

The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas  
Secretary  
US Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C., 20528

September 26, 2023

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Since November 2022, when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on all governments to “suspend the forced return of Haitians to their country,” the U.S. government has sent nine deportation flights to Haiti. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) continues to schedule deportation flights to Haiti despite the serious risks to life, liberty, and physical and mental integrity of the people being deported.

As you know, the United States already bars the deportation of Haitians to Haiti who qualify for temporary protected status (TPS) because “Haiti is experiencing extraordinary and temporary conditions resulting from grave insecurity and gang crime, as well as socio-economic and humanitarian conditions, including those resulting from environmental disasters aggravating food insecurity.” As you are also aware, the US embassy on August 30 called on all Americans to leave Haiti “as soon as possible” because of the worsening security situation.

The following day, August 31, a charter flight landed in Port-au-Prince, reportedly carrying more than 50 persons deported from the United States, despite the known danger and overwhelming evidence of escalating violence and insecurity there.

Given this evidence, and UNHCR’s warning in its non-return advisory for Haiti that “the forced removal of people to a place where they may face risk of persecution, torture or other serious or irreparable harm would amount to ‘refoulement,’ which is explicitly prohibited under international refugee and human rights law,” these forced returns appear to conflict with the United States’ legal obligations.

The undersigned organizations call on you to suspend the scheduled September deportation flight to Haiti and all future U.S. deportation flights to Haiti until the United States, in consultation with UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, is assured that generalized conditions of violence and insecurity in Haiti no longer represent a credible risk of serious harm to anyone forcibly returned to that country. We further call on you to investigate possible

harms that people deported from the United States to Haiti since November 2022 may have experienced since their deportation, and to rectify, to the extent possible, those harms, including by facilitating humanitarian parole applications for those having experienced harm.

African Advocacy Network  
African Coalition  
African Communities Together (ACT)  
Al Otro Lado  
Aldea - The People's Justice Center  
Alianza Americas  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)  
Attorney & Counselor at Law  
Black Alliance for Just Immigration  
Bridges Faith Initiative  
Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition  
Carolina Migrant Network  
Center for Democracy in the Americas  
Chispa LCV  
Church World Service  
Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP)  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
Families For Freedom  
Family Action Network Movement  
Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC)  
Fondasyon Mapou  
Freedom for Immigrants (FFI)  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Haitian Bridge Alliance  
Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La Inc.  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Watch  
IFSI-USA  
Immigrant Action Alliance  
Immigrant Justice Network  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration Equality

Immigration Hub  
Innovation Law Lab  
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti  
Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America (IFCLA)  
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)  
JPIC Committee of RJM USA-Haiti Province  
Justice Action Center  
La Resistencia  
Las Semillas INC  
Latin America Working Group  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
League of Conservation Voters  
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention  
LOUISIANA ORGANIZATION FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS  
Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA)  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.  
NAKASEC  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)  
National Lawyers Guild San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Pax Christi New Jersey  
Quixote Center  
Refugees International  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
TPS-DED AAC  
UndocuBlack Network  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Washington Office on Latin America  
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center  
Witness At The Border  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Youthaiti