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July 2, 2019

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Your Excellencies:

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) of the United States Congress, I would like to convey our greetings, and our hopes that the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in St. Lucia is a success.

We would like to share with you our concern about the political crisis in Haiti, especially the reports, recently confirmed by the UN, of large-scale killings by forces linked to the Haitian government and the documentation of widespread theft of state resources in the PetroCaribe scandal. In March of this year, 37 of our Caucus Members joined a letter signed by 104 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, expressing our serious concerns about the crisis, and urging serious, impartial investigations into the corruption allegations and extrajudicial killings.

In April, CBC Member Representative Maxine Waters headed an emergency delegation to Haiti that included Mr. Danny Glover, who met massacre victims in Haiti's capitol. At a press conference following the visit Representative Waters promised to "use whatever leverage and power we have to help make the violence cease because this is not conscionable and not tolerable." In June, CBC Member Representative Barbara Lee, the Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs ensured that language addressing the human rights violations was inserted into the State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill.

Now is a particularly important time to assist in the democratic process in Haiti, given the recent protests that shut the country down for days at a time following the alleged implication of President Moïse in the PetroCaribe scandal, and the calls

from a broad spectrum of civic, religious, political and business groups for the President to step down.

The CBC and CARICOM have a long history of promoting democracy, stability and human rights in Haiti, and we look forward to continued opportunities for collaboration in Haiti's hour of need. We all owe a great debt to Haiti. We recognize that the great 1804 Haitian revolution led the way for the ending of slavery throughout the Americas. If useful, we would also be ready to host a meeting with CARICOM Members' Ambassadors to the United States as well as representatives of the movement for democracy in Haiti to discuss the crisis and share concerns and ideas for ensuring democracy in Haiti.

For your convenience, I am enclosing the March 2019 letter to Secretary Pompeo expressing our concern about the crisis.

I look forward to continued collaboration between the Congressional Black Caucus and the Caribbean Community.

Sincerely,



Karen Bass  
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

CC: Honorable Mia Amor Mottley  
Prime Minister of Barbados

Honorable Ralph Gonsalves  
Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines