



Laura Raymond <haitideportationsletters@gmail.com>

---

**(no subject)**

1 message

---

Jeannie Bowker <jeannie.bowker@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 16, 2011 at 10:37 AM

To: haitipolicycomments@dhs.gov

Cc: Felicia\_Escobar@who.eop.gov, comments@whitehouse.gov

Bcc: haitideportationsletters@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to DHS's proposed policy for resuming deportations to Haiti.

I am a law student at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts and have spent much of my legal education focused on immigration law. My husband also works for an organization called The Haitian Project which runs The Louverture Cleary School in Croix-de-Bouquets, Haiti.

I worked for an immigration firm in Boston last summer and worked on a U-visa application for an individual that, if it were in my discretion to decide rather than USCIS or EOIR, is most deserving of a visa and a waiver for his past, youthful criminal conduct. It would be a certain death sentence for this individual if he were to be deported because of his past, youthful criminal conduct and because of his affirmative application for status here in the U.S. It is because of how strongly I feel that this individual MUST remain in the U.S. that I must urge you to please reconsider your proposed policy for resuming any deportations to Haiti.

As you know, Haitian deportees are subjected to horrific detention conditions once they arrive in Haiti. Cholera is widely present in Haitian police station holding facilities and lack of functioning toilets, crowded conditions and other factors make contracting cholera more likely. These conditions led to the tragic death of Wildrick Guerrier, who was deported by the US on January 20.

Conditions in Haiti are dire; 1.5 million Haitians remain homeless and living in tents or under tarps in and around Port au Prince. Lack of food, water, and other necessities is an ongoing crisis throughout Haiti. The cholera epidemic has infected more than 231,000 people and claimed approximately 4,500 lives, so far. No one should be deported into these conditions.

Having visited a few of these tent cities in Port au Prince last September, I cannot imagine deporting people from the U.S. that may end up in these tent cities. Haiti is facing an emergency in determining where to send these individuals when the private citizens that own the land where these tent cities have been established want their land back; the last thing the country needs is more individuals becoming dependent upon the infrastructures of the tent cities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jeannie Bowker

*NUSL Candidate for J.D., 2011*