

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2019

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C., 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to express our serious concerns regarding ongoing civil unrest in Haiti.

We appreciate the legitimate frustrations of the Haitian people, whose democratic aspirations have been repeatedly thwarted. We urge you to support dialogue aimed at resolving the country's escalating crisis and ensuring that upcoming elections are transparent and inclusive. We take note of the President and Prime Minister's calls for dialogue and hope that all efforts are made by the government to ensure a broad participation among stakeholders.

In addition, we urge you to support thorough and independent investigations into both the corruption allegations that sparked the current crisis and the human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, that have reportedly taken place.

As you are aware, recent anti-corruption protests demanding President Jovenel Moïse's resignation have resulted in violence. On February 27, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) noted that 26 people have been killed and 77 injured since February 7.¹ On February 14, the State Department issued a Level 4 (Do Not Travel) Advisory for Haiti and ordered the departure of all non-emergency U.S. personnel and their families.

We are deeply saddened by these events and offer our condolences to the victims and their families. We condemn acts of violence by all actors and are troubled by the economic damage incurred during this period – yet another devastating blow to Haiti's development.

In light of recent events and approaching elections in Haiti, we respectfully ask the Department to provide the following updates:

- **We urge the Department to support accountability efforts around the Petrocaribe case and request a report detailing U.S. support for Haiti's independent anticorruption institutions, as well as the results of any investigations into corruption involving Haitian government officials.** We support the Haitian people's calls for government accountability, especially as it relates to the reported misappropriation of nearly \$2 billion in low-interest loans provided through Venezuela's Petrocaribe initiative. Though both a Haitian Senate

¹ ["Concerned about Worsening Violence and Scarcity in Haiti, IACHR Unveils Plans for a Rapid and Integrated Response Coordination Unit to Monitor the Situation." Organization of American States. February 27, 2019.](#)

investigation and independent Court of Auditors report implicated numerous public officials – including officials in the current administration – in wrongdoing involving Petrocaribe funds, no one has been held accountable.

- **We request a briefing regarding reports of violence against those exercising their democratic rights.** We are especially concerned by recent reports of a massacre involving Haitian security agents and government officials, which resulted in up to 60 deaths, as recognized by Human Rights Watch.² We understand that the United Nations (UN) Justice Support Mission in Haiti is investigating this incident and ask that you provide Congress with a briefing on the progress of that investigation to date, as well as a report on the conclusions of the investigation.
- **We ask that you communicate to our partners in Haitian law enforcement, and the UN mission, the importance of rigorous investigations into allegations of abuses and justice for victims of state violence.** Reports of excessive use of force and gross human rights violations perpetrated by Haitian National Police officers are deeply troubling. The U.S. has provided Haiti with \$150 million in direct security assistance over the last decade and has long supported UN efforts aimed at strengthening and professionalizing the Haitian National Police. We also ask that you provide Congress with a report on Leahy Law compliance regarding police units, including units involved in narcotics control.
- **We ask that you work with partners in the country to impress upon the Haitian government the importance of inviting the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to visit the country and investigate acts of political violence, including the mass killing in La Saline.** We are concerned that the current Haitian administration failed to renew the mandate of UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Independent Expert on Haiti, a position that has monitored the conditions in the country since 1995.
- **We call on the Department to ensure that U.S. electoral support for Haiti involves broad outreach to Haitian civil society and promotes inclusion and empowerment.** U.S. support should foster a democratic environment that allows for the full participation of Haitian voters. The U.S. has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in electoral assistance to Haiti and, with other international bodies, has observed all recent elections. Nonetheless, voter turnout has consistently fallen for more than a decade.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Andy Levin
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

² ["Haiti, Events of 2018." Human Rights Watch.](#)

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

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Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone Jr.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Albio Sires

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

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Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

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Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Susan Wild

Susan Wild
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings

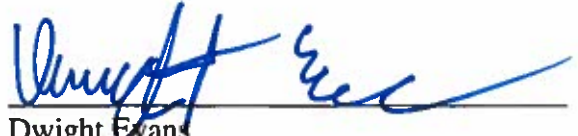
Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



