



Laura Raymond <haltideportationsletters@gmail.com>

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## stop deporting Haitians!

1 message

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Toni Maschler <tmaschler@hotmail.com>

Tue, Mar 15, 2011 at 4:34 PM

To: haitipolicycomments@dhs.gov

Cc: felicia\_escobar@who.eop.gov, comments@whitehouse.gov

I am horrified that our government is deporting Haitians from the U.S. when cholera is rampant, and even potable water is scarce. In addition to the horrendous conditions faced by the general Haitian population, the deportees, who have been released from U.S. prisons; are jailed in inhumane and life-threatening circumstances upon arrival in Haiti. One deportee, who attempted to care for desperately ill fellow prisoners, has already died. Naturally, when food, water, and soap are scarce throughout the country, prisoners deported by the U.S. are not seen as the highest priority for such valuable supplies.

Although all or nearly all of the deportees presumably committed the crimes of which they were convicted, the majority are not violent, hardened criminals and pose little danger to the American public. They can and should be given individualized risk assessments. Based upon their individual situations, they could be monitored in U.S. communities at modest expense and minimal risk through use of ankle bracelets, parole officers, check in procedures, or the like. Many have family members, churches, or other organizations who would willingly relieve the taxpayer of the cost of these measures, and assume responsibility for the future good conduct of those released. Community service requirements would help integrate the released prisoners and provided needed assistance to struggling localities and organizations. In any case, the America I believe in does not knowingly deport people to places where they will surely suffer greatly and may even die.

Sincerely,

Toni Maschler

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