



March 28, 2024

The Honorable Joseph Biden, President
The White House
Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President
The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20258-0525

Dear President Biden, Vice President Harris and Secretary Mayorkas:

Haiti has descended into chaos. As faith leaders from many religious traditions, we write out of a deep sense of anguish and solidarity with our Haitian siblings as they confront a devastating period of upheaval and violence.

There is an alternative to anarchy, a path that runs through Haitian civil society. Haitians have credible mechanisms to form a coalition government with enough legitimacy to begin restoring governance and security to Haiti. Civic, religious, and political leaders are risking their lives to negotiate a political accord. Their work is very difficult, but not impossible. They need U.S. support, not meddling.

Rather than repeating the mistake of anointing a new Haitian leader to replace Henry, we urge the U.S. and the international community to provide Haitians with the support and space to form a transitional government that can unify the country. The U.S. needs to engage without dictating, support without setting conditions. Above all, the international community must break with the elites who have colluded with gangs to run Haiti into the ground.

In keeping with the teachings of our various traditions to act with compassion toward our suffering neighbor, we urge you to prioritize the safety, well-being and autonomy of all Haitians by taking the following steps:

1. Undertake intensive consultations with civic, religious, and opposition political leaders and organizations in Haiti and the diaspora to hear directly what support they need to establish a credible transitional government;
2. Allow Haitians to tell the U.S. and the international community what they need to restore security to their country; do not make U.S. support for a unity government conditional, including on accepting the Multinational Security Support Mission;
3. Speak publicly about the suffering in Haiti and the U.S. commitment to stand with the Haitian people and follow their lead in resolving the crisis facing their nation.
4. Provide increased humanitarian assistance to Haiti, prioritizing Haitian-led organizations and initiatives to strengthen Haitian civil society.
5. Extend and redesignate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and halt all deportation flights.

Military intervention without ending U.S. support for corrupt elites who have put their interests ahead of the Haitian people will not bring security to Haiti. Foreign forces cannot solve Haiti's political crisis. Only Haitians can. In Haiti, as in other parts of the world, peace can only come from addressing the underlying causes of violence.

At a moment when many people are questioning U.S. foreign policy, asking whether the U.S. is committed to protecting civilians from violence, we urge you to stand with the Haitian people and not allow their suffering to be swept under the rug.

Respectfully,

Bishop Dwayne Royster, Faith in Action
Fr. John Baumann, SJ, Faith in Action International
Sr. Rosemarie Abate, Detroit, MI
Rev. Renée Adams, Tuskegee AL
Sister Joan Agro, Blauvelt NY
Rabbi Doug Alpert, Kansas City MO
Rev. Joseph Amico, Salem MA
Mrs. Judith Anderson, San Luis Obispo CA
Ms. JL Angell, Rescue CA
Mr. Jairo J Angulo, LOS ANGELES CA
Fr. John Auther, SJ, Los Altos CA
Rev Michael Bailey, Tuscaloosa AL

Rev. Linda Barnes, Plymouth NH
Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Palmerton PA
Rev. Charles Baugh, Catonsville MD
Rev. Tess Baumberger, Groveland MA
Fr. MICHAEL BAUSCH, NAPLES, NY
Rev. Margalie Belizaire, Orlando FL
Rev. Dr. Andre Bennett, Lynn MA
Rabbi Allan Berkowitz, Oakland CA
Rev. Myrna Bernadel-Huey, Alameda CA
Mrs. Susan Bolduc, Colorado Springs CO
Rev. Brian Bolton, Harrisonburg VA
Sr. Carol Boschert, O'Fallon MO
Elder Kathy Bradley, Lugoff SC
Rev. Gwendolyn Breaux, Lanett AL
Ms Linda Breaux-Smith, Oakland CA
Rev James Brenneman, Berkeley CA
Ms Sharon Bridgeforth, Denver CO
Rev. Angela Brown, J.D., San Leandro CA
Rev Dr Robert Brown Sr, Franklin AL
Rev Felicia Bruce, Fort Pierce FL
Ms. Kathryn Burns, Kerrville TX
The Very Reverend Sean Carroll SJ, Portland OR
Rev. Tiffany Chaney, Montgomery AL
The Venerable Catherine Cooke, Burlington VT
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Reverend Byron Daniel, Mobile AL
Sr. Colleen Dauerbach, Philadelphia, PA
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Pastor Errol Davis, Madison AL
Rev. Clement Davis, Columbus IN
Rev Alicia Davis, Montgomery AL
Rev. Steven Davis, Whitehall PA
The Rev. Fr. Peter De Franco, Toms River NJ
Min Leader Mary Derbort, Texas Creek CO
Rev James Deshotel, St Louis MO
Mrs. Anna Driskill, Liberty MO
Elder Priestess Taffy Dugan, Santa Rosa CA
Deacon Carol Duncan, Philadelphia PA
Rev Mattie Edwards, Opelika AL
Sr. Irene Ellis, Sparkill NY
Rev. Dr. Brian Ellis-Gibbs, Queens Village NY
Dr. Joseph Evans, Berkeley CA
Rev. Rowan Fairgrove, San Jose CA

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Rev. Patricia Fears, Washington DC
Rev. DIEUFORT J Fleurissaint, BOSTON MA
Rev. James Flynn, Louisville KY
Rev. Dixie Ford, Hoover AL
Reverend David Ford, Roselle NJ
Ms Lillian Franceschini, New York NY
Rev Karen Fry, Dallas TX
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Sr. Eileen Gannon, Sparkill NY
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Rev. Mary Gear, Olympia WA
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The Rev. Jane Gould, Long Beach CA
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Rev. Paul Hagedorn, Philadelphia PA
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Rev. Lee Hall-Perkins, Clearwater FL
Rev. Dr. Terry Hamilton-Poore, Birmingham AL
Rev. Cedric Harmon, Durham NC
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Reverend Zachary Hoover, Los Angeles CA
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Rev. Valtoria Jackson, Montgomery AL
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Rev. Alan Jones, Sacramento CA
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Mr. Harold Watson, Springfield MO
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