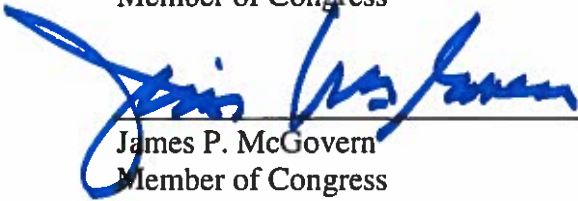
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



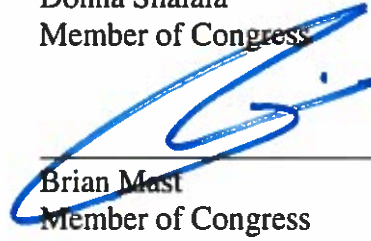
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Donna Shalala
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James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



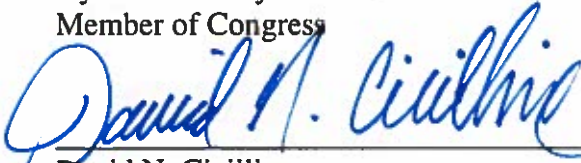
Brian Mast
Member of Congress



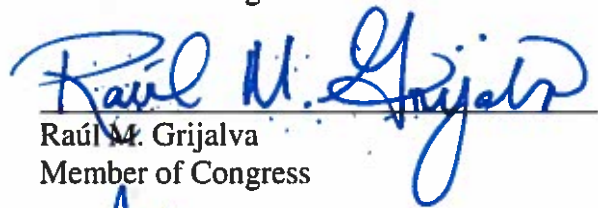
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



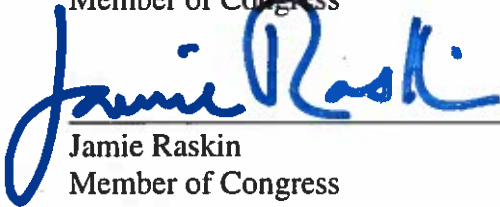
Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



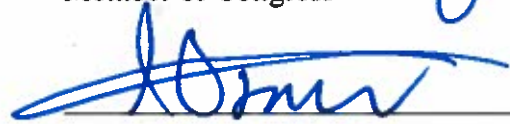
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



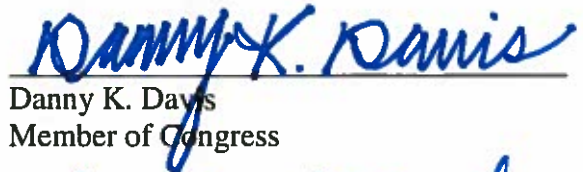
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
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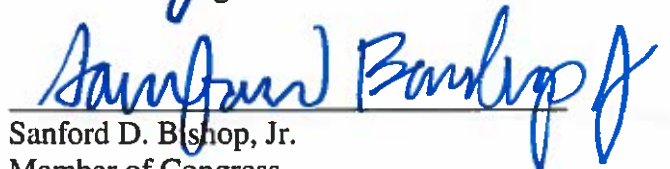
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



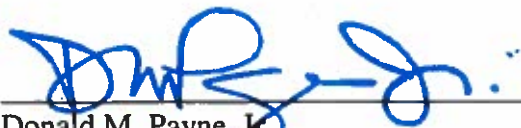
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



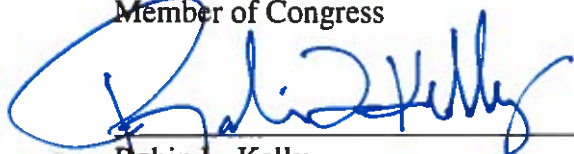
Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



