



330 FULLER STREET, DORCHESTER, MA 02124 P: 617-287-0096 F: 617-287-0170

## PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Carline Desire**

617-287-0096 (office) 617-947-4279 (cell)

[cdesire@afab-kafanm.org](mailto:cdesire@afab-kafanm.org)

---

On January 6, 2011, twelve Haitian leaders throughout the US, including Carline Desire and Marie St. Fleur from Massachusetts, attended a special White House meeting on Haiti. The White House Public Affairs, USAID, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and others reiterated the Obama Administration's commitment to helping Haiti to rebuild. At the same time, DHS announced that the US would begin repatriation of fewer than 1000 Haitians who have served their jail sentence in the US.

The Haitian leaders at the meeting unanimously emphasized that Haiti could not handle new repatriated Haitian nationals and pleaded with the US government to halt the deportations until a clear process and guaranteed mechanisms can be put in place to ensure a good transition. Several advocates stressed grave concerns that Haitian deportees would face death upon their return. Members of DHS stated that they would report our concerns. Two weeks later, on January 20, 2011, DHS repatriated 27 Haitian nationals.

On January 29, 2011, Wildrick Guerrier (34) one of the deportees, died of cholera. While in jail in Haiti, Guerrier suffered from several symptoms indicative of cholera, including extreme vomiting and uncontrollable diarrhea. However, he received no medical attention. After several unsuccessful attempts to see him, Guerrier's aunt from Florida finally got him out after he'd been detained a week. He died two days later.

The Association of Haitian Women urges everyone to call **Senator Kerry** at **202-224-2742** and **Senator Brown** at **202-224-4543** to ask them to stop death by deportations by halting the repatriations of Haitians.