Stop Illegal Weapons Trafficking to Haiti

August 26, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

CC: Ambassador Henry T. Wooster

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Noem:

We, the undersigned 96 organizations, are writing to express our support for the August 1, 2025 Congressional letter led by Representative Cherfilus-McCormick and Ranking Member Meeks and signed by 32 Members of Congress addressing the urgent issue of illegal arms trafficking to Haiti.

We call on you to take immediate action to stop the trafficking of guns to Haiti. The United States must do everything in its power to prevent Haiti, a mere 90-minute flight from Miami, from becoming a fully-fledged failed state run by criminal gangs, and an intermediary for drug and weapons smuggling in the hemisphere. Criminal gangs now control over 90% of Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, as well as other large swaths of territory, terrorizing civilians with kidnappings, sexual violence, and indiscriminate killings. Gang sieges and arson attacks have internally displaced 1.3 million people, half of them children.

We urge you to take the following steps to safeguard U.S. national security, protect innocent Haitian civilians, and address the underlying causes of Haiti's instability and migration by disrupting the flow of illicit firearms and ammunition from the United States to Haiti:

- Increase U.S. Customs and Border Protection resources dedicated to screening the contents of ships exiting via the Miami River, a primary starting point for firearm shipments to Haiti.

- Work with the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to implement a strategy to increase the number of illicit firearms recovered in Haiti that are submitted for tracing, similar to the work done recovering crime guns in Mexico.

- Take steps to require identity verification for all individuals sending packages to Haiti with a declared value under $2,500, in order to close a key loophole exploited to ship firearms and ammunition.

- Initiate an interagency strategy, together with the Commerce Department, Department of Defense, and Department of Justice, to increase resources to stop the illegal flow of arms from the United States to the Caribbean. This strategy should include collecting and reporting to Congress and to the public data about arms export trends, arms trafficking trends, efforts to disrupt illegal firearm exports, and data on prosecutions of illicit arms trafficking to the Caribbean.

- Work closely with authorities in the Dominican Republic to stop arms trafficking through its territory to Haiti.

- Work with the U.S. Congress to pass the bipartisan Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act to hold accountable Haitian actors connected to weapons trafficking.

Gang violence in Haiti is fueled by American-made weapons. Although more is needed from the international community and from Haitian leadership to solve the country's security crisis, getting arms and ammunition out of the hands of criminal gangs is the most constructive and efficient initial step the United States can take to bring security to Haiti, and to improve U.S. security as a result.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Quixote Center	Haitian Bridge Alliance
American Jewish World Service	Mennonite Central Committee
The Episcopal Church	Nuns Against Gun Violence
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Office of Public Witness
Pax Christi USA	Stop US Arms to Mexico
OPODAH – Faith in Action International Haiti	The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society
Church World Service	Newtown Action Alliance

Roots of Development	Global Exchange
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd	Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Family Action Network Movement (FANM)	Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ansara Family Fund	United Methodist Church
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Groupe d'Appii au Développement et à la Démocratie (GRADE)	Friends Committee on National Legislation
The University of Fondwa USA, Inc	Friends of PROFAMIL Haiti
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team	Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill	Felician Sisters of North America
Adorers of the Blood of Christ US Region JPIC office	Presentation Sisters of San Francisco, CA
Mercy Beyond Borders	Sisters of Charity of New York
Sisters of St. Joseph Faith and Ecology Group	JPIC Committee, Sisters of IHM, Scranton, PA
Dominican Sisters of Hope	Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Passionists International	Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Dominican Sisters of Peace	Sisters of the Divine Compassion
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York	Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Holy Name Province
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia	Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth	Dominican Sisters of Adrian

Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation Committee, Dominican Sisters, Springfield, IL

School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province

Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC

Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Indiana

St. Patrick and St Anthony Catholic Church Church, Hartford, CT

Park Slope United Methodist Church Social Action Committee, Brooklyn, NY

Progress Room Inc

Community Coalition for Haiti

Creative Exchanges Initiative

Youthaiti

Franciscan Justice Circle Mid-Hudson Valley, NY

Caring for Haitian Orphans with AIDS, Inc

Pax Christi Hudson Valley, NY

Safer Country

Seeds of Hope for Haiti Inc.

Pax Christi New York State

Pax Christi New Jersey

Partners in Progress

Alternative Chance

Li Li Li Read

Stand for Democracy

Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti

Haiti Nursing Foundation

Haiti Health Network

Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

St Katherine Drexel Catholic Church, Frederick, MD

St.Michael and St. Peter Church, Syracuse, NY 13215

Our Lady Queen of Peace Haiti Committee-Arlington, VA

Helping Hugs Inc

Raising Haiti Foundation

Pax Christi Florida

Franciscan Action Network

Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, IA

International Presentation Association

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary NGO

Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul

Religious of Jesus and Mary

Haitian-American Collaborative, Inc

Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception

Sisters of Saint Francis

Congregations of Saint Joseph	Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office
Sisters of Charity Federation	Sisters of Divine Providence
Little Sisters of the Assumption	Haitian Support Center