

# City of Miami, Florida



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March 30, 2009

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

In the wake of the devastating hurricanes that severely impacted Haiti last Fall, deportations of Haitian nationals were temporarily suspended by the administration. Deportations resumed in December following a conclusion by the administration that conditions in Haiti had improved sufficiently.

Tenuous conditions in Haiti have been exacerbated by the magnitude and scale of these natural disasters and tens of thousands remain homeless and displaced while infrastructure remains damaged, malnutrition rates rise due in part to crop damage and joblessness climbs. Public services remain inadequate following these hurricanes and many areas of the country remain isolated and uninhabitable. These are not conditions which are conducive to successful repatriation and it is inconsistent with our values as a country to return migrants to these conditions. Despite these conditions, it is my understanding that deportations of Haitian nationals continue.

The City of Miami and the Miami community has given very generously of itself in efforts to alleviate the suffering of our neighbors in Haiti. This is also true of the American people and the international community. Given the serious conditions being experienced on the ground in Haiti the prospects for returning migrants is grim at this time. To stabilize the situation in Haiti in the wake of this tragedy I urge your prompt suspension of these deportations and further urge that you conduct a comprehensive policy review of this situation.

I have been a resolute and long standing supporter of temporary protected status for Haitians and urge that this protection be expeditiously extended to those affected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Manuel A. Diaz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.