



The Bridge

Haitian Bridge Alliance
Statement by Guerline Jozef, Executive Director and Co-Founder
Third Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent
Item 6: Adoption of the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the 3rd
session
April 19, 2024

I am Guerline Jozef, Executive Director and Co-founder of the Haitian Bridge Alliance. I am also co-founder of the Cameroonians Advocacy Network, the Black Immigrants Bail Fund, and Haitian Bridge Alliance has been honored to be a part of the Haiti Civil Society Delegation to this forum.

Yesterday, the U.S. government asserted here in this forum that it is “committed to promoting and protecting the human rights of people of African descent,” that “it seeks to be a positive member of a global community,” and that it will lead by the “power of its example.” But as it was saying this here, the U.S. government announced that it was resuming deportation flights to Haiti and that the Haitian government should expect 74 people to be dropped in Cap-Haitien that day.¹

I am in absolute disbelief at the level of hatred, inhumanity and violence that the U.S government is perpetuating on Haiti through these deportation flights and by sending people to their potential deaths.

Just last month, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that the crises in Haiti had created “an untenable situation” for the Haitian people. Yet yesterday, he and his colleagues sent a deportation flight to Haiti when there is no safety in Haiti. Furthermore, in the absence of a functional government in Haiti, it is not clear who is even agreeing to receive these deportation flights.

Why is the U.S. bringing more chaos and cruelty to a country already facing multiple emergencies? What commitment is this to the human rights of people of African descent? What example is this? How is this being a positive member of the global community? This is not only morally wrong and in violation of U.S. and international law, it is simply bad foreign policy.

The Haitian Bridge Alliance and almost 500 civil society organizations recently called for a complete halt of all deportations to Haiti because there is no safe way for people to return.² We ask for the members of the Forum, for all member states here, and all our brothers and sisters from civil society who are here from across the world, to join our call.

We decry the United States continued violence and crimes against Haitian migrants. This administration must immediately halt deportation flights to Haiti.

Thank you.



¹ Jacqueline Charles, *Biden administration resumes deportation flights to Haiti amid ongoing violence*, Miami Herald (Apr. 18, 2024), <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article287796370.html>.

² Sarah Morland, *Hundreds of rights groups urge US to stop deporting Haitians fleeing gang war*, Reuters (Mar. 28, 2024), <https://www.reuters.com/world/hundreds-rights-groups-urge-us-stop-deporting-haitians-fleeing-gang-war-2024-03-28/>.