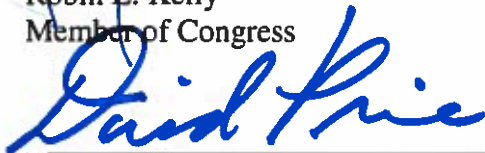
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Mark Pocan
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Robin L. Kelly
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David E. Price
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Dina Titus
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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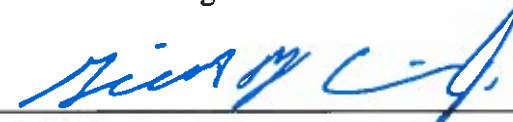
Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



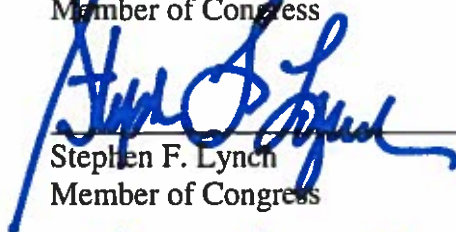
Pramila Jayapal
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Ro Khanna
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Wm. Lacy Clay
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Rosa DeLauro
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Susan A. Davis
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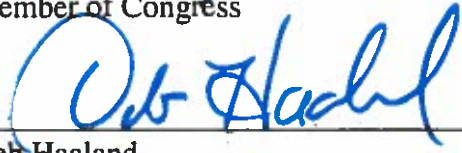
Karen Bass
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Salud Carbajal
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Al Lawson, Jr.
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Deb Haaland
Member of Congress



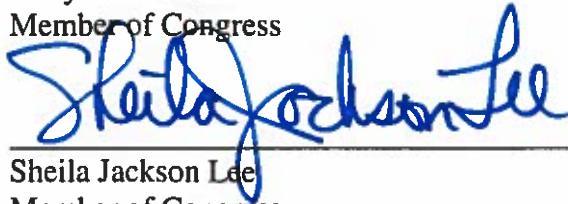
Brenda Lawrence
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Betty McCollum
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Eddie Bernice Johnson
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Jim Himes
Member of Congress



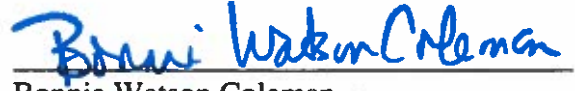
Collin C. Peterson
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Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress



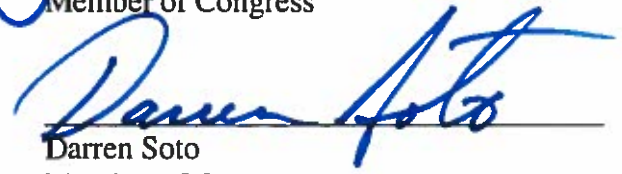
Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



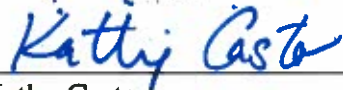
John Lewis
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Darren Soto
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Cedric L. Richmond
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Kathy Castor
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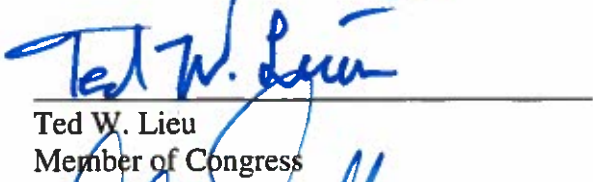
Joyce Beatty
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Stacey E. Plaskett
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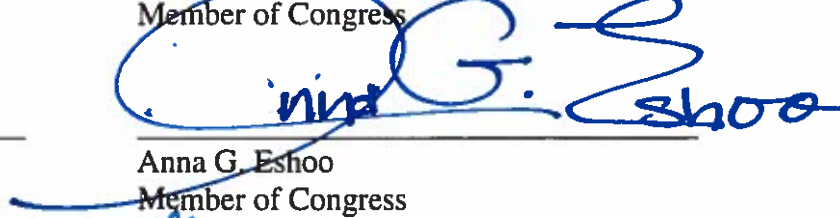
Ted W. Lieu
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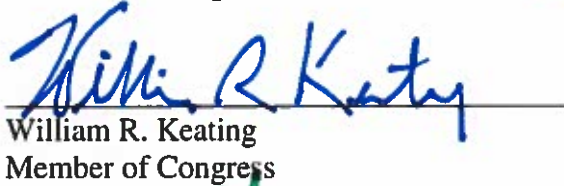
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



