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Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
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January 10, 2011

Re.: Letter in Support of Precautionary Measures to Stop Imminent Deportations of Haitians from the United States

Dear Dr. Canton:

We, the undersigned human and civil rights advocates, write to express great concern about the recent announcement by the United States government to resume deportations to Haiti beginning January 2011. In the one year since the January 12, 2010 earthquake devastated Haiti, the United States has laudably set in place several humanitarian policies to respond to the catastrophe, including granting temporary protected status (TPS) for many Haitian nationals living in the United States, humanitarian parole for certain orphans, and, until recently, an indefinite stay of deportations to Haiti until conditions improve.

Far from improving, conditions in Haiti are equally bad, if not worse, than one year ago. A cholera epidemic is raging across the country. Over 100,000 people have contracted cholera and 3,333 have died as a result of the disease. The World Health Organization and Pan-American Health Organization expect another 650,000 cases within the first 6 months of 2011. Over 1.2 million people are living in temporary shelters in internally displaced persons camps. These people and countless others in Haiti lack basic sanitation, adequate food, potable water, and lighting, and basic security. Haitian detention centers, where deportees would undoubtedly be held, are widely-documented as unsanitary, rodent-infested spaces where detainees have little to no access to food or drinking water and are exposed to disease. Cholera has already claimed at least 48 lives in detention centers.

In light of these grim conditions, the deportation of Haitian nationals by the U.S. is inhumane and impracticable.

We therefore write to express our support of the request for precautionary measures submitted to this Commission on January 6, 2011 by the University of Miami School of Law Human Rights and Immigration Clinics, the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Alternative Chance, and the Loyola Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice to halt the roundups, detention, and imminent deportations of Haitian nationals by the United States government.

We ask that this Commission act decisively and quickly bring the full weight of its authority to bear on the United States Government, so that it will fulfill its legal responsibility to protect the rights of vulnerable Haitian individuals who are at risk of serious harm, even death, and who, if deported, will place an impossible burden on a detention and justice system in Haiti that is broken.

Sincerely,

Organizational Sign-Ons

1. Partners in Health
2. American Friends Service Committee
3. Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami
4. You.Me.We
5. Grassroots International
6. Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti
7. Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights
8. American Civil Liberties Union, Florida
9. The Society of American Law Teachers
10. National Lawyers Guild
11. MADRE: Demanding Rights, Resources & Results for Women Worldwide
12. World Organization for Human Rights USA
13. Haitian Congress to Fortify Haiti, Chicago, IL
14. Task Force for the Homeless
15. Drum Major Institute for Public Policy
16. Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti
17. La Fuente: NY and Long Island Civic Participation Projects
18. Utah Health and Human Rights Project
19. The National Lawyer's Guild, New York
20. Secular Jewish Humanists
21. Trail of DREAMs
22. Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, European, and Latino Immigrants of Illinois (CAAELII)
23. Maurice & Jane Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice
24. WE Count!, Miami, Florida
25. Black Law Students Association, University of Miami School of Law
26. Florida Immigrant Coalition
27. Scott D. Pollock & Associates, P.C.
28. Florida Immigrant Coalition
29. Immigration Law Clinic, Michigan State University College of Law
30. N'Cobra
31. KINDRED Afro Americas Alliance
32. Rising in Support of Ayiti (RISA), Chicago, Illinois

33. Cidadao Global
34. New Jersey Forum for Human Rights
35. The All Peoples Democratic Club, Democratic Caribbean Caucus of Florida Democratic Party
36. Executive Director, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights
37. General Counsel, International Indian Treaty Council
38. New York City Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild's Anti Racism Committee
39. Chair, Social Responsibilities Council Unitarian Society of Ridgewood
40. New Jersey Advocates for Immigrant Detainees
41. Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project
42. Middlesex County Coalition for Immigrant Rights
43. Legal Aid Service of Broward County
44. Georgia Detention Watch
45. Amigos Center
46. Just Cause, the Union of St. Peter's Housing Committee & Just Cause Oakland
47. Human Rights Advocates
48. Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
49. Global Justice Program/Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity
50. Foreign Policy in Focus, Institute for Policy Studies
51. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
52. Immigrant Rights Clinic, Florida Coastal School of Law
53. New York Immigration Coalition
54. Urban Justice Center
55. University of Houston Immigration Clinic
56. IRATE
57. First Friends
58. New Jersey Advocates for Immigrant Detainees
59. Immigration Law Clinic, University of California, Davis, School of Law Clinical Programs
60. American Jewish World Service
61. Church World Service, Haiti
62. Legal Aid Society, New York, New York
63. Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition
64. Pax Christi New Jersey
65. Vermont Medical Response Team
66. The Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc.
67. Immigrant Defense Project
68. Worker's Rights Law Center of NY
69. Immigrant Rights Clinic, New York University School of Law
70. Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR Florida)
71. South Asian Americans Leading Together
72. Tampa Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Tampa)
73. Immigration Law Society, UCLA Law School
74. Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, University of California , Hastings College of the Law
75. Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project

76. Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
77. Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
78. December 12th Movement International Secretariat
79. International Association Against Torture
80. United We DREAM
81. Presente.org
82. The Post-Deportation Human Rights Project, Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Boston College
83. Vermont Medical Response Team
84. United Confederation of Taino People
85. The New Sanctuary Movement of NYC
86. Families for Freedom

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