

Urgent Action Office 3-1992 Yonge Street Toronto ON M4S 1Z7 Phone: (416) 363-9933 Fax: (416) 363-3103 [urgentaction@amnesty.ca](mailto:urgentaction@amnesty.ca)

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## USA STOP ABUSES AGAINST HAITIAN PEOPLE

Thousands of Haitians have traveled to the US-Mexico border to seek safety in the USA. The US government has responded with human rights violations, including the forcible removal of thousands to Haiti and Mexico. These expulsions and deportations put Haitians at risk of gang violence, being unhoused, and even death as Haiti is in the midst of political, economic, and environmental crises. In past months, the situation has gotten worse. Call on US authorities to end deportations and respect the human right to seek asylum.

### Write to the Secretary of Homeland Security, urging the Biden administration to:

- immediately halt deportations to Haiti
- immediately end MPP and Title 42 expulsions
- end the use of arbitrary, mass immigration detention

### Write to:

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
301 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20528  
USA

email: [dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov)

Salutation: Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

### And Copy:

His Excellency David Louis Cohen  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the United States of America  
P.O. Box 866, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K2P 2N2  
Phone: (613) 238-5335 / 688-5335 (24h)  
Fax: (613) 688-3088  
Email: [ottawaniv@state.gov](mailto:ottawaniv@state.gov)

## **Additional Information**

The Biden administration has shamefully continued dangerous policies of the preceding Trump administration – including Title 42 expulsions, the deceptively named “Migrant Protection Protocols” (MPP or the “Remain in Mexico” policy), and the use of arbitrary, mass immigration detention.

The aggressive expulsions under Title 42 and the appalling decision to reinstate and expand the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) are especially concerning as these policies violate the human right to seek asylum and send hundreds of thousands of Haitians and other asylum-seekers to face danger and even death in their countries of origin and/or transit. These reckless actions not only abandon the administration’s obligations under US and international law, but also its promises to halt these cruel, abusive and unlawful programs.

Images of desperation from the airport tarmacs in Port-au-Prince and ill-treatment in refugee camps in Del Rio and elsewhere along the southern border have been a damning indictment of the US government’s approach to humanitarian action and human rights for all, without discrimination.

The US government has been misusing Title 42 of the US code to forcibly expel people at the US-Mexico border back to Mexico or to their countries of origin, without access to asylum or protection screenings. First implemented by the Trump administration under bogus public health grounds and the pretext of COVID-19, the Biden administration has continued Title 42 despite objections by CDC officials, public health experts, and administration officials. Over 1,400,000 people were expelled under Title 42 between March 2020 and November 2021 and subject to serious violence and dangerous conditions.

After the Trump administration implemented MPP in 2019, nearly 70,000 asylum-seekers at the US-Mexico border were forced to return to and stay in Mexico during the adjudication of their asylum claims, which can take months or years. They lived in dangerous conditions in northern Mexico, under the threat of violence, homelessness, and kidnapping. The Biden administration terminated MPP but a federal court in August 2021 ordered it to reinstate MPP for reasons of administrative legal procedure. Despite describing MPP as having “endemic flaws, imposed unjustifiable human costs,” DHS reinstated and expanded the program in December 2021 to include nationals from Haiti and other Caribbean countries.

Meanwhile, the average number of people held in US immigration detention has ballooned more than 50 percent to over 22,000 people under the Biden administration – despite the President’s previous commitments to end for-profit detention and as outbreaks of Covid-19 rage through detention facilities with the Delta and Omicron variants. As of 19 January 2022, more than 10 percent of people in detention had contracted Covid-19 in US custody – an increase of 680 percent in cases since 3 January 2022.

All of this has been entirely unnecessary and violates US obligations to uphold the right to seek asylum, detain people only as a last resort, and not forcibly return individuals to places where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations. Restoring the rule of law and access to asylum requires upholding due process. Asylum-seekers should be allowed to live freely in the country, not

expelled or detained, where they can pursue their asylum claims in communities supported by community-based organizations.

News media in 2021 broadcast footage of US border agents charging into Haitian migrants on horseback – violently dispersing, taunting, and forcing them away from safety. This escalation of violence went hand-in-hand with a rise in removal flights to Haiti, despite the country still reeling from widespread violence, political instability and humanitarian disaster – from the catastrophic 2013 and 2021 earthquakes and the [assassination of its president](#) in 2021. Since 19 September 2021, the US has deported over 15,000 Haitians, largely without providing access to the asylum system or protection screenings. Amnesty co-authored “[Not safe anywhere](#)” and “[Stop US deportations and abuse against Haitians on the move](#)” with Haitian Bridge Alliance and other partners to document the harm facing Haitians in their search for safety in the US and across the Americas.

The recent misconduct at the border is just the latest in a long line of historical abuses of Black immigrants in the US, serving as a searing reminder of the hateful, racist, and xenophobic cruelty that has shaped US immigration policies and continues to brutally harm and oppress millions of people today.