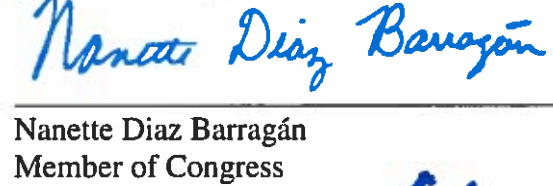
Adam Smith
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Anna G. Eshoo
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William R. Keating
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Nanette Diaz Barragan
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Al Green
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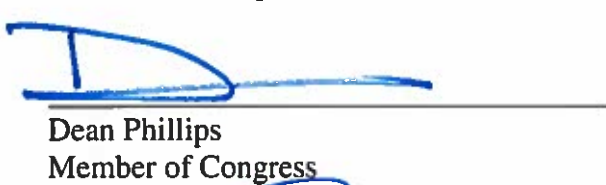
Grace Napolitano
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Zoe Lofgren
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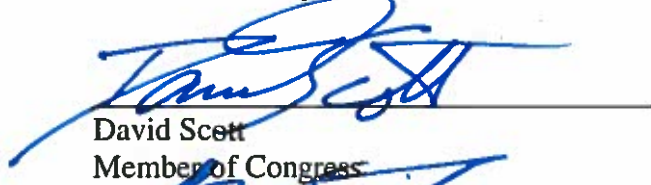
Katie Hill
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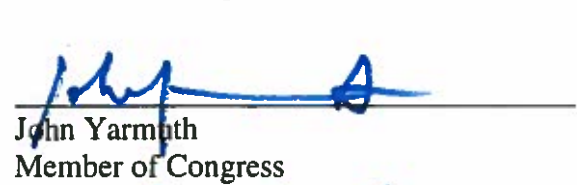
Dean Phillips
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Bennie Thompson
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David Scott
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John Yarmuth
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David Trone
Member of Congress



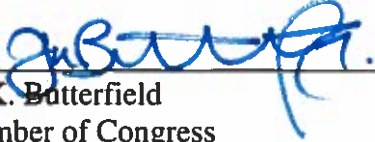
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



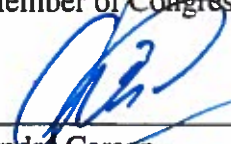
Seth Moulton
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Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



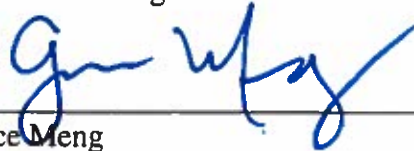
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



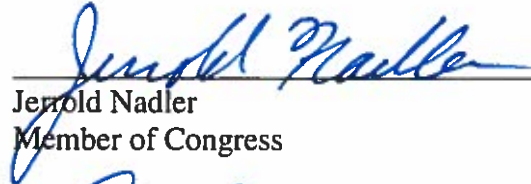
Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



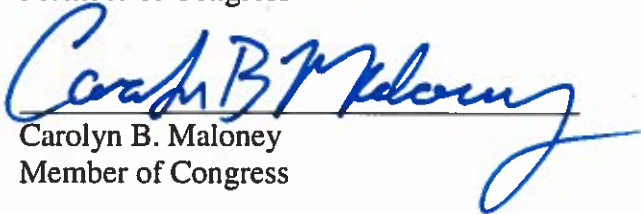
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



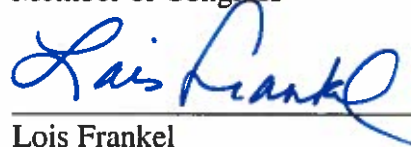
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman

House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member

House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs