Mass deportation of Haitians by the Biden Administration

Migration policy must respect human dignity

1. Shocking images, circling the web, have shown how Haitians entering the United States illegally, via the banks of the Rio Grande, are tracked down by border patrol agents on horseback from Texas, a situation akin to a "manhunt". Some of the 272 deported on Sunday, September 19, 2021 say they were treated with the utter indignity in Texas jail. Note that 15,000 Haitian refugees were under the Del Rio bridge on September 19.

2. A situation qualified as shocking by the highest officials of the Biden Administration and the US Congress. The Vice-President, Kamala Harris, said the images were horrific, stating "Human beings should never be treated in this way and I am deeply concerned about this."

3. For the Democratic Leader of the United States Senate, Chuck Schumer, "These images make you nauseous. This type of violence must stop (...). We cannot continue these vile, xenophobic policies from [ex-President Donald] Trump, who ignore our refugee laws."

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1 Some jurists speak of mass evictions.
2 Five (5) days in a small room on the floor, without a bed cover, without being able to change, bathe, brush your teeth...
5 Ibid.
4. The Democratic President of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, described as "disturbing" the reality of Haitian migrants at the American border.

5. For the United Nations, this a shocking situation which violates the norms of international law. In a statement, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said: “I was shocked by the images of the deplorable living conditions that prevail under the highway bridge in Del Rio, Texas, where have arrived more than 14,000 Haitians after having undertaken exhausting journeys from several countries of Central and South America." "

6. Paradoxically, the de facto Haitian government, led by the Premier Ariel Henry, would not feel concerned about the fate of its nationals, no diplomatic position has been expressed.

7. Taking office on January 20, 2020, the Democrat President, Joe Biden stepped up deportation. From February 1 to February 15, 2021, the United States Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Customs and Border Control Agency organized 71 deportation flights, to 10 Latin American countries and Caribbean, including 12 to Haiti.

8. In the name of the "right of peoples to self-determination", each country is free to define its migration and internal security policy. However, these policies must respect human dignity, the principles underlying human rights (equality, non-discrimination, etc.) and international morality.

9. The massive relocation of Haitians to countries in the region, in particular the United States of America, is explained by: the accelerated deterioration of living conditions, despair, political instability, the vertiginous rise of criminality, particularly kidnapping for ransom followed by torture and rape, daily assassinations ...

10. The magnitude 7.2 earthquake of August 14, 2021, which severely hit the departments of Sud, (South), Nippes and Grand 'Anse, further complicates the situation. Nearly one million citizens of these departments will be in food insecurity, added to the 4.4 million including 1.9 million children (March-June 2021)

11. More than two months after the assassination of the de facto President Jovenel Moïse, the country is still not being governed, the population, left to fend for itself, is at the mercy of the bandits.

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6 Ibid.
8 Charter of the United Nations, article 1er (al. 1).
9 A returnee explains having traveled 11 countries to arrive at the Mexican-American border.
10 https://cardh.org/archives/2047
12 The humanitarian need is estimated at 122.2 million US dollars (UNICEF).
12. The extension of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) until December 31, 2022 and the eligibility of irregular Haitians until July 29, 2021\(^1\) testifies to the Biden Administration's understanding of the fragile Haitian reality.

13. With this in mind, the Center for Analysis and Research in Human Rights recommends that it adopt a moratorium on deportation, pending the improvement of the Haitian socio-political situation. In addition, measures must be taken to ensure respect for the dignity and rights of Haitians and any person in an irregular situation in the United States.

Port-au-Prince, September 21, 2021

(Update, September 22, 2021)

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https://lenouvelliste.com/article/230726/tps-qui-peut-appliquer-et-comment