

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2006

The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Gonzales,

We are writing to express our unequivocal support for the recent legal action taken by immigration lawyers and Haitian Americans across the United States seeking a halt to the deportation of Haitian immigrants during this period of escalating violence, human rights violations and instability in Haiti.

As you are aware, the people of Haiti are preparing for an upcoming election which unfortunately has had the effect of causing increased civil strife further destabilizing conditions on the ground.

At this time, neither the Haitian government nor the UN mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has proven capable of protecting citizens in a meaningful way, and as such, we believe that it is unacceptable for the Administration to continue to deport at risk Haitians back to a country where their lives and freedom will be endangered.

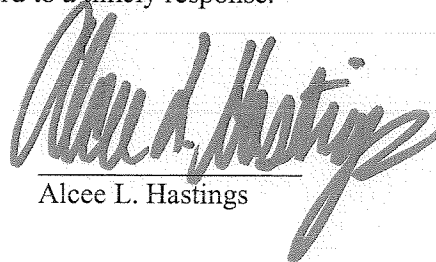
Many of us have advocated on numerous occasions for the Department of Homeland Security to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian migrants. TPS allows illegal immigrants the opportunity to stay in the United States if their homeland has been paralyzed by civil conflict or natural disaster. Nowhere has this requirement been more applicable than in Haiti, and yet the repeated calls from Congress and concerned Americans for TPS for Haitians have been rejected or ignored. While thousands of immigrants from El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras currently enjoy temporary protected status, Haitian immigrants have been subjected to a gross double standard and denied the protections of our government.

Mr. Gonzales, this past week our Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton described the deteriorating security situation in Haiti as "very, very disturbing." Haiti is currently ravaged by rampant kidnappings, politically motivated killings, and constant street fighting with no end in sight to the violence. The ever-deteriorating human rights situation makes it unconscionable for the United States to actively deport Haitian citizens at this time, and so we are therefore calling upon you to accede to the requests for the halts in deportations, and administratively close these cases.

Given the pressing nature of this issue, we look forward to a timely response.


Robert Wexler

Sincerely,

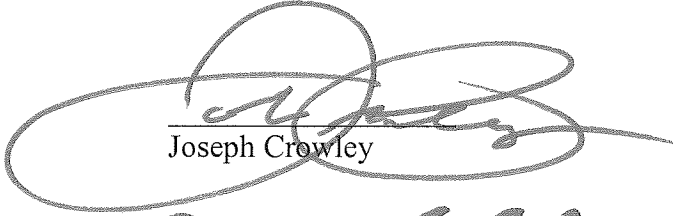

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