

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 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

Dear Secretary Rubio and Secretary Noem:

We write to express our grave concern regarding the ongoing crisis in Haiti and urge you to take immediate action to stop the flow of illicit weapons from the United States 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.

We welcome Secretary Rubio's comments on March 26th in Kingston, Jamaica acknowledging the role the United States must play in stemming the flow of illegal arms to the Caribbean. The illegal trafficking of firearms and ammunition from the United States to Haiti empowers gangs and fuels the worsening humanitarian and security crisis. In fact, Haiti manufactures no guns or ammunition – straw purchasers in the United States acquire weapons and ammunition in the United States and arm the criminal organizations, intensifying the ongoing instability. The United States is the number one source of firearms entering Haiti today.¹ A staggering 90% of Caribbean-bound shipments of illicit firearms from 2016-2023 originated in South Florida, particularly from the Miami River and Port Everglades.²

We call on you to take immediate action to stop the trafficking of guns to Haiti. Armed groups 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.³ Gang sieges and arson attacks have internally displaced over a million people, half of them children.⁴ At least

¹ The Guardian, "Guns and weapons trafficked from US fueling Haiti gang violence," Oliver Laughland, March 14, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/mar/14/haiti-gang-violence-us-guns-smuggling>

² 1 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Haiti's Criminal Markets: Mapping Trends in Firearm and Drug Trafficking," March 2023 https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/toc/Haiti_assessment_UNODC.pdf

³ UN News, "Haiti 'awash' with guns leaving population 'absolutely terrified'", Daniel Dickinson, April 17, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/interview/2025/04/1162396>

⁴ International Organization for Migration, "Haiti Displacement Triples Surpassing One Million as Humanitarian Crisis Worsens", January 14, 2025

5,601 people were killed in Haiti last year as a result of gang violence, and the UN estimates about 4,000 have been killed from January to May 2025.⁵

We must cut off illicit arms flowing to Haiti from the United States. With gangs out-gunning and overpowering the Haitian National Police, the Armed Forces of Haiti, and the Multinational Security Support Mission, the United States must take swift action to stop illegal arms traffickers to Haiti. The unabated flow of illicit arms to Haiti doesn't just represent a threat to the safety of millions of Haitians on the island—it threatens U.S. national security as the instability created by gangs using U.S.-manufactured weapons drives outward migration.

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

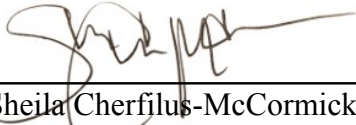
- Increase Customs and Border Protection resources dedicated to screening the contents of ships exiting via the Miami River, a primary starting point for firearm shipments to Haiti.
- Work with the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) to implement a strategy 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.
- Work at the interagency to 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.

Gang violence in Haiti is fueled by American-made weapons. Getting arms and ammunition out of the hands of lawless gangs is the most constructive and efficient initial step the administration can take to bring security to the country. We welcome Secretary Rubio's comments on March 26th where you recognized the role that illegal arms trafficking plays in the Caribbean. Words alone will not stop the flow of illicit arms to gangs, which they use to massacre women and

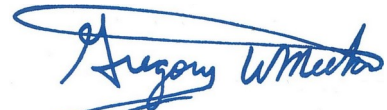
⁵ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Haiti: Over 5,600 killed in gang violence in 2024, UN figures show", January 7, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/01/haiti-over-5600-killed-gang-violence-2024-un-figures-show>

children and displace a little under a tenth of the population. Swift action towards stopping the illegal flow of arms to Haiti will be an important first step. We look forward to working with you to address this urgent matter.

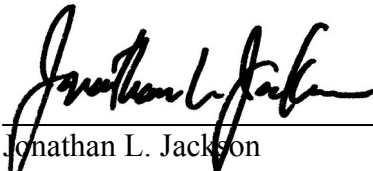
Sincerely,



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs
Committee



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



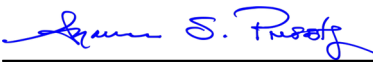
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



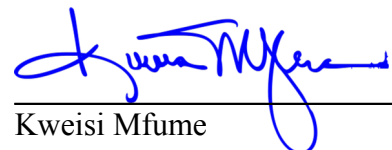
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



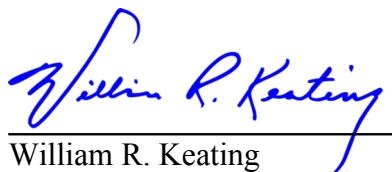
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



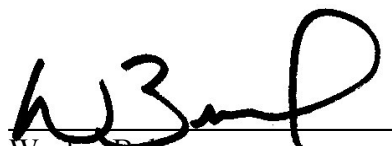
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Shri Thanedar
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Darren Soto
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Maxine Waters
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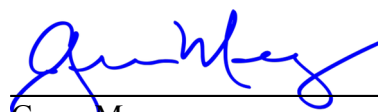
Thomas R. Suozzi
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



André Carson
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Mike Quigley
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Kathy Castor

Kathy Castor
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Ritchie Torres

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Greg Casar

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Sarah McBride

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Laura A. Gillen

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Gabe Amo

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Joaquin Castro

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Madeleine Dean

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