



May 20, 2025

**To:**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
(OHCHR)  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

**Subject:** *Urgent Appeal Regarding Human Rights Violations Against Haitian Nationals in the Dominican Republic*

Dear High Commissioner and Special Rapporteurs,

I write to you with deep urgency and grave concern regarding the escalating human rights abuses committed against Haitian nationals and individuals of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic. These abuses appear to reflect a pattern of state-sanctioned violence, systemic discrimination, and xenophobia that must be urgently addressed by the international community.

In recent months, numerous verified reports and witness testimonies have revealed appalling treatment of Haitian migrants, particularly pregnant women, at the hands of Dominican immigration agents and military personnel. Armed forces have reportedly stormed hospitals, forcibly removing pregnant Haitian women—even those in labor—beating them, and denying them medical care. Several of these women have tragically lost their lives or suffered miscarriages due to this inhumane treatment. Others have been subjected to detention in inhumane conditions, without due process or access to legal representation.

Additionally, Haitian men, women, and children are being rounded up in immigration raids that often involve the use of excessive force. There are

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credible accounts of beatings, disappearances, and extrajudicial killings that demand immediate independent investigation.

These actions constitute gross violations of international human rights standards, including the right to life, the right to health care, freedom from torture and cruel treatment, and the rights of migrants and minorities. We believe these abuses fall under the purview of:

- The **Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**
- The **Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants**
- The **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention**
- The **Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls**

We respectfully request the following actions from your esteemed offices:

1. **Immediate investigation** into the human rights abuses and deaths of Haitian nationals in the Dominican Republic.
2. **Public condemnation** of the treatment of Haitian migrants and call for accountability from Dominican authorities.
3. **Deployment of a UN fact-finding mission** to the Dominican Republic to independently verify these abuses.
4. **Recommendations to the Dominican government** to halt deportations, end discriminatory hospital raids, and uphold the rights of all individuals regardless of nationality or descent.

We also urge you to call upon the Dominican Republic to comply with its obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

We remain available to provide documentation, testimonies, and connect your office with victims and local human rights organizations monitoring the situation on the ground.

Sincerely,



Rev. J. Sadraque Cius