

How gangs came to dominate Haiti

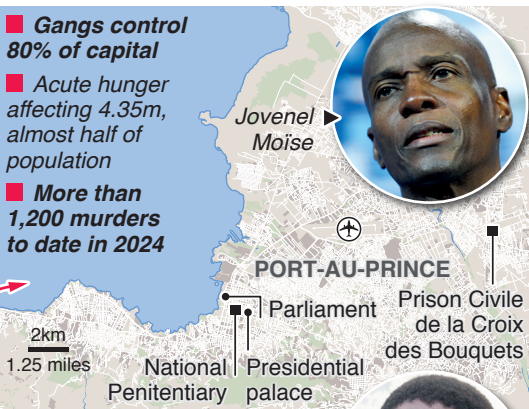
The spiral of gang violence sparked by the still-unsolved assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021 has left much of the poverty-stricken Caribbean country on the brink of collapse



■ **Gangs control 80% of capital**

■ **Acute hunger affecting 4.35m, almost half of population**

■ **More than 1,200 murders to date in 2024**



■ **Jan 2010:** Haiti devastated by 7.0-magnitude earthquake that kills more than 300,000 people

■ **Jul 2021:** President **Jovenel Moïse** shot dead by group of foreign mercenaries, mostly Colombians

Ariel Henry (right), designated by Moïse as prime minister shortly before his death, takes over as caretaker leader



■ **Jan 2023:** Government fails to hold elections, citing unprecedented levels of gang violence. Opposition to Henry increases

■ **Feb 25, 2024:** Henry travels to Kenya to build support for multinational security force to shore up order

■ **Feb 29:** Armed gangs controlled by former police officer **Jimmy "Barbecue"**

Chérizier (right), carry out series of coordinated attacks across Port-au-Prince



■ **Mar 1:** Henry secures agreement from Kenya to deploy 1,000 police officers to Haiti

■ **Mar 2-4:** Gangs storm two prisons – freeing more than 4,000 inmates – and lay siege to international airport. State of emergency declared

■ **Mar 5:** Henry's return flight forced to divert to Puerto Rico after Dominican Republic denies access for security reasons

■ **Mar 12:** Ariel Henry announces he will resign once transitional council is created