

From: Miran Hassan (Mercury)
Sent: 26 February 2021 13:45
To: 'letters@nytimes.com' <letters@nytimes.com>; 'editorial@nytimes.com' <editorial@nytimes.com>
Subject: Letter from H.E. Ambassador Edmond

Good morning,

Please see the following letter from **H.E Bocchit Edmond, Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti to the United States:**

To the Editor:

Re: "Did a Coup Attempt Really Happen Two Weeks Ago in Haiti?", Farah Stockman, Feb 23, 2021

Early February, the Times' Editorial Board suggested that the U.S., Europe, and others could install a "transitional" government of their choosing in Haiti. This week, you published another wrongheaded take echoing our colonial past.

Your February 23 article, by a member of the Editorial Board, contained many contradictions. The author admits that figures opposed to the democratically elected President, who is in the final year of his 5-year constitutional term, "were openly planning to swear in a parallel government to force him to relinquish power." This is the literal definition of a coup, yet the author asks whether this was a "coup or trying to restore democracy?" Shaky attempts to justify this question included the author opining that some of those implicated "don't seem like the coup-plotting type." Readers deserve facts, yet there was no serious mention of the evidence that has surfaced since the February 7 attempt, including an audio recording of those who aren't the "type" discussing plans for the attack.

The author appears to disregard the democratic reality that, in Haiti like elsewhere, an elected head of state can only be legitimately replaced by the voters. She goes on to present our proposed reforms to redress serious structural imbalances in our constitution as a power grab, despite President Jovenel Moïse neither standing nor supporting a candidate in this year's upcoming presidential elections. None of these changes – supported by 86% of the public – will benefit him.

Haiti's government will not shy away from this topic, especially as we are doing the hard work, every day, of strengthening our fragile democracy – and we are working with the valued support of the UN, Organization of American States and US State Department in those efforts. We want the international community to focus on Haiti, but we expect informed, coherent discussions, especially when printed in the New York Times.

H.E Bocchit Edmond, Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti to the United States

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