



**KATHERINE M. CLARK**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
5TH DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

January 19, 2016

The Honorable John F. Kerry, Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry,

I am writing to share my constituents' concerns over the electoral crisis that is unfolding in Haiti, and to urge that the State Department make every effort possible to ensure that the views of Haiti's civilian population lead U.S. foreign policy decisions in this region. Last October, I joined my colleagues in writing to you about allegations of widespread fraud during August's legislative elections, and in urging you to support a free and fair Presidential election process in Haiti. I appreciated your prompt response about your efforts, but in light of recent events I remain deeply concerned about Haiti's present elections.

Many of my Haitian-American constituents and their families are deeply concerned about fraud in Haiti's electoral process and the resulting deterioration of conditions for average Haitians on the ground. Widespread fraud has been alleged in October's first-round Presidential election, with some claiming that up to 92% of voting sheets contained irregularities. Four of the nine members of the electoral council (CEP) have resigned or suspended activities associated with the January 24th runoff election. Most concerning is the likely Presidential runoff featuring a single, unopposed candidate because of a lack of confidence in the integrity of the election. If the next Haitian government is perceived as lacking legitimacy, this will certainly undermine long-term recovery and the humanitarian needs of the Haitian people. As a leader among the Core Group of nations working to ensure peaceful and democratic elections in Haiti, I urge you to make every effort to see that the ultimate outcome of any electoral process is Haitian-led, and is meaningfully reflective of Haitian popular will.

Given the seriousness of the electoral situation in Haiti and the concern of my Haitian-American constituents that the Presidential runoff, if allowed to proceed without the confidence of the electorate, will result in further instability and suffering for the Haitian people, I respectfully request a briefing via telephone this week, no later than COB Friday, January 22nd.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

  
Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress