

# Haiti

Haiti is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: Inter-American System



As a Member of the OAS, Haiti is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide [complaints](#) against the State and may also hold [hearings](#) or issue [reports](#) on the human rights situation there. Haiti has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding [judgments](#) concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Haiti to the [Inter-American human rights system](#). For example, in *Guy Malary v. Haiti*, the Commission found that Malary's murder under the military regime violated the State's duty to respect his right to life, fair trial, and judicial protection. See IACHR, Report No. 78/02, Case 11.335, *Guy Malary* (Haiti), December 27, 2002. In *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*, the Court concluded that the detention of former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune violated his rights to personal liberty, due process, and access to justice. See I/A Court H.R., *Yvon Neptune v. Haiti*. Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of May 6, 2008. Series C No. 180.

Additionally, the Commission and Court have issued [precautionary measures](#) and [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Haiti.

Haiti has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women ("Convention of Belem do Pará")



## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Haiti is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). In 1995, the UN Human Rights Council established the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, whose mandate is to monitor the human rights situation in Haiti and make recommendations to the State. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Haiti's policies and practices are monitored by UN [treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty body.

Haiti has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Haiti has ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC addressing the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Haiti has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the treaties Haiti has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Haiti has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Haiti has also ratified the [Optional Protocol](#) allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the CRPD. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Haiti has accepted the inquiry procedure of the CRPD.

Haiti has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Haiti to conduct a visit within the state. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons went on a mission to Haiti in 2014 and published a [report](#) in May 2015.

For more information on Haiti's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/HTIndex.aspx>.

*Last updated: February 15, 2018*