

USAID Funded Group Supporting Haitian President in 2010

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CEPR Research Associate, Jake Johnston, [reports in Al Jazeera America](#) on US government funding to Mouvement Tèt Kale, a political organization with close ties to President Michel Martelly, during the 2010-11 elections:

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The U.S. Agency for International Development gave nearly \$100,000 to a Haitian political movement with close ties to President Michel Martelly in the country's 2010 elections, [documents obtained by Al Jazeera show](#). The money was allocated shortly after Washington helped overturn the election results to thrust Martelly into power.

On the afternoon of Haiti's Nov. 28, 2010, elections, 12 of 18 presidential candidates took the stage at the glamorous Karibe Hotel, high up in the mountains that surround the capital. The elections were a fraudulent mess, they told the gathered press, and the only way out was to cancel the poll and start over. Chaos soon engulfed Port-au-Prince and other cities, as thousands of young Haitians, many clad in the pink synonymous with Michel "Sweet Micky" Martelly, took to the streets to simultaneously denounce electoral fraud and herald the victory of their candidate, many days before any official results would be announced.

In the midst of the mayhem, key international actors mobilized. At [an emergency meeting](#) at the home of the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission, Edmond Mulet, leading diplomats pushed then-President René Préal to accept their offer of a plane to take him out of the country and avoid further confrontation. Mulet also approached the front-runners, including Martelly, telling them they had secured a spot in the second round and to cease calls for the election's cancellation. Days later, when the electoral council announced preliminary results that did not have Martelly advancing to the runoff, the streets were once again taken over by largely pro-Martelly protesters. The U.S. Embassy released a [statement](#) questioning the announced results, fueling the demonstrations in Port-au-Prince.

The pressure of these pro-Martelly demonstrators — on the day of the elections and during the following weeks — was a key factor in convincing the U.S. and other international actors to intervene in Haiti's elections and force the electoral authority to change the results of the first round, so as to ensure that Martelly remained on the ballot.

According to numerous firsthand accounts, Mouvement Tèt Kale (MTK), a political organization with close ties to Martelly, was active in these street mobilizations. Now documents through Freedom of Information Act requests reveal that the U.S. government later provided nearly \$100,000 in support to MTK, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

To read the complete article, click [here](#). The document showing the support to Mouvement Tét Kale from the for-profit contractor Chemonics has also been posted online and is available [here](#).

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