

National Commission of the Ministry for Migrants (CNPM)
(CED – Dominican Episcopal Conference)
Public Statement, Sto. Dgo., 31-7-2015.

Haiti-DR: From tension to harmony

Bilateral and dangerous factors from outside our island converge in current specter of Haiti-DR tensions. Without denying the responsibilities of the two countries who share the island, the National Commission of the Ministry for Migrants issues a call for harmony, so that dialogue can be renewed in an atmosphere of transparency and mutual respect, exercising the political will of the state to further the process initiated by the PNRE (National Plan to Regularize Foreigners), and resolve any difficulties that could obstruct peaceful coexistence.

We acknowledge and applaud the efforts – that through the PNRE – have contributed to registering 288,466 applications from illegal aliens, and 55,000 revalidated acts that reinstate as many men and women born in the Dominican Republic as Dominican citizens. We express our congratulations on having granted residency documents to a considerable portion of the sugar-cane workers, and with delivering identity cards to those already qualified through the PNRE.

We reiterate our concern over the fate of the thousands of sons and daughters of Haitian parents who were born in the DR, and are classified as group B (according to the Dominican Naturalization Law #169-14). This group of vulnerable, defenceless, impoverished, and undocumented people are waiting for a just solution, which identifies them as documented people in order to guarantee their rights, with the exercise of full citizenship.

We do not condone the negligence, indolence, and indifference of authorities, either Haitian or Dominican, that delay and obstruct the process of documentation for migrants without resources and who confront painful obstacles when they take steps to register or complete their paperwork. We await opportunities to recognize and applaud a change in attitude that will make it easier for migrants to obtain their documents.

*Facing the dark specter of current tensions between the two countries (Haiti-DR), and in keeping with the biblical/prophetic words of the Prophet Baruch (Ba. 2, 12-13; 3, 9-11.14.20; 4, 2-4), we urge and advise all parties:

1-To seek wisdom so as not to be chained in prisons of stupidity, leaving the darkness to walk in the clarity of the light, so that social justice will radiate throughout the entire island.

2-To adopt the judiciousness that will make us generous neighbors, being careful not to let ourselves be provoked by unavowed foreign interests that incite conflict and enmity among Caribbean peoples-brothers.

3-To avoid letting an alienated, blind and deaf lack of insight lead us down a sinister path to a bilaterally conflictive situation with unforeseeable consequences (pretext – a breeding ground for the USA, which manipulates and knows how to use crises: USA conflicts, USA Haitians, USA Dominicans, USA Caribbeans...)

4-To be discerning in order to learn where strength and intelligence lie, so that in Haiti and the DR we can proclaim: a new generation will enjoy the light of day and populate the earth, because, once and for all, recreated in social justice, all the inhabitants of the island, with their respective and fair legal systems, have reached the full exercise of their dignity. In this way, every person, migrant or non-migrant, will know that they are the sons and daughters of God the Father, who loves us as neighbors/brothers in our respective countries.

5- To insist on resuming bilateral dialogue based on truth and justice, not as it is, on fallacies and lies. And, above all, with the authentic political will of the state to work toward a definitive legal solution for the illegal immigrants and undocumented people born in the DR. To carry out this dialogue requires joint responsibility and respect and the sovereign right of self-determination. Thus, every one must take care of their own house (without foreign interference or external tutelage).

***Practical Appeals:**

1-We encourage the DR authorities to spare no effort to extend the PNRE's simplified processes for registered persons who have not yet completed their file.

2-To continue the process of solidarity and generosity so that other immigrants, blocked or delayed by the PIDIH (Program of Identification and Documentation of Haitian Immigrants), and by the complicated PNRE requirements, can have new opportunities to register.

3-To focus efforts on maximum rapidity and agility in the process of delivering identity cards to already qualified applicants, while at the same time maintaining respectful treatment in all procedures for all the exasperated immigrants who are suffering and struggling to obtain legal status.

4- To ignore provocation from extremist, anti-immigrant groups that hope to ensure failure of the PNRE initiative. And to enact the clear political will of the state to continue regularizing immigrants with dignity and social justice.

***Two Preventative Observations:**

1-The recently past 28-July-2015 marks one century (100 years) from the first invasion - military occupation of Haiti by the US Marines.

2- The 3rd of May-2016 will mark one century (100 years) from the first invasion - military occupation of the Dominican Republic by the US Marines

From these two rude and bitter experiences of terror and stains of horror that were the US interventions, arose two examples of mutual, bilateral solidarity, who shook hands to symbolize the island's resistance (Char May Peralte in Haiti and Olivorio Mateo in the DR). Hopefully, these two legendary heroes will feed the memory of brotherhood and bilateral solidarity, so that: we are not taken unawares, we are not made to be enemies, we do not let them sow discord between our two countries...

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P. Julio Acosta (Julin),
Executive Secretary of the CNPM.

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