

URGENT ACTION

STOP U.S. ABUSES AGAINST HAITIAN PEOPLE

Thousands of Haitians are traveling to the US-Mexico border to seek asylum in the U.S., with many settling in camps after being denied entry. The US government is responding with human rights violations and violence, including deportations of thousands to Haiti. These deportations put Haitians at risk of violence, being unhoused, and even death as Haiti is in the midst of political, economic, and environmental crises. Media has documented US border authorities abusing and taunting Haitians while riding on horses and brandishing whips. Call on US authorities to end deportations and respect the human right to seek asylum.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500
USA

webform: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Dear President Biden,

I'm writing with deep disappointment about the horrific use of excess use of force at the hands of US border authorities against Haitians and Black asylum-seekers at the US-Mexico border and the Biden administration's aggressive expansion of Title 42 expulsions. The cruelty, racism, and oppression against migrants and asylum-seekers at the border cannot go unanswered.

If the U.S. truly aims to convince the world that its commitment to human rights and racial justice are sincere, then it cannot deny asylum and deport thousands of people who fear for their safety back to a country experiencing extreme instability and massive human rights violations.

I call on the Biden administration to:

- Immediately halt any and all deportations to Haiti

-Immediately grant humanitarian parole to Haitians at the southern border, and restore access to asylum for all asylum seekers in accordance with international law

- Immediately end Title 42 expulsions

Images from the airport tarmacs in Kabul and Port-au-Prince and the camps in Del Rio have been a damning indictment of the US government's approach to human rights for all. This is your time to reverse course and show leadership. People in the United States and around the world are watching you.

Thank you,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since President Biden came into office, the new US administration has taken some necessary but far from sufficient steps to restore access to asylum at the US-Mexico border. Yet, the Biden administration has shamefully continued the Trump administration's policy of misusing the Title 42 public health authority to block and expel people at the border, recklessly endangering lives using "public health" as a justification. Between March 2020 and May 2021, the government summarily expelled nearly 875,000 people, particularly affecting Black immigrants and asylum-seekers into dangerous conditions in Mexico where asylum-seekers have been subjected to serious violence. The Biden administration has expelled over 400,000 of those people. This misuse of Title 42 continues despite objections by CDC officials and against the recommendations of public health experts. All of this was entirely unnecessary and violates U.S. obligations to uphold the right to seek asylum and not forcibly return individuals to a place where they would be at risk of serious human rights harm. There is no public health rationale to treat immigrants and asylum-seekers differently, and it is causing irreparable harm to them.

Restoring access to asylum requires upholding due process. Asylum-seekers should be allowed into the country, not expelled or detained, where they can pursue their asylum claims in communities supported by community-based organizations. The use of the expedited removal process for considering asylum claims should be rejected, while expedited scheduling for immigration court hearings gives cause for concern. Reform packaged as efficiency based due process is not a guarantee of either.

Media has exposed footage of US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers charging into crowds of Haitian asylum-seekers on horseback — violently dispersing them, taunting them, and forcing them away from safety. This escalation of violent treatment goes hand-in-hand with a rise in deportation flights for Haitian asylum-seekers. The Biden administration is doing everything in its power to deny people access to safe haven, many of whom have been looking for refuge as Haiti continues to reel from political instability and humanitarian disaster — from the catastrophic 2013 earthquake, another devastating earthquake just one month ago, generalized violence and repression, and the assassination of the Haitian President earlier this summer.

Protests and widespread violence have been ongoing in Haiti since at least [2019](#), as Amnesty International previously documented. Amidst the chaos surrounding [the killing of President Jovenel Moïse](#) in early July, the rampant violent crime and the human rights crisis afflicting the country, journalists and human rights defenders have increasingly come under attack. The Haitian government [has been accused of complicity](#) in large-scale attacks carried out by gangs targeting impoverished neighbourhoods carried out between 2018 and 2020. In a report [earlier this year](#), the UN highlighted the increase in human rights violations."

The recent conduct of the border is just the latest in a long line of historical abuses of Black immigrants and asylum-seekers in the United States. The xenophobia, hatred, and white supremacy at the core of many U.S. immigration policies cannot be ignored and will continue to cause harm to people seeking safety unless we aggressively combat these problems. It is unconscionable to deport thousands of people to a country in the midst of a political, environmental, and economic crisis where they could experience violence, being unhoused, and death.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English

You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 18 November 2021

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Haitian migrants at the US-Mexico border [they/them]

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: N/a