



Laura Raymond &lt;haitideportationsletters@gmail.com&gt;

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## Haiti Comments

1 message

Hoffman, Geoff &lt;ghoffman@central.uh.edu&gt;

Wed, Mar 16, 2011 at 12:53 AM

To: haitipolicycomments@dhs.gov, Felicia\_Escobar@who.eop.gov, comments@whitehouse.gov

Dear ICE/Domestic Policy Counsel/Office of the President:

As Director of the University of Houston Immigration Clinic and clinical associate professor, as well as a practicing attorney, I respectfully write to urge a change in policy regarding the repatriation of Haitian nationals during this time of need and desperation. I am a supporter of the President's and have been for a long time. I recognize his efforts thus far to make changes in the immigration detention system and administration of immigration benefits. I appreciate the changes which have been implemented in the time since his taking office and the changes I've personally witnessed as a practicing attorney. I appreciate the change in policy from the former administration which had imposed immediate detention for all Haitian asylum seekers without regard to history or background. Now, a renewed sensitivity is in order given the ravages wrought by natural disaster, disease, homelessness, and the daily atrocities facing Haitians in this time of need. I recognize the exigencies and political realities facing the administration and I also appreciate the fact that there needs to be enforcement to protect the public welfare from dangerous criminals. However, the current policy, as practitioners can attest, is being applied whole-cloth as a continuation of previous policies against Haitian nationals without making fine distinctions, such as for detainees with non-violent offenses, minor crimes and/or traffic offenses. The future will judge us by how we treat the most disadvantaged. The future will judge us not by our half-efforts but by our full commitments.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey A. Hoffman

Clinical Associate Professor

Director, University of Houston Immigration Clinic

100 Law Center

Rm 56 - TU II

Houston, TX 77204-6060

Tel: (713) 743-2094

Fax: (713) 743-2195