

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 22, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Anthony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken:

We write to express serious concern regarding the ongoing repatriation of Haitian migrants and urge a humanitarian moratorium on these repatriations. We also write to request the documented assessments that informed the Administration's determination that Haiti is equipped to welcome and resettle deportees, and detailed information regarding the coordination efforts between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State to undergo this mission.

As you are aware, thousands of Haitians and other migrants have arrived in Del Rio, Texas over the past week and are now seeking shelter in squalid conditions under a bridge. Despite the Administration's rapid deployment of personnel and resources in response to this crisis, much of the strategy to address the care of these vulnerable individuals is deeply concerning.

Specifically, we urge the Administration to halt repatriations to Haiti until the country recovers from these devastating crises. We are troubled by the plan to repatriate thousands of people to Haiti, despite the instability, violence, and devastation that continue to plague the country. Compounding our concern, it appears that repatriation flights to Haiti include Haitian nationals who have been residing outside of Haiti for many years and may no longer have significant ties in the country.

As you are aware, Haitian nationals in the United States received Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in May 2021 "due to extraordinary and temporary conditions in Haiti that prevent nationals from returning safely, specifically, a political crisis and human rights abuses; serious security concerns; and the COVID-19 pandemic's exacerbation of a dire economic situation and lack of access to food, water, and healthcare."¹ Since this designation, Haiti has experienced a 7.2 magnitude earthquake and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, both of which have further destabilized the country.

Given these concerns, we request the following information by October 1, 2021:

- 1) Information on the State Department process for determining the Haitian government's ability to accept returnees, including all documentation outlining the conditions in Haiti that were used to make this determination.

¹ Department of Homeland Security, *Secretary Mayorkas Designates Haiti for Temporary Protected Status for 18 Months*, May 22, 2021).

- 2) A detailed breakdown of the total number of individuals repatriated to Haiti since September 12, 2021, who were encountered in the Del Rio Sector. Please include demographics and the last known country of residence for returnees.
- 3) A detailed breakdown of the total number of Haitian individuals repatriated to countries other than Haiti since September 12, 2021, who were encountered in the Del Rio Sector. Please include demographics and whether individuals were returned to their last known country of residence. Please also include any agreements made between the State Department and host countries to re-integrate Haitian individuals.
- 4) A detailed breakdown of the migrants encountered in the Del Rio Sector and processed under Title 8 since September 12, 2021, including demographics, country of origin, and country of last known residence.
- 5) A detailed breakdown of non-Haitian individuals repatriated from the Del Rio Sector since August 15, 2021. Please include demographics, country of origin, and country, and date of repatriation.
- 6) Information on plans for repatriation of migrants encountered in Del Rio going forward, broken out by nationality and recipient country and documentation of the terms of the agreements made to receive and support individuals and families.
- 7) Information regarding the United States' efforts to support Haitians repatriated to Haiti including any assistance, aid, or healthcare including Covid-19 vaccinations, and/or counseling delivered.
- 8) Information regarding how the Department of Homeland Security is selecting families and individuals in the Del Rio Sector to be processed in accordance with the CDC's Title 42 public health order.
- 9) Information regarding how the Administration is processing individuals who attempt to claim asylum in the Del Rio Sector.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Homeland Security



Gregory W. Meeks
Chairman
House Committee on Foreign Affairs