full_Report_870.pdf
[Accessed 8 June 2011]

Radio France internationale (RFI). 21 April 2011. "En Haïti, la victoire de Michel Martelly désormais officielle." <<http://www.rfi.fr/ameriques/20110421-haiti-victoire-michel-martelly-desormais-officielle>> [Accessed 10 May 2011]

_____. 21 March 2011. "Les Haïtiens ont voté dans le calme pour élire leur nouveau président." <<http://www.rfi.fr/ameriques/20110321-haiti-elections-presidentielles-le-calme>> [Accessed 9 May 2011]

Radio Métropole. 21 April 2011. "Violences post-électorales en province." <http://www.metropolehaiti.com/metropole/full_une_fr.php?id=19037>
[Accessed 4 May 2011]

_____. N.d. "Radio Métropole - Histoire." <<http://www.metropolehaiti.com/metropole/apropos.php>> [Accessed 17 May 2011]

Rassemblement des démocrates nationaux progressistes d'Haïti (RDNP). 2011. Mirlande Manigat. "Connaître Mirlande Manigat." <http://rdnphaiti.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=111&Itemid=124> [Accessed 17 May 2011]

Réseau national de défense des droits humains (RNDDH). 14 April 2011. *Rapport d'enquête sur les violences post-électorales à Grand-Goâve*. <http://www.rnddh.org/IMG/pdf/Grand_Goave_avril_2011.pdf> [Accessed 9 May 2011]

United Nations (UN). 5 April 2011. United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). "Les résultats préliminaires du 2nd tour des élections rendus publics." <<http://minustah.org/?p=29776>> [Accessed 28 Apr. 2011]

_____. 20 March 2011. United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). "Haïti : début du 2e tour des élections." <<http://minustah.org/?p=29466>> [Accessed 9 May 2011]

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Attempts to contact representatives of AlterPresse, the Association des journalistes haïtiens (AJH), the Brown Legal Group, the Fédération haïtienne de la presse (FHP), the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and Radio Métropole in Port-au-Prince were unsuccessful.

Internet sites, including: Agence de presse haïtienne (APH), Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), Centre [M.F.1]for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS), Centre de recherche sur les droits de l'homme et le droit humanitaire (CRDH), Collectif Haïti de France, *Le Devoir* [Montréal], Euronews, Europe1, Fanmi Lavalas, Fondation connaissance et liberté (FOKAL), Freedom House,

Haïtielections2010.com, Haïti Libre, Haïti News, Human Rights Watch, International Crisis Group, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), *Le Matin* [Port-au-Prince], Migrants outre-mer (MOM), North-South Institute (NSI), *Le Nouvelliste* [Port-au-Prince], Plate-forme des organisations haïtiennes des droits humains (POHDH), Radio Nederland Wereldomroep (RNW), Radio Nouveau Monde, Radio Télé Venus, SignalFM.

The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.