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Kenyan Police Operation in Haiti from a South American Perspective – Something New under the Sun?

The island of Haiti has seen several peace operations over the last decades, yet it remains one of the most dangerous countries in the region. With a negative record in terms of gun violence and political assassinations, coupled with an ailing economy and egregious healthcare and education system, the international community does not seem able to find an adequate solution for the myriad problems, nor can the state itself remedy the situation on its own. Amid such turmoil, Kenya has volunteered to send a unique police operation to the country which has obtained the legal backing from the United Nations, funding from the United States and support from the Organization of American States and its constituent member states. It is unclear however how a relatively novel and small operation manned by a country from another continent can alter local conditions for the better. It is also yet to be seen how previous stakeholders such as Brazil will react to an operation and will it take up the mantle of regional leader in order to highlight its role in the shaping of the wider region.

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