



U.S.-Based Organizations Denounce Mass Deportations to Haiti as Anti-Black Racism
Immigrant justice and human rights organizations call for an immediate halt

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The Biden administration has begun [taking into custody and deporting](#) Haitian migrants *en masse* from the Del Rio, Texas, port of entry to Haiti. There have been at least [five flights](#) in the past two days. Biden administration officials [have discussed as many as 8 deportation flights per day](#) to the country reeling from a 7.2 magnitude earthquake, the assassination of its president, gang violence, and widespread hunger. If executed, this will be [“one of America’s swiftest, large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades.”](#) In its decision to increase deportations under Title 42, a public health statute misconstrued to allow the United States to deny migrants the right to seek asylum, the Biden administration singled out Haiti. It is the most recent example of anti-Black U.S. immigration policy against Haitian people.

We are U.S.-based human rights and immigrant justice organizations that work in solidarity with Haitian immigrants and Haitian social movements. We denounce the targeting of Haitians for one of the largest mass expulsions in U.S. immigration history. Given the continued inability of the Haitian government to safely receive its nationals, we call for an immediate halt to all deportations and expulsions to Haiti. Further, we join the more than [100 organizations](#) that declare Title 42 expulsions are illegal and must stop.

In May, the Biden administration [concluded](#) that Haiti is incapable of safely repatriating its nationals. In its rationale for redesignating Haiti for Temporary Protection Status (TPS), DHS cited a [“staggering increase in human rights abuses”](#) and reports that the [“complicity of state officials and police in gang attacks left hundreds of people dead.”](#) Since May, conditions in Haiti have deteriorated even further. Haiti is in the throes of [humanitarian](#) and [political crises](#). In August, a [7.2 magnitude earthquake](#) devastated much of the south. Officials [estimate](#) that 800,000 people were impacted; a staggering [half](#) of those in need still haven’t received initial assistance. Lacking a capable government, earthquake victims are without drinking water, food, medical care, and supplies to rebuild their homes. The earthquake was an unexpected blow during an unprecedented political crisis: the president was [assassinated](#) in July, leaving a [political vacuum](#). The former president’s rule was characterized by [corruption, political repression, gang violence, and destruction of democratic institutions](#). Despite

popular protests and the [consensus that his term had ended early this year](#), President Jovenel Moïse retained power. This was in large part due to U.S. support. Haiti's caretaker government, led by an acting prime minister, lacks legal authority and its legitimacy is severely [contested](#).

Haitian partners and colleagues report that conditions have not been so dire for decades. In his plea for a humanitarian moratorium on expulsions to Haiti, the director of Haiti's Office of National Migration stated: "[The prospects of welcoming back some 14,000 Haitians in the coming days is more than the country can handle.](#)"

The United States has [a long and well-documented history](#) of racist immigration policies directed at Haitian people. For example, the United States did not detain asylum-seekers until they [sought to deter](#) Haitians from entering U.S. soil, in turn creating the immigrant detention system in 1981; in the 1990s, the U.S. government [detained](#) more than ten thousand Haitians at Guantanamo Bay; in 2016, the Obama administration reacted to an influx of Haitian asylum seekers in Tijuana by implementing "[metering](#)" to limit the number of people who entered the U.S. to seek asylum—a system that was deemed illegal by a [federal court](#) in California earlier this month. This past week, the Biden administration is using the population of Haitian migrants in [Del Rio, Texas](#) to justify mass expulsions. Despite the large and visible population of Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Haitians made up [less than two percent](#) of CBP's border encounters in the past 12 months. Considering these facts, the only logical explanation for this pattern of targeting Haitian migrants for expulsion is [anti-Black racism and discrimination](#).

While it is particularly inhumane to deport people to Haiti at this time, all Title 42 expulsions are unlawful and violate human rights. Title 42 expulsions violate the U.S. government's legal responsibility under [domestic refugee law](#) and [international treaties](#) to receive those fleeing persecution in their home countries. [International](#) and [public health experts](#) as well as domestic courts have increasingly called on the U.S. government to end or limit its use of Title 42, which has particularly impacted [Haitian asylum seekers](#). Last week, a judge [issued a preliminary injunction](#) to prevent the Biden administration from expelling immigrant families under Title 42. There is a 14-day stay of the ruling's implementation. It is reported that nearly [half of the 327 Haitians](#) deported on Sunday were children, including babies and toddlers, who were put onto planes and sent to Haiti—a country where many of them have never been.

U.S. foreign policy has contributed to the instability and conditions that have driven migration to the U.S.-Mexico border, often [via numerous South American countries](#), and that make Haiti incapable of repatriating its nationals today. For years, the United States has [supported](#) corrupt, repressive and anti-democratic leaders in Haiti. Compounding destructive foreign policy, post-2010 earthquake relief efforts [failed to reach Haiti's people](#) and [undermined Haitian institutions](#). Unless the Biden administration makes a meaningful pivot to support efforts to build democracy in Haiti, conditions are unlikely to improve, and out-migration is likely to continue. To build democratic institutions and respect for human rights, the Biden administration must support Haitian civil society. This includes recognition of the leadership of civil society in building the path forward, such as [efforts](#) by the [Commission for a Haitian Solution to the Crisis](#).

We demand that the Biden administration halts all Title 42 expulsions and deportations to Haiti. The administration should parole Haitian people at the border into the U.S. for humanitarian reasons, and fulfill their legal obligation to the immigrant's right to seek asylum. We support the policy recommendations that 56 members of Congress [proposed last week](#). The Biden administration must reverse course and meet this crisis with respect for human rights and human dignity.

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